

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes May 28, 2019 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.

Present: Klesch, Brugger, Shannon, Phifer was remotely present on line. Kelley arrived at 5:35 pm. **Absent:** Fasihuddin

Call to Order – On motion made by Shannon and seconded by Brugger, Klesch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Klesch informed the committee that there would be no executive session on this date and that the Program of Studies would be discussed immediately following the discussion of the History Graduation Requirement.

Presentations/Discussion Items (5:35 pm)

HA History Graduation Requirement

McKenzie reviewed the proposal to make it a Hopkins Academy graduation requirement to take four years of Social Studies/ History. She reminded the Committee that they had asked for input from students, parents, and school departments regarding the proposal as well as effect on course offerings and any financial impact. Mr. Jason Burns, Social Studies Department Chair, had prepared an informational packet for the committee's review which included information in response to questions. McKenzie added that there would be several course offerings in the subject matter, with no need for additional staffing. Klesch and Brugger both indicated that they had received positive feedback. Phifer stated that he was not aware that some seniors had limited course offerings (per the guidance counselor) which influenced his favor of increasing the curriculum. Phifer also inquired about the possibility of increasing the science requirement to 4 years. McKenzie said she would be supportive of increasing the graduation requirements for Science and suggested using a similar review process. She said that one of the catalysts for the Social Studies proposal was the new state curriculum which included an introduction to Civics at the middle school level and repeated reference to 12 years of history in the curriculum framework. Klesch said she appreciated the openness of the student feedback on the issue. Shannon said he had initial concerns about a possible negative impact on school choice as some

students may not like the additional requirements. After reading the student feedback, he felt more positive about the proposal. Klesch called for a motion to establish a 4 year Social Studies Requirement for graduation starting with the current 7th grade (Class of 2024), which was made by Shannon, seconded by Brugger and approved with a vote of 4-0-0.

HA Program of Studies (5:55 pm)

McKenzie informed the Committee of one correction on the POS, that being the “Garage Band” course was a middle school course. New to the Program of Studies is the *Public Safety Academy* courses, a music course *Garage Band* and a *Hands on Humanities* course. McKenzie explained the details of the new Public Safety courses and the benefits of students taking them. She informed the committee that the instructor on record would be the guidance counselor, but the courses would be taught by certified Hadley public safety officials with a start date of next year upon approval by the School Committee. Beck described the *Hands on Humanities* as providing students the opportunity to utilize project based learning to enhance their understanding of ancient history and geography. The course is designed for students to hone their research, organizational, and critical thinking skills by completing hands-on projects both in the classroom and at home. Beck added that it allows students to develop collaboration, leadership and teamwork skills and also offers exploration of the basic elements of French and Spanish languages and cultures. Beck described the course *Garage Band* as a chance for middle school students to explore music in a variety of modes. Klesch asked if there were any equipment or software needs associated with the music course. Beck said not at this time, as Mr. Bartlett has what he currently needs for the course. He added that he anticipates any possible future funding needs would be relatively small and may be obtained through a mini-grant. Beck said the three day rotation would reduce the number of band meetings from 90 to 60 and chorus from 90 to 60 as well. Beck said that Mr. Bartlett had proposed the course to spark more interest in the band. He added that there is no formal concert requirement for *Garage Band*. A school committee member said she was excited to see the real world skills being taught in the public safety academy courses with the added potential career foundation benefit. Brugger expressed that she liked the idea of giving the students the opportunity to explore music as an option and to have some exposure to French and Spanish before making a language course selection. Klesch reminded Beck of a parent inquiry she had received about offering more vocational courses such as cooking, sewing, CAD, woodworking, etc. She said it would be good to get some feedback on student interest in those areas with cost considerations as part of future research and review of course offerings for the Program of Studies. Kelley said that in conversations with fellow classmates, there was a lot of interest in the new course offerings. On a motion made by Brugger and seconded by Shannon, the additions to the Program of Studies as presented (with minor correction of grade level for garage Band noted) were approved with a vote of 4-0-0.

Special Education Initial Formative Evaluation – Programs and Resources (6:15 pm)

