

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
Minutes June 22, 2017 Hopkins Academy Music Room**

**5:30 PM**

*Hadley Public Schools – We are guided by the mission to provide a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, and integrity; and educating students to contribute positively to a global society.*

**Call to Order/Members Present**

Klesch called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The following members were present: Klesch, Phifer, Brugger, and Shannon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION: (Phifer/Brugger) to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or contract negotiations with non union personnel if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect to the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and to reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Klesch-Yes; Brugger-Yes; Shannon – Yes; Phifer - Yes.**

**Record of Votes**

- *Approval of May 30, 2017 minutes – Brugger moves to approve minutes of May 30, 2017 School Committee meeting. Phifer seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Approval of June 12, 2017 Policy Subcommittee minutes– Phifer moves to approve June 12, 2017 Policy Subcommittee minutes Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Request to Approve Participation of Grade 9 Student in Dual Enrollment Program– Phifer moves to allow exception to dual enrollment program and allow a freshman student to participate in 2017-2018. Brugger seconds. Vote 3-1-0.*
- *Adjournment – Phifer moves to adjourn meeting at 7:25 pm. Brugger seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*

**Summary of Discussion on Each Subject Presented to Committee for Consideration**

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

McKenzie requested the School Committee vote on approving participation in the Dual Enrollment program by a HA Freshman.

**Report of Vote on Bus Drivers' Contract**

Klesch stated that negotiations between the School Committee and Bus Drivers had come to a successful conclusion. Klesch reported the results of the roll call vote held in Executive Session – Brugger – yes; Fasihuddin – absent; Phifer-yes; Klesch-yes; Shannon-yes; Nixon-abstention.

**Gender Equity Work**

McKenzie reviewed a letter from HA faculty April Camuso to the School Committee in the packet. The letter delineated the work of the students and faculty to date. McKenzie underscored the involvement of students and faculty in addressing issues of inequity, specifically as these issues pertain to gender. McKenzie asked Mr. Burns to share his perceptions regarding student and faculty involvement in revising student dress expectations at HA. Mr. Burns stated the revisions reflect a student initiative.

McKenzie reviewed the communication ideas from Chikmedia Marketing Firm. The marketing consultant recommends that the students and faculty create a realistic timeline to implement changes after obtaining input from all parties involved to ensure deadlines can be met; develop a communications plan to inform primary constituents; create a PSA campaign to include digital and print images with thought-provoking content to place

around school and via social media networks; and provide a forum for students to communicate about issues at hand. Klesch said she wanted to avoid any perceptions among students or community that revisions to the dress code were being imposed by the School Committee. Klesch thanked McKenzie for providing clear evidence that the recommendations are coming from students and faculty.

#### Edward Hopkins Foundation Celebration of Lights

McKenzie reviewed a copy of a letter from the Edward Hopkins Foundation regarding the Celebration of Lights that Edward Hopkins Foundation will sponsor in December of 2017.

#### Dual Enrollment Program HA

McKenzie reviewed current eligibility for dual enrollment program at HA. Students must be a junior or senior with a GPA of 3.0. A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who intends on transferring from a charter school back into the district would like to pursue dual enrollment at Greenfield Community College. McKenzie contacted the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE enthusiastically endorsed the idea. McKenzie stated she would be asking the School Committee to vote on whether or not to make an exception to the HA handbook as written and allow a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student to participate in the program. McKenzie said the benefits are multiple. The district would not incur any costs. By having the student transfer back into the district, the student would be included in the October 1, 2017 count which, in turn, would increase the district's Ch. 70 allocation in FY19. The town would no longer be responsible for the expense associated with the student's charter school tuition. Phifer asked for clarification if the exception would result in a financial gain or loss for the district. McKenzie said it would financially benefit the district to allow the student to participate in the program. Shannon asked if the student would be required to take classes on campus. McKenzie said it was not a requirement but a student could take courses during two periods of the day. Mr. Pitta asked how the student would manage meeting all of their requirements for graduation. McKenzie said the student must meet the Mass Core requirements for graduation but the school can accept courses taken at the community college to meet those requirements. Mr. Burns said some of our dual enrollment students do take courses on campus. Shannon asked what opportunities are available for students to remain involved with the HA campus. McKenzie said students may participate in extra-curricular activities. Brugger asked if the school is responsible for making sure that students are taking the courses they need for graduation. McKenzie said the HA guidance counselor monitors student progress and communicates with the community college. Brugger asked if the approval is granted from one year to the next. McKenzie said she would be bringing forth revisions to the handbook that would allow the principal to approve participation each year. Shannon stated that he had participated in dual enrollment in high school and added that one of his biggest regrets was not being a part of the school community. Phifer stated he applauded the efforts of the school department to think creatively. He stated it is the parent's discretion to determine if this program is an appropriate fit for a student. Phifer suggested that possible criteria for exceptions be included in handbook language going forward.

#### Personnel Report

McKenzie thanked HPS retirees, Carol Pineo, Janet Barrett, Paula Banach, and Dr. Patricia Lord.

#### Public Comment Period

None

#### Expense Report

McKenzie reviewed the expense report. She stated the financial report shows a balance of negative \$411,000. This balance does not reflect school choice revenues which will be applied prior to the closing of the fiscal year.

