

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
February 26, 2024**

Zoom Meeting: 5:30 PM – [Regular Meeting recording](#)

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: H. Fasihuddin, T. Brugger, E. Percy, P. Phifer, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Student Representative:

Absent: None

Guests: Chris Desjardins, Director of Finance, Susan Duncan, Koki Mulugeta, HA teachers, Lauren Wenner, Hadley Preschool Director, Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:35pm

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie stated that she re-ordered some of the items on the agenda in order to be respectful of the presenters' time.

3. [Public Comment](#) – Chair Fasihuddin asked for any public comment. She noted that no raised hands were observed requesting to make a statement or comment.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. [HA Field Trip](#) – HA Science teacher Susan Duncan reviewed the linked information regarding the 8th grade field trip to Boston in May 2024. Fundraisers will help defray costs.

ACTION: Approve HA 8th grade field trip to Boston

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0

b. [FY25 Preschool Rates](#) - Preschool Director Lauren Wenner and Superintendent McKenzie reviewed proposed FY25 preschool rates. This is an increase of 3.0% and competitive with area preschool rates.

ACTION: Approve 3.0% increase in FY25 preschool rates at HES

Motion: Phifer Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0

c. MSBA Update - [Changes to ARP Program to Launch in 2025](#) – Superintendent McKenzie reviewed the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) new program that would fund schools moving to geothermal options, stating that it may launch in January 2025. Applications would be due in April 2025 and site visits in October 2025. This may put current plans off by 12-18 months, but potential cost savings could be significant.

d. [Designer Selection DER](#) - Mr. Desjardins reviewed information on designer selection. Four firms submitted packets (linked to the minutes) for the Request for Qualifications. He felt that all were quality candidates. He explained that the next step is for the School Committee to select a vendor, and enable him to move forward with the contracting process. Once a contract is in place, the vendor will develop a design that will be shared with Eversource to be used for the TA study. At that time the School Committee will decide on whether or not to move forward with the project.

Discussion ensued, with P. Phifer stating that given the challenges of the project due to the age and condition of the school, he leans towards a more experienced vendor, and stated that CHA has the most geothermal experience and expertise. H. Fasihuddin stressed that having one vendor doing both this project and the locker room project would be optimal.

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ACTION: Accept the CHA bid for the MEP design:

Motion: Percy Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0

e. [Award of Transportation Contract](#) – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the transportation contract, linked to these minutes. He explained that the current contract ends in June 2024. Only one bid was received from Five Star bus company. He noted that there is a price increase but the budget can accommodate the increase.

ACTION: Approve the transportation contract with Five Star Bus:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0

f. [School Choice Slots for SY 2024-2025](#) – A. McKenzie asked the School Committee to consider the number of School Choice slots (45-50 students at each grade level) for Hadley Elementary School and Hopkins Academy.

ACTION: Approve School Choice recommendations as presented:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

g. [School Calendar SY 2024-2025](#) – A. McKenzie presented the proposed the 2024-2025 School Year calendar to the School Committee for consideration. The proposed calendar has been reviewed by the leadership team and the HEA president.

ACTION: Approve School Calendar 2024-2025 as presented:

Motion: Phifer Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0

h. [Revised JKAA Restraint Policy](#)

i. [Revised JKAA E Report of Physical Restraint](#) - E. Percy, member of the policy subcommittee, explained that current policies must be revised per Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recommendations. These policies have been reviewed by the policy subcommittee. C. Pipczynski explained that staff have always been trained in proper procedures around restraint, however it was not reflected in the established policy.

Action: Approve revised JKAA Restraint Policy and JKAA_E Report of Physical Restraint as presented;

Motion: Phifer Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0

j. Capital Plan Update (Tabled until March 2024 SC Mtg)

k. FY25 Budget Update

i. [Town Administrator Recommendations FY25](#)

ii. [FY25 School Department Revised Budget](#)

A. McKenzie reviewed the two budget documents with the School Committee, stating that Schools requested an increase of just below 4% for local contribution, roughly \$290K. Schools were told that they need to plan for increase in local contribution for half that amount (\$145K), noting that the Town has always been generous in funding for schools.

