

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
March 3, 2025**

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

***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, Chris Desjardins, A. McKenzie

Student Representative: N/A

Absent:

Guests: Kokeb Mulugeta and Marcelle Morgan, HA middle school teachers; Lauren Wenner, Preschool Director; Hadley Media representative, John Hitchcock, CHA

**1. Call to Order: 5:30pm:**

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

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

A. McKenzie stated the SC will vote on approval of the 2025-2026 Academic Year Calendar. Information on Undaunted K12 has been added, and the SC will vote on approval of revised job descriptions.

**3. [Public Comment](#) – No one in attendance voiced a public comment.**

**4. Presentations/Discussion Items**

a. [Student Representative Update](#) - Student Representative Aisha Anjum introduced herself to the School Committee and reviewed student updates, linked to these minutes.

b. Approval of [Grade 8 Field Trip to Boston \(Additional Info\)](#): Kokeb Mulugeta, HA middle school teacher, presented an overview of an overnight field trip request, included in the linked documents.

***Action: Approval of Grade 8 overnight Field Trip to Boston***

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

c. Approval of [FY26 Preschool rates](#) – Preschool Director Lauren Wenner reviewed the document linked to these minutes, requesting a 3% increase over last year's rates.

***Action: Approve FY26 Preschool rates as presented:***

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

d. [Locker Room Design Presentation](#) (CHA) – Superintendent McKenzie stated that there was not a change to the plan (linked to these minutes), and that the SC has approved this plan, but reminded SC members and members of the public that this is different than what was originally requested at Town Meeting due to cost estimate increases. The slight change of plan is a lesser modification of the boys' locker room. John Hitchcock from CHA gave a detailed overview of the plan. Discussion ensued regarding bathroom accessibility for all events, and home team entrance to the gym considerations. Mr. Desjardins will discuss this with Athletic Director Ciaglo.

e. FY26 Budget Update (McKenzie/Desjardins) – A. McKenzie stated that the public hearing on the School Budget is scheduled for March 24, 2025. She reminded SC members that the town had to reduce every department's budget. The original School Department budget request to the Town was just under 3%, the Town is recommending a 1.7% increase. This will be tight and reductions in budget that won't impact the quality of programs are being pursued. Detailed information will be shared at the March 24 budget meeting. She noted that Schools will be more reliant on school choice funds.

i. [FY26 Projected Revenues Town](#) (presented to SB 2/5/2025)

ii. [FY26 Preliminary Budget Town](#) (presented to SB 2/5/2025)

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
March 3, 2025**

- f. [FY26 School Choice Seats](#) – A. McKenzie presented the recommendation of number of School Choice seats by grade, linked to these minutes, for consideration.  
**Action: Approve FY26 School Choice Seats - First Grade through Twelfth Grade availability:**  
**Motion: Pipczynski                      Second: Brugger                      Vote: 5-0-0**
- g. [FY26 School Calendar](#) - A. McKenzie presented the recommendation of the FY26 Academic Calendar, linked to these minutes.  
**Action: Approve FY26 School Calendar:**  
**Motion: Percy                      Second: Pipczynski                      Vote: 5-0-0**
- h. Follow Up Discussion [Trane Presentation](#) – Discussion of utilizing performance contracting company. Chair Fasihuddin reviewed the role of Performance Contracting companies, stating that Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), also sometimes called Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreements (GESAs), are offered by Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) and help districts solve two distinct problems - capital constraints and capacity constraints. She explained that companies manage the process of energy performance and savings, and are economically incentivized to drive results. Further, the Chair stated that she feels it is important to align with this type of contract. SC members were in agreement that this makes sense for the District. Anne McKenzie stated that the School would have to post a Request for Proposals (RFQ), evaluate them and vote on a vendor. There was also discussion about how to bring funding to Town Meeting – McKenzie stated that this would be a Town decision, SC does not have the authority to enter into this type of agreement singularly. After discussion there was agreement to move forward with the RFQ. Chair Fasihuddin stated that the SC needs to present this plan to the Select Board with information on how an ESCO works and how it may potentially impact the Schools energy efficiency planning.
- [pros and cons \(submitted by S. Ross K12 Undaunted\)](#)
- i. Next Steps GSHP (geothermal project) (See previous discussion.)
- j. Policies for First Reading (Pipczynski) – The policies linked below were presented to SC members for first reading and will be brought back to next meeting for vote.
- i. [Hadley CD Policy](#)
  - ii. [MASC AC](#)
  - iii. [MASC AC-R](#)
  - iv. [MASC ACA](#)
  - v. [Attorney Reviewed ACAB](#)
- k. Policy Reviews Second and Final Reading
- i. [International Student Policy](#)  
**Action: Approve International Student Policy as presented:**  
**Motion: Phifer      Second: Brugger                      Vote: 5-0-0**
- l. Elimination of Policy [FA-E](#)  
**Action: Eliminate Policy FA-E:**  
**Motion: Percy      Second: Phifer      Vote: 5-0-0**
- m. [Superintendent Updates](#) – Superintendent McKenzie congratulated HA teacher and English Depart Chair Dan Vreeland on being selected this year's recipient of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Other updates are linked to these minutes.