McKenzie said there was one final payroll remaining and various expenses. Once all expenses have been accounted for, the district will apply school choice revenues. Mr. Pitta asked if the district was short funds. McKenzie said no, because school choice revenues will bring the budget back into balance.

#### Grant Report

McKenzie stated most grants had been spent completely. McKenzie said that Circuit Breaker funds can be carried forward and it is in the district's best interest to do so. By carrying money forward, the district does not need to request additional funds from the town when an unexpected special education expense happens in the middle of the fiscal year. Klesch asked how much of the Circuit Breaker funds will be carried forward. McKenzie said all of it would be carried forward to July 1.

#### Revolving Accounts

McKenzie stated that the lunch account is in the black by roughly \$24,000. Chris Desjardins transferred the salary of the food services director into the operating budget which brought the lunch revolving fund into the positive. Phifer asked why the student activity account had increased substantially. Burns stated that the school department is collecting money for the DC field trip and yearbooks at the end of the year.

#### Negotiations

School Committee concluded negotiations with bus drivers.

#### Policy Subcommittee Update

Shannon reviewed the policy subcommittee minutes and all policies that the policy subcommittee revised. Shannon stated most revisions were minor. Shannon stated that the Athletic Eligibility policy was changed to require students to pass all courses instead of just passing their four major subjects. McKenzie reminded School Committee that this was a first reading for all policies. Klesch reminded the committee that this policy would not go into effect until winter and apply to courses taken in the fall. Pitta asked if the policy would include VHS. McKenzie said yes and stated a passing grade at HA was a 60. Shannon reported on revisions to student dress expectations which would be in the student handbook. Shannon indicated the policy subcommittee had a lengthy discussion about several aspects of the proposed policy. McKenzie said that the recommendations and questions from the policy subcommittee were sent to Attorney Adam Dupere. He made the revisions in the copy before the School Committee. Shannon reviewed recommended changes to Advertising in Schools policy. Shannon said that the subcommittee reviewed Northampton's policy which was more comprehensive and the subcommittee recommends adopting some elements of that policy. McKenzie reviewed other items discussed by the policy subcommittee. Policy subcommittee discussed whether or not the district had the right to withhold student report cards if they have outstanding charges to the school. The attorney said the district may not do that. McKenzie said she would include language regarding allowing the Superintendent or designee to determine if a practice or game will be cancelled when school is cancelled. McKenzie discussed the district's suicide prevention guidelines. Subcommittee members had discussed if there should be language regarding students who encourage other students to commit suicide. The district nurse leader contacted several researchers in the field. They indicated this idea was not typically addressed in suicide prevention guidelines. Klesch reported to committee that the policy subcommittee approved increasing lunch prices to \$3.00 in FY18. McKenzie stated that the federal government sets a minimum price for school lunch. The price in FY18 is \$3.00.

#### Finance Triboard Update

Phifer reported that the town would like the school department's capital plan. The town would also like to know if there are any items the school department would like on the warrant. McKenzie said she would include the current capital plan in the July packet. Phifer said the next Triboard meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup>. Phifer said the town is looking for updates on possibilities for sharing services. Brugger reported that Tri Board had discussed an exemption that allows the school department to spend school choice without going to the town. McKenzie and Phifer reviewed what they believe is on the capital plan. These items include the Girls' Locker Room, air conditioning, the tech article, serving lines, and a few other items. McKenzie stated that her assumption was the fields are the current priority. She stated she would also prioritize the girls' locker room. McKenzie pointed out that the town had been very generous in its support of capital expenditures for the schools. Phifer said that there was a great deal of discussion about how to encourage higher levels of civic engagement including possibly having

internships for students to participate in committees and boards. Burns indicated that HA students will review a draft of the packet in advance of the school committee and comment on the items included.

#### Fields

Phifer reported that the school department had submitted a proposal to CPA. Phifer thanked CPA for the \$15,000 to support breaking the master plan into phases. Berkshire Design provided recommendations for a first phase. Phifer summarized aspects of first phase. Phifer thanked the community for its support and engagement.

#### CES Update

No report

#### Other Information

Committee members discussed changing the start time of School Committee meetings. Committee members decided regular meetings would start at 6 pm with executive sessions starting at 5:30 pm.

#### **List of Documents and Exhibits Used at Meeting**

- Agenda June 22, 2017
- May 30, 2017 School Committee Minutes
- Letter from April Camuso to School Committee
- Communication Ideas from Chikmedia
- Letter from Edward Hopkins Education Foundation
- Personnel Report 6/22/2017
- Expense Report 6/14/2017
- Grant Allocations for FY17 dated 6/14/2017
- Minutes Policy Subcommittee July 12, 2017
- Policy JFABD-R with tracked changes
- Policy JJIC with tracked changes
- Revisions to Student Dress Attire
- Policy KHB with tracked changes
- Language for HA Handbook regarding athletic schedules when school is cancelled

#### **Names of Remote Participants**

No members participated remotely.

#### **Next Regular Meeting Dates**

July 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_7:25\_\_\_\_\_PM