

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
May 19, 2014**

**6:30 PM**

**Music Room Hopkins Academy**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair, Ms. Linda Dunlavy, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

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

OTHERS: Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Jeff Udall, HES Principal; Pat Bell, Caitlin Lord, Jack Horrigan, Linnea Constant, Renee Denenfield, Carolyn Sorrentino, Marilyn Robert, Carol Ward

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – SC meeting minutes from March 17th unanimously approved.  
SC meeting minutes from April 28<sup>th</sup> unanimously approved pending wording changes.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – Supt. Moyer requested that the presentation concerning the request for approval of the HA school trip to Montreal, Quebec be added after the Annual Health Services Report presentation.

**PRESENTATIONS** –

Annual Health Services Report: Please see attached PowerPoint and survey documents.

Montreal Trip: Marilyn Robert explained that the school trip to Quebec is a two night, three day trip to Montreal. Robert has taken students on an identical trip three times before and each experience has been positive. The tour company running the trip is an educational company, and the trip aligns with current curriculum. Students are exposed to French-speaking culture, the metric system, and are required to use the French language to interact with those around them. Students are also exposed to Carnival, a French-Canadian cultural event which exposes students to French-Canadian folklore and tradition. Robert stated that the trip creates life long foreign language learners out of the students and also fosters a love of travel and foreign culture which they carry into the future.

Grant asked if the students attending would require passports, and Robert answered that they would not; passport-free travel is allowed between the US and Canada when under a school activities umbrella.

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Klesch) to Approve the HA Montreal Trip**  
**VOTE: Unanimous**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Helping Hearts for Hadley Schools: The Helping Hearts for Hadley Schools had an amazing turn out for their 2014 race, with over 520 race registrants and close to 700 people attending overall. \$13,000 was raised for the schools; \$5,000 to each school for their technology needs, and \$500 each for Music, Art and PE departments of both schools. This year Helping Hearts for Hadley Schools will apply for an official non-profit designation, opening up several avenues for fundraising and grant possibilities. Helping Hearts for Hadley Schools requested that the Principals of both schools send a list of technological purchases made with monies donated by them.

Jack Horrigan: Horrigan acknowledged several faculty members who are retiring from Hadley Public School system this year, recognizing their unique contributions and penchant for going above and beyond for Hadley's students.

## **INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Transition Activities: Supt. Moyer stated that she, McKenzie and Fred had met to discuss the Hadley school district. Fred facilitated a workshop for administrators and their assistants wherein Annie discussed the rights and constraints of custodial and non-custodial parents. McKenzie will be meeting with HEA leadership within the next few weeks as well as central office staff, and the chiefs of the fire and police departments. There will also be a large administrative meeting to discuss several issues and decisions approaching for the coming school year.

Surveys: Klesch stated that the Family Survey was sent out to 447 households with a 47% return rate at time of reporting. May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for completed surveys, and Supt. Moyer approved a second, final reminder be sent out via OneCallNow to encourage more households to complete the survey. Supt. Moyer asked if Klesch anticipated being able to present findings at the June 2014 SC meeting, and Klesch answered that she would. Klesch stated that 40-50 households responded to the open response questions included on the survey and trends have already been apparent.

Supt. Moyer stated she will be recommending use of the TELL Massachusetts survey for staff at the next administration meeting. There is already two years of data in Hadley with TELL Mass and a history of very high response rates among staff.

Beck stated that the Student Survey is mostly completed, with only category designation left to finish. All Student surveys should be administered before June 1<sup>st</sup>. Student Council members will be giving small presentations about the merits of the survey during PE classes at Hopkins. Results should be available for presentation by the July 2014 SC meeting at the latest.

Fingerprinting: Supt. Moyer stated she would like to add a major item to the June SC meeting agenda for the School Committee to make decisions concerning categories of discretionary authority. The state ran several pilots in several districts and one – Westport- has become the model school district. Supt. Moyer will send SC members information about what the Westport SC accomplished in a series of motions to give them some idea of what their discretionary powers are. Facilities use, when the building or athletic fields are rented out for summer athletic camps etc, do not fall under any of the categories. All new employees effective July 1<sup>st</sup> must be fingerprinted. There are three sites, Greenfield, Pittsfield and Springfield, located in hotels. Many questions, such as who is paying for the fingerprinting, if time must be taken off in order to be fingerprinted and etc, all fall under collective bargaining. School Committee members must also be fingerprinted as well as the Superintendent.

PARCC v MCAS in 2014-15: Supt. Moyer stated that the decision concerning whether Hadley will use PARCC or MCAS next year will be reached by June 11<sup>th</sup>. McKenzie stated that MCAS will “sunset” by 2015, the state will adopt a next generation assessment which may be PARCC or something else. MCAS does not sufficiently meet three criteria- MCAS is insufficiently aligned to the new Massachusetts framework for ELA and Mathematics. MCAS does not require students to demonstrate critical thinking skills to the level that the state would prefer. Massachusetts wants an assessment system which integrates technology and has an online component. The question at the local level will concern whether or not PARCC is the best strategy to meet those criteria at this time.

Dunlavy questioned whether or not DESE would require certain districts to field test PARCC if many opt out. McKenzie responded that DESE has been clear that districts who agree to field test PARCC will not be held harmless in accountability for their results, but will calculate their accountability data. Comparative performance indexes between MCAS and PARCC results as well as student growth percentile comparisons will be provided for participating districts. In order to do such comparison, DESE will need representative sampling.

Klesch asked if there would be any advantages to being part of the national sample aside from the comparative data. McKenzie stated the response was not clear, and that she would follow up.

