

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
March 30, 2010**

5:30 PM Regular Meeting

Hopkins Academy Music Room

PRESENT: Chair: Mrs. Tracy Kelley, Vice Chair: Mr. James Michalak.
School Committee Members: Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Ms. Robie Grant and Mr. Tom Waskiewicz
Dr. Nicholas Young, Superintendent of Schools. Finance Committee Member, Ms. Molly Keegan. Mrs.
Nadine Gallo, Dee Rex, Carol Trane, Administrative Assistant, Gazette Reporter, Nick Grabbe and Walter
with TV5.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Tracy Kelley, called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: (Grant/Michalak) move to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010, meeting as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. **Hopkins Academy Band Trip** - Dr. Young congratulated the Hopkins Academy Jazz Band for placing 1st and the Concert Band for placing 2nd in competition on their recent trip to Disney in Orlando, Florida. He also noted and thanked Music Director, Ed Forman, and chaperones: Diana Bonneville, Sharon Parsons, Sue Lehman, Elaine Tudryn, Brenda and Gary Pelissier, Jean and Gary Berg, and Joanne and Joe Satkowski.
2. **FY'11 School Department Budget** - Dr. Young commented that this is a running agenda item to revisit each meeting. The bottom-line budget number has been turned over to the Town of Hadley Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee with a 5.3 million dollar figure. He said he would anticipate, based upon the last several years of budgeting processes, receiving some sort of a document back from the Finance Committee, typically between the third or fourth week of April. For the record, Dr. Young said the proposed budget figure would be \$5,710,680.00; noting this is a level services budget with two exceptions. There is a .5 FTE elementary school Adjustment Counselor position and with a .67 FTE secondary science/ health teacher position for Hopkins Academy. The science/health teaching position is necessary because the schedule does not work with the increased number of students.

Dr. Young said parents are most concerned about class sizes. He continues to monitor the enrollment; noting, currently the student/teacher ratio under this budget plan at the elementary schools is approx. 21 students per teacher. Adding, he is the first to acknowledge that the problem with averages is that some classes are smaller and some are slightly larger so what really matters is how many students are in your child's class. There are 49 students slated for 4th grade; one class of 24 and one of 25, acknowledging this is our highest. Noted also, there is one long-term elementary substitute teacher that will not be replaced in this budget. In simple terms, he is changing a 1FTE teacher for a .67 Sci/Health teacher and a .5 Adj. Counselor. This item will stay on the agenda until a final budget is agreed upon.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Change - FY'11 School Calendar**

Dr. Young stated that under our current plan the teachers are scheduled to return on August 26 and 27 with students returning on Monday, August 30. Their return on Monday puts them back in school for five full days. For many years it was successful to have the students for only three or four days in their first week back, then transition in to a full week. By designating September 3 a no school day, it will give the students a four-day start, followed by the Labor Day holiday, then another four-day week before being back for the full five days. The teachers union has supported this recommended change along with ending the school year one day later.

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Dunlavy) move to amend the FY'11 School Calendar to include Friday, September 3, 2010, as a "No School" day. Vote: Unanimous.

ADDENDUM

- **Cal Ripken** has extended a request to build roofs over the dugouts that are located at the elementary school. Dr. Young said that every year the groups, Cal Ripken being one of them, are looking to improve the quality of our sports facilities. The Cal Ripken group is proposing to erect a roof over the dugout to help shade the players. Mrs. Kelley said the wooden shingled roof, like those at Sheldon Field in Northampton; look quite nice painted and goes over the fencing. There are no walls, nothing to obscure the view and is not very high. Mrs. Kelley said they couldn't do all three this year, but would do the one closest to the school first and if an additional one were possible, it would most likely be the one by the Safety Complex. The Cal Ripken group will undertake this project with volunteers; no money will be solicited from the schools.

MOTION: (Michalak/Waskiewicz) move to grant permission to the Cal Ripken League volunteers to erect a roof over the dugouts at the Hadley Elementary School. VOTE: In favor: Michalak, Waskiewicz, Grant and Dunlavy. Mrs. Kelley recused herself since she is currently an active member in the Cal Ripken organization.

- **Equestrian Team to Atlanta, Georgia**

Dr. Young said it was about two years ago when the push was on to offer more outside activities for our students. Mrs. Duncan started an Equestrian Team with a group that has remained committed and faithful and have excelled. As a result we have two students who are qualified to compete at IEA National Finals in Atlanta over April vacation and since it is the policy of the School Committee all out of state trips must be approved. There are also costs associated with this competition, including air fair, hotel and registration fees. Dr. Young proposed to the Committee that they approve the expenditure of up to \$1,500 to help defray cost. The Team has not had any monetary support from the school budget since its inception. Dr. Young said they have only parent support and fundraisers, therefore, he asked for permission to offer up to \$1,500 to offset the expense of competing in Georgia.