Referring to the FY25 School Department revised budget, linked to these minutes, A. McKenzie reviewed revisions to the budget that illustrates budget expenses and revenue sources identified for FY25. Use of revenues from School Choice will be used to meet budget expenses, and McKenzie stressed that school choice income has increased as enrollment has increased over the years. These trends are carefully monitored in order to avoid budget pitfalls.

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The public hearing on the FY25 proposed school budget is scheduled for March 25, 2024.

l. [HPS District Report Card](#) – A. McKenzie stated that the district report card is located on the HPS district’s web site. Families have been informed that this is available. The report card offers comparisons on how the district is doing compared to the rest of the state in different areas such as access to the arts and access to digital literacy and computer science courses. The results help identify areas where focus is needed. McKenzie explained the efforts that are being made to increase the percentage of students who participate in computer science courses.

m. Locker Room Update – C. Desjardins gave an update on the status of the locker room project, stating the opening of the bids for the locker room project is scheduled for February 29. Bids will be sent to School Committee members and reviewed at the next school committee meeting.

n. Business Manager Report

- i. [Expense](#) – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the account information with the SC members, stating that a spreadsheet error has been corrected.
- ii. [Revolving](#) – The January revenues were not posted, the amount in these accounts should increase.
- iii. [Grants](#) – Some additional transfers have been made, the ESSR III grant will be used to pay for the DER design work.

o. [Donor Recognition for HES Playground Project](#) – T. Brugger presented information to School Committee pertaining to recognition of donors, per School Committee policy. She stated that the committee is preparing to solicit donors and plans to recognize/thank all donors who participate in the project. The linked document illustrates the donor levels of recognition.

Action: Approve Donor Recognition levels for HES Playground Project, as presented:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0

p. Student Representative Updates - Student Representatives were not in attendance, but Chair Fasihuddin announced that the MASC in hosting a “Day on the Hill” and student representatives for school committees are invited to attend. A. McKenzie will follow up with the students.

5. Action Items

Action Items a – i were voted on in previous discussions.

j. Approval of SC Minutes [12/21/2023](#) & [01/22/2024](#)

Action: Approve Minutes of 12/21/2023 & 01/22/2024 as presented:

Motion: Phifer Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

Items k and l will be discussed in Executive Session and voted on in Open Meeting

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

a. Playground, CES, and SEPAC – T. Brugger shared the CES Annual Report and the Executive Report with School Committee members. She also shared that the Special Education Advisory Council has new members and asked her to act as liaison to the School Committee. Finally, she reviewed some comments from HES students regarding their thoughts on a new playground. She also spoke about the urgent need for a new playground, and stated that she has a list of vendors that are already on the State approved vendor list.

i. [Annual Highlights Report](#)

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ii. [Executive Director Report](#)

iii. [What a New Playground Means to Me](#)

- b. Finance – Fasihuddin shared that budget work continues.
- c. Fields – Phifer stated that work continues, all back stops are up and there is work being done on a drainage ditch.
- d. Negotiations & Capital – Pipczynski stated that negotiations will be discussed during Executive Session. Capital Committee meets later this week.
- e. Policy – Percy stated that Policy subcommittee discussed feedback from committee members on policy BEDH and will bring back for second reading of SC in March

7. 7:18pm: Executive Session

Chair Fasihuddin entertained a motion to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, stating an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and to return to open session.

Action: Move to Executive Session and Return to Open Session

Motion: Phifer Second: Pipczynski:

Roll Call Vote: Brugger – Yes; Pipczynski – Yes; Percy – Yes; Phifer – Yes; Fasihuddin - Yes

7:28pm: Return to Open Session

MOU with Unit A - HA Schedule Change

Action: Approve MOU with Unit A Schedule Change at HA:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

MOU with Unit D - revised wage scale

Action: Approve MOU with Unit D – Revised wage scale:

Motion: Percy Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0

8. Next Meeting Date – March 25, 2024 with Policy Subcommittee immediately prior.

9. 7:30pm: Adjourn Regular Meeting