

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
March 25, 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, P. Phifer, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Student Representative: Absent

Absent: E. Percy

Guests: Chris Desjardins, Director of Finance, April Camuso, HA Principal, Ruthann Fitzgibbons, HA teacher, Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:31pm

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie stated that due to the fact that one member of the School Committee is absent, the focus of the meeting will be on Action Items of the original agenda, except for the Action Item “Capital Plan” which will be reviewed in April. Also, student representatives to the School Committee are not in attendance as they are rehearsing for the school play. A. McKenzie read a description of the play, “Clue,” and invited members of the School Committee and public to attend.

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. [Summary of Changes](#) to HA [Program of Studies SY 2024-2025](#) – Superintendent McKenzie explained that the materials(linked to these minutes) were available to the School Committee in advance of the School Committee Meeting. Chair Fasihuddin opened discussion for any questions for HA Principal Camuso. Chair Fasihuddin inquired about an increase in credit requirements. Principal Camuso explained that this is due to a change in scheduling as courses are now longer blocks, offering 5 credits.

ACTION: Approve HA Program of Studies SY 2024-2025

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 4-0-0

b. [HA Field Trip April 2025 Panama](#) – Superintendent McKenzie explained that the materials (linked to these minutes) were available to the School Committee in advance of the School Committee Meeting. Chair Fasihuddin opened discussion for any questions for Senora Fitzgibbons regarding the HA field trip to Panama. Mr. Phifer inquired about funding. Senora Fitzgibbon explained that fundraising is offered to help defray costs. She also stated that she is hoping to partner with Hatfield Schools’ Smith Academy, which may help further reduce costs.

ACTION: Approve HA Field Trip to Panama in April 2025

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

c. Health Benefits of HA Retrofit (tabled for future meeting.)

d. Public Hearing [FY25 Budget](#) and [regional data](#)- Superintendent McKenzie and Director of Finance and Operations Desjardins explained there has been no change in financial data presented at the February 2024 School Committee meeting. She announced that HPS enrollment increased this year by 23 students. She explained that the budget was presented to the Hadley Finance Committee who had no concerns. She also supplied information on budget increases throughout the Commonwealth (also linked to the agenda), noting that Hadley Schools is requesting a 1.88% increase in local revenues, as opposed to a statewide average of 5%. Discussion ensued regarding increase use of School Choice funds. A. McKenzie explained that HPS increased use of School Choice funds is calculated in line with increase in School Choice enrollment.

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ACTION: Approve FY2025 Budget as presented, with a total budget of \$9,635,019 and local contribution of \$7,893,990.

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

- e. Review of Charter Tuition Formula (tabled for a future meeting.)
- f. DESE Special Education and Civil Rights Audit of Hadley Public Schools (tabled for a future meeting.)
- g. [Selection of Designer](#) for Locker Room Project
 - i. [Fitzmeyer and Tocci](#)
 - ii. [CHA Architecture](#)
 - iii. [Dietz and Co. Architects](#)

Director of Finance and Operations Desjardins reviewed a comparison of the vendors' submissions (linked to these minutes) for School Committee members to consider. Discussion ensued regarding the merits of the various vendors. Mr. Desjardins stated that CHA is the firm that has been selected for the HVAC project, and was impressed that a timeline was included in proposal. There was agreement that there are advantages to having one firm oversee both the HVAC and locker room projects.

- iv. [Fitzmeyer and Tocci](#)
- v. [CHA Architecture](#)
- vi. [Dietz and Co. Architects](#)

ACTION: Approve CHA ARCHITECTURE bid for locker room project:

Motion: Phifer Second: Brugger Vote: 4-0-0

- h. Update Capital Plan (tabled for a future meeting.)
- i. Business Manager Report
 - i. [Expense](#) – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the linked report. There are no concerns with expenses.
 - ii. [Revolving](#) – Mr. Desjardins stated that the January and February cafeteria deposits were not posted, and balances will move to the positive side when the deposits are reflected.
 - iii. [Grants](#) – No concerns
 - iv. Updated Job Description - [District Cook](#) – Mr. Desjardins explained that based on feedback from recent surveys on food quality, the district cook will operate out of both schools based on schedule to be determined.

ACTION: Approve updated job description for District Cook, as presented with the modification of changing language "for Hopkins" to "for the District":

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

5. Action Items (other than those covered in previous discussions.)

- h) [Approval of SC Minutes February 26, 2024](#)

ACTION: Approve SC Minutes for February 26, 2024 as presented:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

- a. [Playground](#), SEPAC, CES – Tara Brugger reported that there is no update on SEPAC or CES this month. She viewed the linked Playground document. She reported that a donation of \$50K from Balise/Steve Lewis Subaru will be delivered on Thursday and a \$10K pledge has been secured from Peoples Bank. Several other donations are in process.

T. Brugger asked the School Committee to consider some type of plaque to recognize donors. Discussion ensued, with Chair Fasihuddin recommending taking time to think and talk it over at a future meeting. A. McKenzie stated that she has added this topic to the April meeting agenda, and pointed out that the SC does have a policy on donor recognition that can be used to guide discussion. [District Policy FF](#)

7. Executive Session – No Executive Session

8. Next Meeting Date – April 22, 2024 with Policy Subcommittee immediately prior.

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: 6:26pm – Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote 4-0-0