MOTION: (Grant/Michalak) move to approve the request for out-of-state travel for the Equestrian Team to compete in the IEA National Finals in Atlanta, GA; and further, to authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$1,500 to help defray the costs associated with this competition. VOTE: Unanimous.

Ms. Dunlavy asked about the new requirement for playground ground padding. Dr. Young said he had heard there may be new requirements for the after-school program; however he will continue to monitor any new developments as they become known.

ADDENDUM - CONTINUING BUSINESS

School Choice

Dr. Young said at this moment in time we are well into the School Choice process having had the SC vote unanimously to continue the program. The discussion at that time about the possibility of not taking School Choice in the early grades (K-1) and also talked about where students come from and know there are a number of districts represented with South Hadley being the most prominent. Dr. Young also reminded the Committee that some of our Choice students were once living in Hadley but for whatever reason moved away but didn't change schools, instead opted to stay on as Choice students, noting we have a high degree of loyalty to the district.

As discussed previously, Dr. Young noted that Kindergarten enrollment is a moving target, with no way to predict with any degree of certainty. In years past the school relied on the census for their projections, but not in the last several years. The current census tells us that there is the potential for 43 students eligible for Kindergarten, yet it could be up or down. Dr. Young said at this time he is not proposing anything be done with opening seats in either Kindergarten or 1st Grade. He did say, however, that if we found ourselves with 30 kids, then he would come back to the Committee for further discussions.

Dr. Young referred the Committee to their Budget binders to review the proposed elementary staffing for next year:

2 Teachers for Kindergarten; 2 Teachers for First Grade; 3 Teachers for Second Grade; 2 Teachers for Third Grade; 2 Teachers for Fourth Grade; 2 Teachers for Fifth Grade; 3 Teachers for Sixth Grade

Some classes are on the small side, like next year's second grade, so there could be some seats available there. Next year's sixth grade class is on the small side as well. Dr. Young said watching the enrollment numbers is a lot like playing the stock market. The enrollment will be monitored over the summer and if there are any significant changes, Dr. Young will bring them to the Committee, adding the 4th grade class is being watched closely. In response to Mr. Waskiewicz's question, Dr. Young said 2nd Grade could accommodate some students, with possible 6th grade openings, adding he is very cautious about school choice. In response to Hopkins enrollments, Dr. Young said we are staffed in 7th and 8th to have 65 students per grade and the building is designed and staffed for that. Caution is always used when opening seats in 11th and 12 grade. Dr. Young noted the longer we have students in our system the better off they are. Once again, Dr. Young said he will be cautious when assigning available seats. He understands there are limitations.

OTHER (Reports, and/or Information Items, etc.)

- The School Nutrition Assoc. of Mass notified the superintendent of the recent SNS (School Nutrition Specialist) designation earned by Mrs. Diane Zak the Hadley School's Nutrition Director, noting she is one of only 1,050 professionals nationally who have earned this designation, and only one of 40 professionals in Massachusetts. Dr. Young said he wanted to congratulate and acknowledge the accomplishments of our Food Service Director.
- Drama Club Production of "Laughing Stock" will be performed on April 9th and 10th at 7PM and on Sunday April 11 at 2PM. Dr. Young noted that for several years the Drama Club was dormant, but for the past few years there have been strong efforts to restore this program and there have been some good success and he hopes it will continue to be an active club.
- **Balance Sheets dated July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010.** Dr. Young did a brief update saying nothing stands out as a concern at this time.

NEXT MEETING

April 26, 2010, at 5:30 PM, Hopkins Academy Music Room. Note: Dr. Young informed the Committee that a Public Hearing on the budget will be scheduled for the 26th assuming the Finance Committee will have provided the school with a budget figure by that time.

EXECUTIVE OF SESSION

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Michalak) Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy planning with respect to Collective Bargaining with Unit A and Unit C. And further, the Committee will not reconvene in Regular Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: Waskiewicz, yes; Michalak, yes; Grant, yes; Dunlavy, yes; and Kelley, yes.

Mrs. Kelley announced that Dr. Young would hold an open budget session at 6:45PM in the Family and Consumer Science Room. The Committee will also join the meeting at the end of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Michalak) move to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:30 PM. VOTE: Unanimous.