

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
Minutes April 9, 2018 HA Cafe**

**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 calls the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present: Klesch, Phifer, Brugger, Shannon, and Fasihuddin.

**Record of Votes**

- *Approval of Air Conditioning Bid – Phifer award the HES air conditioning project to Climate Heating and Cooling; Shannon seconds. Vote 5-0-0.*
- *Approval of March 26, 2018 School Committee minutes – Phifer moves to approve March 26, 2018 School Committee minutes; Shannon seconds. Vote 5-0-0.*
- *Approval of FY19 Budget– Phifer moves to approve the HPS FY19 budget with total expenses of \$8,542,398.65 and a local contribution of \$7,092,482.98. Fasihuddin seconds. Vote 5-0-0.*
- *Recommendation of Special Education Administrator – Brugger moves to approve the superintendent’s recommendation of Pamela Haywood as Special Education Director for Hadley Public Schools beginning in FY19; Phifer seconds. Vote 5-0-0.*
- *Motion to Adjourn – Fasihuddin moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Phifer seconds. Vote 5-0-0.*

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

Adjustments to the Agenda

Klesch stated that the first presentation/discussion item would be the special education stabilization fund and the last presentation would be the FY19 budget. McKenzie said she would be notifying the committee of a change in location for the Nature’s Classroom field trip.

Special Education Stabilization Fund

Klesch reviewed the discussion that occurred at the March School Committee meeting. Klesch said there are two proposed warrant articles for Town Meeting. Klesch said at the last Tri Board meeting she had informed Tri Board that the School Committee would discuss and possibly vote on the proposed articles at its next meeting and inform the Tri Board of the outcome. Klesch said Nixon had suggested the stabilization would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000. Klesch also said that currently the school department is level funded in the town budget and that there may be implications for the school department budget if the stabilization fund were to be established. Klesch discussed her position on the proposed articles. Klesch is thankful to the town for trying to problem-solve and consider unique solutions to problems they see coming. Her hesitation and her inclination to not support the establishment of the fund at this time has to do with the timing. She also feels that the School Committee should take more time to craft a solution that the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee agree on. She is concerned that the idea emanated from outside of School Committee. She also expressed concern that some other town departments may have more pressing and immediate needs that they would like addressed. Klesch said to date the committee has been able to stay within its policy guidelines regarding school choice funds. Fasihuddin expressed concern that no ongoing source of funds to replenish the stabilization fund had been identified but there is an expectation that school choice funds would be utilized. Brugger said she appreciates the suggestion from the town. Brugger said she would like more time to explore all options and to design a solution

that made the most sense. Shannon said he agreed with what had been stated by other members and he feels that the proposal may be trying to solve a problem that the school department does not currently have. Phifer asked what success would look like for a proposal like this. Klesch said success would be knowing that the School Committee had put forth a proposal that the entire committee supports and that is viable. Klesch would like to do more research before standing up at Town Meeting to defend a proposal. Phifer said he would like to see a proposal with more certainty. Phifer asked if the School Committee could commit to talking with the other boards. Committee members agreed. Klesch said the proposal should start with the schools and that this discussion should be added to the summer retreat agenda. McKenzie suggested the School Committee answer the following questions: why are they recommending a particular strategy; how will it be implemented in the short-term and long-term; how will the policy be evaluated; and what is the communication strategy for presenting any proposal to the voters and the town. Klesch thanked the Select Board and Finance Committee again for encouraging the School Committee to think about this.