Ms. Haywood, Special Education Director gave a presentation of special education resources, programs, and tools available in the district and then provided information regarding conclusions and recommendations. Haywood prepared a PowerPoint which she shared with the committee. Haywood provided information regarding staffing, reading programs and grade level curriculum. Brugger inquired about options for reading programs and if periodic evaluations were done to measure outcomes. She also asked if the district ever researched or reviewed other available options for programs. McKenzie informed the committee that the district is in the planning stages of professional development for teachers to learn how to better evaluate the effectiveness of programs, particularly in English and Math. McKenzie said that the programs being used are highly rated but there are many resources available that can be looked at. Shannon asked about the special education staffing at the elementary school as compared to that at Hopkins Academy. He asked if additional support staffing would be available for students moving on to Hopkins if they were still in need of support. Haywood responded that historically there was a greater need for special education support at the elementary level. Many students grow closer to academic independence and increased participation in the general education setting at the intermediate and secondary level. Haywood added that individual student needs would always be considered from year to year when establishing staffing. McKenzie added that the district strives to meet the individual needs of students in the least restrictive environment. Haywood explained the various math programs utilized and spoke about the versatility of the online programs for different learning/instructional levels as well as the practice of pre-teaching for special education students. Haywood went on to explain the data collection tools used at both schools and how progress monitoring is implemented. She mentioned the importance of using several different measurement tools rather than look at just one data form. Haywood completed her presentation by speaking about possible further resources, including programs for reading comprehension and vocabulary, as well as planning professional development and training for teachers over the summer and next school year. Klesch asked if there is a need for more technology as a resource. Haywood mentioned the possible need for more Ipads. She added that Google classroom and text-to-speech used on chrome books were valuable tools. Haywood said that it is her understanding that there is a technology inventory being taken and once that is complete, additional technology device needs will be assessed. Shannon asked if there was time scheduled for the general ed teachers to collaborate with special ed teachers regarding individual student progress and needs. Haywood admitted that there are scheduling challenges, especially at the elementary level, but there are scheduled consult times for general education teachers and special education teachers. Shannon thanked Haywood for the work she does and the presentation. The committee members added their thanks as well.

HA Field Trips (6:25 pm)

McKenzie provided the committee with results of surveys from parents, students, and staff regarding field trips at the middle school and high school level. She said she would provide the committee with a master calendar of field trips approved by the School committee to include grade level participation eligibility, dates of trip, and cost estimates. The committee could review what has already been approved when considering new requests. Klesch said that it was good information for parent planning as well. McKenzie also reported on the issue of using travel agents and what the legal restrictions were in regards to conflicts of interest and relationships of travel agents to school officials and employees.

Changes to Charter School Reimbursement Formula (6:30 pm)

McKenzie provided the committee with a copy of an analysis of the financial impact of legislation for charter mitigation changes on public school districts. The report compiled by Peter Demling, Amherst School Committee, listed all the school districts and the estimated financial loss each district would suffer if the legislation H3800 is passed. According to Mr. Demling's analysis, Hadley's loss would be about \$83,000. McKenzie explained how the reimbursement formula works in response to a question from Phifer. Klesch suggested that a letter to state representatives would inform them that the School committee is opposed to the new law due to its significant negative impact on the funding from the state. Committee members were in agreement that Klesch should draft and send a letter opposing the new legislation on behalf of the Committee.

Personnel Report (6:35 pm)

McKenzie commented that there were several retirements. She reviewed the new hires to date and informed the committee of the status of pending hires.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Business Manager Report (6:40 pm)

Desjardins was not present at the meeting. McKenzie reviewed the financial reports with the committee. She noted that there were still quite a few encumbrances on the expense report and that several end-of-the-year adjustments were yet to be made. McKenzie also noted that there is an approximate \$200,000 circuit breaker carry over that is being allocated to fund the FY20 operating budget. Most of the grants have been spent down with the exception of the ES Health Grant, which will be spent before the end of the fiscal year. McKenzie also reviewed the revolving accounts and noted that expenses from Food Services would eventually be transferred over into the operating budget. Diane Zak, Food Services Director, is working on collecting

outstanding student lunch debts. Klesch took the opportunity to remind the committee and the public that HPS policy dictates that no student who does not have money in their account be denied lunch. She also mentioned that the committee voted school choice transfer of money and that would be showing up as a plus in the revolving account.

School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Policy – no report at this time
- b. Finance/TriBoard – no activity at this time
- c. Capital/Fields – McKenzie reported that the committee is confident that funding will be in place for completion of phase 1 of the fields project. Settlement of some land issues is being worked out by 2 private parties and the anticipation that the project will go out to bid with a possible start late summer. Klesch thanked the citizens supporting the CPA warrant article on the town meeting warrant.
- d. CES – no report (Fasihuddin absent)

Action Items

- e. Approval of AP warrants submitted in April 2019 – Motion: Shannon; Second: Brugger; Vote: 3-0-1.
- f. Approval of April 30, 2019 minutes with adjustment – Motion: Brugger; Second: Shannon; Vote: 4-0-0.
- g. Approval of warrants submitted in April 2019 – Motion: Shannon; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-0.
- h. Approval of four year history and social studies graduation requirement to begin with the class of 2024 – Motion: Shannon; Second: Brugger; Vote 4-0-0
- i. Approval of HA Program of Studies 2019-20 with revisions as presented – Motion: Brugger; Second: Shannon; Vote: 4-0-0.

Next Regular Meeting Date

Discussion held and meeting date for June confirmed

- j. June 19, 2019 at 5:30 pm
 - i. Discussion of Process for Studying Later Start Time HA
 - ii. Hadley Kids Inc., Update
 - iii. HES School Zone
 - iv. Capital Plan
 - v. School Committee Retreat Agenda

Adjournment 6:49 pm

With no further business at hand, Shannon made a motion to adjourn, Brugger seconded, and the vote was 4-0-0.