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
March 3, 2025**

- n. Business Manager Report – Director of Finance and Operations reported on the following accounts, linked to these minutes below:

i. [Revolving Accounts](#)

ii. [Expense Report](#)

iii. [Grant Report and Summary](#)

School Committee discussed sources of grants and whether they would continue or not under current federal administration.

iv. [Geothermal Project Updates](#) - Mr. Desjardins explained that he had a request from the current Geothermal project designer to increase the Phase 1 deliverables cost from \$250K to \$275K. The Phase 2 deliverable cost would then decrease from \$110K to 75K. After discussion it was agreed to go back to the school attorney for advice before any decisions are made.

- o. Approval of Revised Custodian Job Descriptions – Mr. Desjardins presented the revised job description (linked below) for consideration and approval by the School Committee.

i. [Head Custodian](#)

ii. [Lead Custodian](#)

iii. [Custodian](#)

**Action: Approve revised custodian job descriptions as presented**

**Motion: Percy**

**Second: Phifer**

**Vote: 5-0-0**

**5. Action Items – (not voted in previous discussions)**

- a. Approval of payroll and expense warrants for January & February 2025

**Action: Approve payroll and expense warrants for January & February 2025**

**Motion: Brugger**

**Second: Phifer**

**Vote: 5-0-0**

- b. Approval of SC Minutes: [1/27/2025](#)

**Action: Approve SC Minutes as presented**

**Motion: Pipczynski**

**Second: Percy**

**Vote: 5-0-0**

**6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements**

- a. Playground, SEPAC, CES: T. Brugger stated that CES did not meet in February, will meet in March. SEPAC now meets virtually to accommodate more parent and community involvement.
- b. Finance – Anne McKenzie presented to the Select Board at a recent meeting, the report was well received. Schools continue to work with the Town and modify expectations based on financial issues of the Town.
- c. Fields – Work continues on the donor recognition sign.
- d. Capital – No new information.
- e. Policy - Percy/Pipczynski – no new information
- f. General Announcements
- i. David Fil - Selectboard Liaison to SC – no report

**7. Executive Session –**

Chair Fasihuddin entertained a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and stated an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, the chair so declares and not return to open session.

**Motion: Pipczynski**      **Second: Brugger**

**Roll Call Vote: Phifer-yes; Brugger-yes; Percy-yes; Pipczynski-yes; Fasihuddin-yes**

**8. Next Meeting Dates**

March 24, 2025 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee

March 24, 2025 @ 4 pm - Policy subcommittee

**9. Adjourn Regular Meeting to Executive Session: (7:36pm)**