

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
April 22, 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, Chris Desjardins

Student Representative: Absent

Absent:

Guests: Jason Burns, HA teacher, Joyce Chunglo, Select Board Member and Liaison to SC, Sara Ross and Brian Sousa, Undaunted K12, Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:31pm:

Motion: Pipczynski

Second: Brugger

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie requested that Item 4D be moved up on the agenda, and stated that Policy Policy FF was added to the Donor Recognition and Playground discussion item. Information was also added on School Choice Enrollment.

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

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. Approval HA Field Trip to [Europe 2026](#) – Jason Burns reviewed information (linked to these minutes) regarding the proposed HA trip to Europe in 2026. This trip will include travel to Venice and Prague. There will be fundraising to help promote international travel. A. McKenzie stated that she is working with legal on procedures for financial aid for field trips.

ACTION: Approve 2026 Europe Trip as presented:

Motion: Pipczynski

Second: Phifer

Vote: 5-0-0

d. [Health Benefits of HA Retrofit](#) – (taken out of order) Sara Ross of K12 Undaunted presented an overview of Health Benefits with the Hopkins Academy retrofit project. ([Presentation is linked here.](#)) Ross pointed out the before and after data of the energy footprint, emissions footprint, climate impact and health impact on an annual impact. It was pointed out that the dollar impacts are a global estimate, not at a local level. However, some of the health impacts will be realized locally.

b. [HA Fields Update](#) – Mr. Desjardins gave an overview of the status of work on the Hopkins Academy Athletic Fields. He stated that the designer has sent a letter indicating they feel there is a risk of using the fields too soon and doing so too soon would void the warranty (if there was damage to the newly laid sod.) He stated that the contractor indicated verbally that they would honor the warranty for the sod, but it was a verbal assurance only. Superintendent McKenzie stated that not having clear, written assurance on the possibility of damage puts the School Department and thus the Town, at risk. Discussion ensued regarding possible scenarios for the Spring athletic season and level of risk associated with playing on the fields. It was decided that School Administration will clarify and get terms of assurance in writing regarding the warranty on the fields and make sure that the School attorney approves the language indicating that the warranty is intact. If this happens, spring sports will move forward as scheduled by the Athletic Director. The Superintendent will update the School Committee on outcomes in the beginning of May.

c. Donor Recognition HA Fields and HES Playground – A. McKenzie stated that the policy subcommittee discussed this at the current policy at their previous meeting, and concluded the policy speaks to naming facilities, and the issue at hand is donor recognition. It was decided it is not necessary to have a separate policy. In the event that a group wants to recognize donors in the manner of a

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physical sort, such as a plaque or sign, said suggestion would be brought in front of the School Committee for consideration.

In discussion with the Athletic Director, depending on what happens with the HA fields, donors would be verbally thanked at a brief recognition ceremony (with coverage from Hadley Media) in Spring 2024. At a later date, a physical recognition object (yet to be determined) will be brought to the School Committee for approval, and donors will be invited back for recognition once said object is in place. Tara Brugger, representing the playground committee, stated that the committee is meeting and will discuss what the recognition for their donors may look like and bring that back to the School Committee for consideration.

i. Resource [District Policy FF Naming Facilities](#)

e. [Supplement HA POS 2024-25 New IP Information](#) and [Official Designations](#) - Anne McKenzie stated that Hopkins Academy will offer two new innovation pathways (clean energy and information sciences) and asked the School Committee to consider adding them to the program of studies at Hopkins Academy.

ACTION: Approve adding two new innovation pathways (Clean Energy and Information Sciences):

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

f. [SOA Plan](#) - A. McKenzie stated that this is pertaining to the Students Opportunity Act (SOA funding), and asked the School Committee to approve the plan.

ACTION: Approve Student Opportunity Act plan as presented:

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

g. [HA Open House April 25, 2024](#)

h. [HA Open House April 25, 2024](#) –

(Items g and h taken together) A. McKenzie informed School Committee members that Hopkins Academy is holding their open house on Thursday, April 25th, and reviewed the itinerary which is designed to show how small schools support all learners and individualize education. Current HA families as well as School Choice applicants are welcome to attend. She also reviewed the current School Choice enrollment list. She thanked all staff and students for their participation in school shadowing and the educational programs offered that are attractive for prospective students and their families.

i. [DESE Special Education and Civil Rights Audit of Hadley Public Schools](#) – A. McKenzie acknowledged the work of Special Ed Director Celia Snow, all the Special Ed staff, and all the staff for their work which resulted in a deficiency free audit. School Committee members offered their congratulations as well.

j. [Updated Capital Plan](#) – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the updated Capital Plan, attached to these minutes. He noted items that were cancelled included air conditioning and ventilating units in data closets, as it is not needed, per the IT director, as there were no heat producing items in these closets, and not needed in custodial closets as these are not places other than utilitarian. Discussion ensued and the playground project line item will be added. Selectboard Member Chunglo asked for a brief update on the locker room project for the public. Mr. Desjardin stated that the designer has been selected and contracts should be done later this week. There will be a meeting at Hopkins with the designers along with the facilities director, athletic director and physical education teacher.

ACTION: Approve Capital Plan as presented:

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

k. Business Manager Report – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the following reports. There were no questions from the School Committee.

i. [Expense](#) – we are right in line with where we are expected to be. No concerns were noted.

ii. [Revolving](#) – no concerns.

iii. [Grants](#) – no concerns.

iv. Update on Warrants – Mr. Desjardins informed SC members that he is putting together warrants that will require SC votes. These will be brought to a future meeting.

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

- e. Approval of [SC Minutes March 25, 2024](#)

ACTION: Approve SC Minutes from March 25, 2024 as presented:

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

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

- a. [Playground](#), SEPAC, CES – T. Brugger sent the CES Director’s Report to SC members for review. SEPAC did not meet but there is another meeting coming up, Ms. Brugger will be able to report next month. Playground Committee continues work and follow up with donors. The team is also expecting sketches from potential vendors along with estimated costs.
- b. Finance – Chair Fasihuddin reminded the group that Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2 at 7:00pm.
- c. Fields – Phifer – no report
- d. Capital – Pipczynski – no report
- e. Policy – Percy – no new information

General Announcement: Chair Fasihuddin expressed condolences to the family of Beth Ginsberg who recently passed away. Chair Fasihuddin also expressed thanks and recognized the contributions of Select Board member and former School Committee member Joyce Chunglo, who is not seeking re-election. Ms. Chunglo is and always has been a strong supporter of Hadley Schools and she will be missed.

7. Executive Session – No Executive Session

8. Next Meeting Date – May 20, 2024 with Policy Subcommittee immediately prior.

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: 7:40pm – Motion: Pipczynski Second: Phifer Vote 5-0-0