#### Recommendation of Special Education Administrator

McKenzie explained that the School Committee must approve the Superintendent's recommendation for Special Education Director. McKenzie said Pam Haywood was hired this year as a special education coordinator. McKenzie highly recommended Pam Haywood for the position of special education director in the district. Geri Lebay, SEPAC co-chair, stated that Haywood is great with communication and very positive. She said Haywood has been instrumental in getting presenters for SEPAC meeting. Julie O'Leary, SEPAC co-chair, spoke of Haywood's professionalism, communication skills, and her track record affecting positive change. Klesch thanked the SEPAC co-chairs for coming. Brugger stated that she feels McKenzie has set the bar high for administrators to be involved in the district. Brugger said she sees the same quality in Haywood. Brugger said Haywood is involved, present, and genuinely happy to be present at events and activities. Brugger said she believes Haywood will be fabulous as the special education director. Shannon said he appreciates how Haywood is committed to all students, not only students with special needs. Fasihuddin said that although she does not regularly work with the special education department, she appreciates all of the contributions Haywood has made to the schools. Haywood thanked the committee and superintendent. She has had a great year working with the administrative team and looks forward to continuing her work in the district.

#### HES Air Conditioning Bid

Desjardins stated that the town capital planning committee had voted to recommend an extra \$170,000 for the air conditioning project on the Town Meeting warrant. Phifer asked the cost of the total project. Desjardins said the total cost would be \$553,000. Fasihuddin provided a recap for the viewing audience. She explained that the most recent bids included doing the work in two phases or one phase. By spending the additional money, the town will save money on the overall cost of the project. Shannon asked how the committee notifies the bidder if the additional money does not pass. Desjardins said he would notify bidders that if the warrant article passes the bid will be awarded to TJ Conway. If the warrant article does not pass then the bid would be awarded to Climate Heating and Cooling. McKenzie said if the bid award needed to be amended then the committee would vote again. Phifer asked if the electrical work was included in the bid. Desjardins said yes. Klesch asked if the school department had been able to identify any grant programs. Desjardins said to date he had not identified any.

#### Public Hearing FY19 Budget

McKenzie reviewed the district's mission and the district priorities that inform resource allocation. McKenzie said 56% of all expenditures in the budget are for instructional leadership, teaching, and learning. 16% of the FY19 budget is allocated for instructional technology and media services. The district recommends continuing its investment in school safety by funding a resource officer and tiered interventions and supports to ensure all students achieve academically and grow socially and emotionally. McKenzie displayed the percentage of the total budget each function represents. Phifer

asked why the accreditation and professional development expenses had decreased. McKenzie said because the expenses associated with the HA site visit for accreditation was a one time expense. Phifer asked if the other increases were a result of inflation. McKenzie said increased personnel costs and increases in special education tuitions contributed to the total FY19 increase. Phifer asked if the tuition payments included school choice. McKenzie said tuition expenses only include Ch. 74 and special education tuitions. Shannon asked if the increase in special education transportation reflected any changes. McKenzie said that historically the district had under budgeted in special education transportation. Based on that analysis, the district decided to increase the line. McKenzie said the biggest drivers in the school department budget continue to be special education, vocational education, and heating/fuel oil. McKenzie said she and Desjardins are recommending that the committee retain \$27,754.79 above the minimum in the choice revolving account. McKenzie said they based their decision on the possibility that Title IIA may not be funded in FY19 and the fact that SEPAC had requested School Committee ensure they have resources available to support the new special education director. McKenzie reviewed how vocational and special education tuitions impact the total budget. McKenzie said the school department is recommending a total budget of \$8,542,398.65 which is a 2.09% increase from FY18 and a local contribution of \$7,092,482.98 which is a 2.28% increase over FY18. McKenzie reviewed challenges, opportunities, and trends in the district. She reviewed choice, charter, and career and technical education data. Shannon asked why there was a spike in school choice receiving in FY15. McKenzie said following a tragedy in South Hadley, several students choiced in to Hadley. McKenzie reviewed data on birth rates, total district enrollment, and foundation enrollment. Lastly McKenzie reviewed a marketing campaign currently underway in the district to increase retention and recruitment.

#### Other

McKenzie stated that the location of Nature's Classroom would need to change due to construction work at the originally selected site. McKenzie would bring the information back to School Committee at the May meeting.

#### **Next Regular Meeting Date:**

May 29, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

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

- Minutes March 26, 2018
- HES Air Conditioning Project Bid Results
- FY19 Public Presentation of the Budget
- FY19 Budget Document