

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes- February 28, 2022**

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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: Fasihuddin, Phifer, Brugger, Percy, McKenzie, Desjardins; Absent: Klesch

1. Call to Order

Percy made a motion to open the meeting, Phifer seconded and the vote carried 4-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

No Executive Session

3. [Public Comment](#)

Fasihuddin reviewed the Public Comment Policy.

There is no public comment.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. DESE Mask Requirement [Lifted](#)

McKenzie reviewed the State and DESE lifting of the mask policy. Hadley has lifted the indoor mask policy. Fasihuddin opens for discussion. She shared a written statement from Klesch, which addresses the different dates for mask lifting for the Town vs. Schools. McKenzie said it was her understanding that some community members expressed a concern at the BOH meeting that the mask lifting immediately following a school vacation may cause an increase in transmission. The BOH responded by extending the lifting of masks for schools by one week. There was some discussion about the mask policy extension for schools only and why that decision was made. Phifer asked if McKenzie could check with the BOH for the reasoning for their decision. McKenzie responded to a question regarding the procedure followed when a student does not comply with the mask policy. In response to an inquiry from Brugger, McKenzie cited the vaccination rates at HES and HA as 56% and 90% respectively.

Percy leaves the meeting as previously arranged.

b. FY23 [Budget](#) Update (refer to PDF entitled Preliminary Budget Presentation)

McKenzie said the public hearing on the budget would be held on March 28th. She referred the SC to page 3, which reflects the changes to revenues in the total budget. She said that the Schools had requested a 3% increase in local contributions and that the Select Board and Finance Committee had indicated the increase as a solid and responsible request. McKenzie reviewed the anticipated grant funds, circuit breaker, Title I, School Choice, and other revenue sources. She highlighted increases in areas, such as world language at the elementary level, text books, professional development, curriculum, and services. Phifer asked about some of the changes in the budget, such as paraprofessionals and custodial

services. It was noted that Smith Vocational Tuition was reduced, with students choosing out of Hadley decreasing.

c. School Choice [Slots](#) 2022-23

McKenzie provided data on current enrollments and told the SC that they were not opening slots in Kindergarten until they had more census information. She reviewed available seats for School Choice for 2022-2023. Fasihuddin asked about there being no available seats in Grade 3. McKenzie explained the considerations that the number of open seats in each grade were based on. The SC needs to vote on the School Choice Open Slots. Phifer mentioned the possibility of an Open House for potential School Choice applicants. Fasihuddin suggested the use of a virtual Open House and social media to promote Hadley Schools. Dowd spoke to the success of School Choice at HES and said that she would be planning for promotion of HES School Choice information. Brugger made a motion to approve the School Choice slots as presented. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 3-0-0.

5. Business Manager Reports

- a. Expense- Desjardins reviewed the expenses from the School Budget. He said that the district is on track in relation to expectations.
- b. Revolving- Desjardins reviewed the revolving accounts and said there was the usual fluctuations. There has been no determination of whether there would be a continuance of free lunches in 2022-2023. In response to an inquiry by Phifer, Desjardins said he has not determined if more school choice funds would need to be used.
- c. Grant- There are several grants which are being expended appropriately. Some of the ESSR grant money will be held for future fiscal years. The official approval for the Summer grant is pending. All grant funds will be spent in accordance with deadlines. Phifer asked about the 216 Teacher Diversification Grant. McKenzie said this grant is to provide exposure and programs for students who are interested in pursuing a career in education. Phifer praised the diversification and number of grants that McKenzie had procured for the district.

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Finance – McKenzie said that she and Percy attended the recent Tri Board meeting and the proposed school budget was well received.
- b. Policy – Brugger said that the policy committee had not met this month but would report back next month.
- c. CES - Klesch was not in attendance and will report next month
- d. Negotiations – Brugger said the committee will be meeting again to hopefully wrap things up with Unit A.
- e. Fields and Capital – Phifer asked Desjardins about checking in with Carlos. Desjardins provided an update. Desjardins is reaching out to the vendor for Facilities Review. McKenzie said that the information would be ready for the CPA application in September.

7. Announcements

Fasihuddin and Phifer mentioned that there is an open seat on the School Committee. Fasihuddin said anyone interested could call her with questions about what the SC service entails.

8. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2022- Motion: Phifer; Second: Brugger; Vote 3-0-0.
- b. Approval of AP Warrants for January 2022- Motion: Brugger; Second: Phifer; Vote: 3-0-0.
- c. Approval of Warrants for January 2022- Motion: Brugger; Second: Fasihuddin; Vote 3-0-1 (Phifer abstains) .
- d. Approval of School Choice Slots 2022-23- Motion: Brugger; Second: Phifer; Vote: 3-0-0.

9. Next Meeting Dates

March 28, 2022 @ 5pm - Policy Subcommittee

March 28, 2022 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee Meeting

10. Adjourn Regular Meeting 6:40 pm

On motion made by Phifer and seconded by Brugger, vote 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.