

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035**

**February 24, 2014**

**6:30 PM Music Room Hopkins Academy**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Ms. Molly Keegan, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Ms. Molly Keegan, Chair; Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Members: Ms. Robie Grant, Ms. Humera Fasihuddin, Ms. Heather Klesch

**OTHERS:** Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Jeff Udall, HES Principal; Caitlin Lord, Sharon Parsons, Pat Bell, Annie McKenzie, Connie.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION: (Klesch/Fasihuddin) to approve SC minutes from January 27th, 2014 : Unanimous**

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – Supt. Moyer requested that the action item concerning the approval of the eighth grade field trip be addressed directly after the public comment period. She also requested that an action item (a motion to amend a motion made during the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> SC meeting) be added to the agenda. Grant requested time to give a short update on the CES board activity. All requests were granted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - None

**INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**8th Grade Field Trip Request** – Parson's stated the field trip is an annual field trip which two days long. Supt. Moyer complimented Parson's on her work typing the field trip to curriculum.

**MOTION: (Grant/Fasihuddin) to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip: Unanimous**

**Calendar 2014-2015**– Supt. Moyer stated that the approval of the 2014-2015 calendar will need to be approved this meeting. The administrator -created calendar has been shared with the Hadley Teachers Association. One change will need to be made, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> will be a half day for both schools but not for parent/teacher conferences. Students will be returning the day after Labor Day. The HTA has requested that the half day listed for the 16<sup>th</sup> of March be moved to the following Friday. Keegan asked if there was relevant parity between the schools and the teachers regarding half days, and Supt. Moyer said there was and that the half days were contractually obligated. Connie stated that the union had wondered why there were three days before instead of two, and Supt., Moyer stated it was agreed there was a need for in-depth in-service training (particularly if the district implements a PBIS model next year) and a whole day would be dedicated to that.

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Klesch) to approve the 2014-2015 calendar: Unanimous**

**Committee Updates:** Athletic Fields: Grant stated that Dunlavy had alerted the committee to a possible grant opportunity. A grant writer was hired to write the grant. \$175,000 was requested to create a new

softball field and a multi-purpose field on the SW corner of the towns new acreage. A response to the grant is expected in April. Keegan stated she appreciates the efforts of everyone who helped with the grant application.

Policy: Newly written policy will be approved later in the meeting.

Finance: Keegan stated the Finance subcommittee reviewed the Budget in advance of the SC presentation as well as discussing Hadley's current School Choice policy. Changes to School Policy wording will be available soon.

Family Survey: Fasihuddin stated she met with administration on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February and was able to reflect on the questions. The survey is high quality but is very large, and may take too long for a parent to complete. The committee discussed prioritization of the survey sections and determined the committee will return to the focus group questions in order to do this. The survey committee is still on deadline. Approval of the family survey was added to the agenda items for the March 5<sup>th</sup> Public Budgeteering meeting.

Bill Diehl appointed CEO of The Collaborative for Educational Services: Grant announced that Bill Diehl had recently been appointed CEO of the Collaborative for Education. Laws have changed regarding Educational Collaboratives, and every school committee desiring to remain a member of the Collaborative must now approve new articles of agreement. Mr. Diehl will visit to explain these articles.

Superintendent Communication – Supt. Moyer stated that Annie Mackenzie's transition into the Hadley school district continues and is progressing well.. She also stated that she and HA principal Brian Beck went to a meeting at the Collaborative as a district interested in a sustained, three year STEM grant. The grant required 50/50 participation of high and low need districts, and all the attending districts were low need districts. The K-2 iPad initiative is on track and the carts will be delivered and available for implementation after spring break. Ms. Ginny Tate, a lawyer, will be leading a skype meeting concerning new student conduct and discipline laws. Many other districts (Hatfield, Frontier, Belchertown) will also be attending the meeting.

Fundraising for Field Trips – Keegan stated that at the last PTO meeting, members were seeking clarification on the policy approved January 27<sup>th</sup> concerning field trip fundraising. PTO members were concerned that the language of the policy may create a situation where a motivated fundraiser will not see the fruits of his or her labor. Grant stated that the concern previously was that only children with high needs were participating in the fundraisers, creating unfairness. Grant stated she is willing to discuss, but does not want to go back to the way things were prior. Keegan acknowledged the PTO agrees, but want all fundraisers open to everybody. Supt. Moyer suggested a deeper discussion amongst members before the language is rewritten.

#### Business Manager Reports:

YTD Financial Report: Money is tight. Electricity costs have skyrocketed, a cost which was not expected. A contract was signed to lock in a rate which will not go into effect until April or later. The district switched from a fixed rate to a variable rate, which is much less at this time. Electricity has been over budget since September.

Transportation Bid: Bidding did not turn out as expected. The budget was adjusted for a 13% increase in budget, but the increase came in at 51%. Bids were put out for Hadley as a single district and received no bids. One bid came through for a contract with three total combined districts and the bid received was high. Bidding closes on the 17<sup>th</sup>, at which time the district will now.

Program of the Month/Utilities: Desjardins stated that the reason the fire, oil and gas experiences sporadic spikes is likely climate unpredictability. Several steps have been taken to lower bills here and there, such a removal of a pay phone and several cell phones in dis-use. Food Services accounts have been struggling,

and the account essentially hovers around 0. Repairs are the likely culprit, as some of the equipment is very low. Klesch asked for a ballpark estimate of the amount of debt accrued by negative POS balances. Supt. Moyer stated she had emailed some of that information.

Door Project: The Door project is progressing well. The doors are in and working fine. Painting costs will not have to go out to bid, but three quotes will be obtained concerning painting over rust around the door. Pricing will hopefully be available at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Grant Report: \$70,000 in grant money was transferred. Some expenses will be transferred to grants to free up money in the budget

First Reading of Policies: Many of the policies had no changes, or merely underwent minor changes (grammatical, word choice, etc). There are also several new policies, all required by DESE. There was no request for changes, and Supt. Moyer stated they would be brought back for second reading.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Klesch) to amend motion from Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> : Unanimous**

**MOTION: (Klesch/Fasihuddin) to add to the motion from Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> language which allows funds to extend beyond merely the survey and into the application of a grant for the athletic fields:  
Unanimous**

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Amy Lanham is the long-term substitute for middle school Language Arts at Hopkins, effective until approximately 3/30/14. Cynthia Goss has been hired as a bus driver. Briana Roy resigned as a Special Ed paraprofessional at HA. There are currently two vacancies: Special Education paraprofessional at HA and Special Education teaching assistant at HES.

#### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – March 24, 2014**

Time: 6:30pm Location: Hopkins Academy Music Room

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Klesch) move to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm**

**VOTE: Unanimous**