Supt. Moyer noted that there is a feeling among some superintendents that if PARCC is the direction the commissioner is going, why are districts being put through this process? Is it really a pilot, are they really asking for volunteers? She stated that Hadley tried to opt out of test piloting this year but were not permitted to do so. The Superintendents Association will present more information on this topic at their Spring meeting.

Dunlavy inquired about how political changeover on the state level would effect the process, and Supt. Moyer replied that there has not been any thought on that to date.

School Sub-Committee and Representative Appointments: Dunlavy stated she had sent out emails asking members what their preferences were concerning appointments, which are as follows:

Policy: Fasihuddin and Dunlavy  
Finance: Klesch and Dunlavy  
Wellness: Fasihuddin  
Buildings, Grounds and Facilities: Mackin and Grant  
Town's Capital Planning: Mackin  
Technology: Fasihuddin  
CES: Grant  
Family Survey: Klesch  
ANC Negotiation: Grant, Dunlavy and Fasihuddin  
School Choice: Appointments pending survey results

Drama Storage: Ted Blaisdell, HA drama club adviser, and Beck will be selling advertising in playbills in order to raise funds to purchase a mobile storage unit. Blaisdell did similar fundraising in another district.

Hopkins Program of Studies 2014-15: Some changes were team based, working from academic performance data.

Middle School: Minor changes in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA implemented this year were added to the 2014-15 POS. All The World's a Stage, a screenplay writing class, was added in order to foster comfort with public speaking alongside of ELA expectations. Academic Skills will strengthen self advocacy amongst students as well as help foster time management skills.

High School: There are three new Social Studies electives: Personal Finance will focus on college savings, credit scores, homeownership, etc. Advanced American Politics, a class born of high student demand. Art History will also be offered as Sarah Bardin, HA's new HS History teacher, has a strong Art History background which has inspired interest in many students. College Prep Probability & Statistics was built from an Honors course which has been offered at HA for many years, allowing students who weren't confident about the Honors level course access to those skills. Film Drama & Literature will be replacing the current Film and Lit course. Journalism and New Media will replace Publications to move the course further from print into more production technology. Family and Consumer Science classes will be moving away from textiles now that Theresa Menko is retiring. Focus will now be shifted towards another food-based course, a pre-vocational cafe setting which will help students gain service and business management skills.

Principal Communications:

HES: Four first grade students placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Art Competition. Another first grade student recently showed bravery and heroism by calling 911 in an emergency and saving a life. An assembly will be held to honor the student, attended by Hadley's police and fire chiefs. Local news stations and newspapers have also been invited. The Pennies for Patients fund raising drive raised an amount of \$1,317.22. K-3 teachers have completed their DDMs, which will now be submitted to Supt. Moyer for approval. The HES teachers are in the final process of completing curriculum alignment documents. Grade 6 students will be participating in the PARCC field test. A parent orientation, a pre-school show, silent auction, spring musical concert, math and science day, grade 6 Step Up Day and 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation are all upcoming.

HA: The ABC40 Honor Roll Live performance and Spring Concert went well. The varsity baseball team opened up the season with a no-hitter. HA middle school students performed very well at the Science fair, with 19 students representing, 6 projects qualifying to compete at the state level, and two national qualifiers. Curriculum work and required DDM creation, mostly dealing with the implementation and use of assessment, is finished after a considerable amount of research by departments.

Supt. Moyer added that one of the requirements for the district is to inform the commissioner by June 1<sup>st</sup> which subject areas DDMs have been piloted in, as well as a plan for those subjects without DDMs entering into the new school year. All curriculum work done with assessments and learning objectives was a natural progression to creating a DDM.

The HA Guidance department also developed and implemented a 9-12 developmental guidance program for post-secondary planning. Next year a partnership with North Quabbin Mediation will be made in order to create a Student Leadership group which will provide students with mediation and intervention skills. HA prom went well. International Day, the Spring Sports Banquet, MCAS testing, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trips, Step Up Day, and Alumni Day are all upcoming.

Business Manager Reports: The vote at the town meeting concerning generators was not to okay the project itself but the election to vote the override in to complete the project. They are hoping to have the election in June, hopefully before school ends, but they have until September to do so.

The YTD financial report is now available (please see attached). There have been a large amount of encumbrances. Preliminary reporting shows a \$22,000 surplus, although many bills are likely out there awaiting payment.

Supt. Moyer requested that any money left at the end of the year be provided to the cafeteria program. The committee unanimously agreed.

The revised FY15 Budget is available (please see attached). School choice funds, retirements, resignations, etc were added. A new bottom line number of \$7,040,211.97 was reached.

**MOTION: (Grant/Fasihuddin) to approve the \$7,040,211.97 bottom line budget for FY15**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

HPS received an energy improvement audit from WMECO who offered an incentive amount of \$16,000 for improvements HPS had estimated to cost \$67,000. After much negotiation, HPS and WEMCO settled on a \$45,000 incentive amount for those improvements. A three year interest free loan can be taken on that amount, and payments will be taken out in the electric bill. Savings will be about \$8200 with annual payments of \$7500. Lighting and refrigeration changes will be made.

It is unclear at this time whether WEMCO will honor a 30% coupon previously obtained in light of these incentives, but Desjardins will continue to pursue it's fulfillment as it is appropriate.

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Mackin) to Approve of WMECO Energy Improvement Plan Contract**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**MOTION: (Grant/Klesch) to Approve Mandatory Hot Lunch Cost Increase to \$2.70 at the start of SY2014**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

Policies:

**MOTION: (Klesch/Mackin) to Adopt Policy DAB Upon the Amendment Of the First Bullet To Eliminate the Term "Discretionary"**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**MOTION: (Fasihuddin/Grant) To Approve Policies ADF, G & H As Presented**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – June 23, 2014**

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Hopkins Academy Music Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: (Dunlavy/Grant) move to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm**

**VOTE: Unanimous**