

HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035

April 28, 2014

6:30 PM Music Room Hopkins Academy

CALL TO ORDER: Supt. Donna Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:34pm

PRESENT: Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Chair; Ms. Heather Klesch, Vice Chair/Secretary
Members: Ms. Robie Grant, Ms. Humera Fasihuddin, Mr. Sean Mackin

OTHERS: Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Brian Beck, HA Principal; Jeff Udall, HES Principal; Annie McKenzie, Caitlin Lord, Jack Horrigan.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Addition of Sean Mackin & Recognition of Molly Keegan: Supt. Moyer welcomed Sean Mackin as the newest member of the school committee. Dunlavy recognized and thanked the departing school committee chair, Molly Keegan.

Election of Officers: Grant recommended Dunlavy as Chair, citing her excellent work as Vice Chair. No other recommendations for the position were made. All were in favor of electing Dunlavy as School Committee Chair.

Fasihuddin recommended Klesch for the position of Vice Chair/Clerk. No other recommendations for the position were made. All were in favor of electing Klesch as Vice Chair/Secretary.

Appointment of Signers of the Warrant: Klesch, Mackin and Fasihuddin were appointed to be signers of the warrant, while Grant was appointed as an alternate.

Appointment of Sub Committees: Dunlavy and Fasihuddin will continue on the Policy subcommittee. All other subcommittee appointments will be handled in May, pending member preference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION: (Grant/Klesch) to approve SC minutes from March 24th, 2014
: Unanimous

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – Dunlavy added “Letter to Smith Vocational” as a discussion item. Supt. Moyer added “350th Parade Invitation” as a discussion item.

PRESENTATIONS: Annie McKenzie presented an overview presentation of Chapter 222, a piece of legislation put into place last year concerning student code's of conduct. It carries implications concerning student handbooks as well as expectations of student behavior and the disciplining of students. (Please see attached powerpoint)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – None

INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

Family Survey – Klesch indicated that global changes have been made to the survey (all now read “parents/guardians,” for example). Rated statements were numbered for ease of understanding and editing. The six questions used in the pilot trial were clarified based on feedback. Questions discussed at the March SC meeting were added, including an open response professional development question and an open response question at the end for general feedback. Demographic questions regarding ethnicity, schools represented and household income were added. Klesch suggested it may be helpful for parents to specify how many students their survey represents.

Mackin had several suggestions for relevant inquiries regarding how safe students felt in school, how strong the relationship was between teachers and families, and the quality of co-curriculars and the athletic program among other topics. Klesch noted that although the questions were relevant and would enhance the survey, adding them would further delay the launch of the survey. Dunlavy stated she was in favor of adding questions but was wary of lengthening the survey's duration by adding too many open ended questions. Fasihuddin inquired as to the number of scaled questions that would be added if the open ended questions were eliminated, which was seven on a scale of 1-5. Grant stated she would like to see the school safety questions added but was also leery of lengthening the survey's duration. All were in favor of adding the school safety questions as well as adding a question to the curriculum section of the survey regarding program funding. Dunlavy asked if members would be comfortable having the changes sent to them for approval via email, and all were in favor. The survey's income question was debated; it was decided the question would be left in the survey.

Dunlavy inquired as to how the data will be analyzed, stating that staff does not have the workload capacity to do so themselves. Supt. Moyer added that analysis should be fully unbiased and include a staff member and a parent. All were in favor of an ad hoc analysis team staffed with a school committee member, a parent and staff member. Klesch stated she would be happy to analyze the survey results as a school committee member, and all were in favor. Paper copies of the survey will be made available in the front offices of both schools. The deadline for the survey will be May 23, 2014.

Follow-up Discussion from Select Board/Finance Committee meeting:– The Select Board restored the School Committee budget, adding \$100,000. The SC is now \$40,000 shy of what they originally asked for. With a new Special Ed cost coming into play, the School Committee will be going into June 1st \$71,000 shy. Dunlavy suggested the SC accept this budget and all agreed. Grant mentioned the school choice account balance is for unexpected SPED costs and suggested the amount of school choice funds taken this year be increased by \$30,000. Dunlavy agreed. Supt. Moyer offered to bring a revised budget number to the next meeting. Dunlavy expressed her appreciation to the Finance Committee for suggesting the restoration of the \$100,000 to the budget, as well as to the Select Board for agreeing.

Superintendent Communication: Supt. Moyer mentioned that two Hadley teachers will be awarded the Grinspoon Award this year. Annie McKenzie's transitioning into the Hadley school system as incoming Superintendent progresses and is going well. HPS did not win the community grant for the athletic fields. A new grant for School Care Coordination for High Risk Population Students will be applied for. A report will be released at 10 o'clock on April 29th regarding analysis of teachers in certain categories. A cohort group of 6 teachers will be needed in certain areas to get a rating, and due to HPS' small size many of those ratings will be blank. Ipad's were ordered for K-1 students and will be distributed after vacation. The transition from MCAS to PARCC, and whether or not HPS should make an early transition to PARCC or continue MCAS next year, will be discussed at the next few SC meetings. All public school employees will now need to be fingerprinted, beginning with those hired within the last year.

Business Manager Report: All salaries and anything to which future billing has been ensured has been encumbered in the YTD report. There is \$405,000 available to finish out the year. Desjardins stated that some salaries will be charged to the School Choice account and when asked why responded that Gail (?), an oft consulted lawyer, had advised him to do so. The rest of the Smith Vocational money has been received and encumbered. A first run Year End report will be available at the next SC meeting. A lot of

expenses were charged to grants, with any left over being held for final expenses at the end of the year. Lunch accounts are still in the negative and the deficit has increased. Diane Zak has spent lots of time trying to get payments from students who owe, but recent repair costs put the account further into the negative. If nothing else breaks down, the account should be able to end the year positively. Klesch and Dunlavy agreed that a capital improvement plan would be helpful going forward.

Letter to Smith Vocational: Dunlavy had requested that Supt. Moyer send an email to regional school districts asking if they were considering sending an email to Smith Vocational concerning the 13% per student tuition increase they recently imposed. Several other school district are going to do so. It has not yet been decided whether each district will send their own communication or if one letter will be sent signed by several districts. Particulars will be discussed at the next meeting.

350th Parade Marching: Dunlavy suggested that members of the school committee march in the Hopkins Academy 350th Commemorative parade. Two or three members will attend.

1st Reading of Policies:

Dunlavy stated that policy GBM, concerning CORI checks, will be changing due to the new fingerprinting laws. DESE will release a new policy regarding fingerprinting shortly. Dunlavy stated changes would be brought to policies GCIA, the philosophy of staff development, and GCO, the evaluation of professional staff, which will be discussed at the next meeting. Klesch asked if GBM is where stipulations concerning the new fingerprinting guidelines should be inserted, and Dunlavy stated the Policy Committee would discuss it.

2nd Reading of Policies:

The suggested changes to DAB, concerning School Choice spending policy, which has been sent for review. The language in section DB was also changed as requested. No additional changes were made. Grant inquired about section DAB, noting there is a restriction of planned transfers to non-payroll related operating expenses and inquiring a second time about the salaries which are being paid by the School Choice account. Desjardins indicated he would speak with Gail about it. Dunlavy noted the policy may need to be changed again.

MOTION: (Klesch/Fasihuddin) to accept policy sections D, E and F with the exception of DAB : Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: (Grant/Mackin) to participate in School Choice 2014-2015 pending available seats: Unanimous

PERSONNEL REPORT

Please see attached report

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – May 19, 2014

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Klesch/Fasihudden) move to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm

VOTE: Unanimous