

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
April 24, 2023**

[Zoom Meeting](#): 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: H. Fasihuddin, T. Brugger, E. Percy, P. Phifer, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Student Representative:

Absent: None

Guests: Amy Jennings, Jim Shea (Hadley Parks and Recreation), Susan Duncan (Hopkins Academy), Chris Desjardins, Business Manager

1. Call to Order:

Motion: Percy Second: Brugger Vote: 4-0-0*
***(Pipczynski absent at time of vote.)**

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie reviewed adjustments to agenda – asked to move items pertaining to Business Manager Chris Desjardins be moved up as he has a conflict beginning at 6:30pm.

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 State Science Fair Boston](#) – Hopkins Academy science teacher Susan Duncan requested permission for an overnight field trip to the State Science Fair being held at MIT.

ACTION: Approve request for overnight field trip for State Science Fair at MIT in Boston

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

- b. [Park and Rec Proposal Renovation of HES Fields \(Jim Shea Park and Rec\)](#) – Mr. Shea explained that there is a shortage of space for girls to practice softball. After looking at potential sites, it was determined that there is potential for an additional field behind Hadley Elementary School. Funding for developing this space has been secured through State Representative Daniel Carey. Mr. Shea stated that HES Principal Dowd, Director of Facilities Jeff Mish and Superintendent McKenzie are in support of this plan. Mr. Shea provided a map of the proposal for development of fields. Mr. Shea stated that this would not encroach on the current soccer field. Fasihuddin also cautioned that there may be a fox den in the area. Funding is in the amount of \$100,000 with potentially additional funds available through Parks and Recreation account. Discussion ensued regarding possible reconfiguration to prevent impeding on any other field was supported. Dr. McKenzie stated that if the School Committee votes to approve the proposal, it would be reviewed by the legal department to make sure all language is correct before moving forward.

ACTION: Support Hadley Park and Recreation’s proposal of renovation of HES fields to provide additional space for softball.

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

Mr. Shea introduced Amy Jennings as the new director of Hadley’s Parks and Recreation.

- c. **Return [FY23 Rural Aid](#) to Town plus FY23 Surplus to Town (total \$41,445) – Action**

A. McKenzie stated that Rural Aid is part of Chapter 70 formula, we are notified of what it will be after the budget has been set. Schools are in a good financial position due to securing a number

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of competitive grants. We had not allocated any expenses to rural aid, in part due to the success in getting competitive grants. Thus, Superintendent McKenzie recommends returning the rural aid money in the amount of \$41,445 back to the town.

ACTION: Return Fiscal Year 2023 Rural Aid in the amount of \$41, 445 back to the Town of Hadley

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

6. Business Manager Reports (Moved up in the agenda to accommodate schedule)

- a. **Expense** - Business Manager Chris Desjardins reported that some items may look lower than expected, but some expenses have been moved to grant funding. He stated that there are sufficient funds to meet expectations as set forth in the budget.
- b. **Revolving** – Mr. Desjardins explained that all deposits have been received and posted in revolving accounts. He noted that the preschool account and Hadley Kids accounts are doing well. School Choice has had some expenses in the past month.
- c. **Grants**
 - i. **ESSER I - fully expended.**
 - ii. **ESSER II - majority of grant expended; expenses primarily IT, SEL coach, and nursing services.**
 - iii. **ESSER III - majority allocated for HVAC; small portion allocated for SEL coach.**Mr. Desjardins stated that these grants will be spent down fully by the end of the grant period.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items (continued from previous)

- d. **2023 Accountability Targets Discussion** – A. McKenzie reviewed the attached document regarding accountability targets, noting that Hadley Elementary School made significant gains in many areas, especially in English Language Arts (ELA). She notes that investments in curriculum and the decision to open schools back up earlier during the pandemic may have impacted the growth. District wide it was noted that the neediest student population had forward growth (rather than recovery). School committee members expressed appreciation for the entire staff of Hadley Schools for all their efforts during the difficulty of teaching during the pandemic. They also congratulated students for their hard work.
- e. **2023-2024 School Calendar** – A. McKenzie presented the proposed school calendar for 2023-2024 school year; changes include that the elementary school will be on trimesters while Hopkins Academy will remain on quarter system. Another change noted was three days of professional development at the beginning of the year. This is due to restorative justice training. Finally, delayed starts at Hopkins Academy will continue but there will not be early releases at HES. Teachers at HES weighed in that the time gained through early dismissal was not worth what was lost due to early dismissal, as they already have collaboration methods in place.

ACTION: Approve 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented:

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

- f. **Increase sick days for non-union employees to 15 per year beginning in the 1st year of employment** – A. McKenzie requested that the School Committee consider adjusting the accrual of sick days for nonunion employees in their first year of employment from one (1) sick day per month to one and one quarter (1.25) sick days per month, to be in alignment with union employees.

ACTION: Approval of all nonunion employees to accrue 1.25 sick days monthly in their first year of employment

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

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- g. Acceptance of donation of office supplies from the Desjardins family (McKenzie)- Action**
ACTION: Approve donation of office supplies to Hadley Elementary school donated by the Desjardins family.
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0
- h. Update Panorama surveys - Discussion** – A. McKenzie explained that she, along with School Committee Member Pipczynski and Safe School Specialist S. Jaber, assessed and compared data, feedback, and surveys that are already in place, and integrated same into a survey that will provide the data that the School Committee is looking for. It will be a customized survey which has implications for translation and interpretation. S. Jaber is working with Panorama to get this sorted out.
- i. First reading policy [JICFB](#) Bullying Prevention** – C. Pipczynski explained that information regarding cyberbullying was added to this policy, including definitions of terms and examples of cyberbullying. There were also some changes to language to make the policy gender neutral. Policy will be brought back to School Committee for second reading.
- j. Second reading library policy (Percy)** – E. Percy reviewed the documents. No changes since presentation at previous School Committee meeting. IJLA is the policy, IJLA-R is the form used to request reconsideration of library materials.
- i. [IJLA Library Selection and Weeding](#)**
- ii. [IJLA-R Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials](#)**
- ACTION: Approve policy IJLA Library Selection and Weeding, and form IJLA-R [Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials](#)**
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0
- k. Update Russell School Committee CPA Request** – A. McKenzie explained that the Russell School Committee met with her and asked teachers and staff their thoughts. This is informational for the School Committee to be aware of.
- i. [Community Survey](#)**
- ii. [CPA Application](#)**
- iii. [Details of Proposal](#)**
- 5. Student Representative Report** – no report, but Chair Fasihuddin congratulated Ms. Cruz on her recent performance in the school play.
- 7. School Committee Reports/Discussion**
- a. Finance** – Fasihuddin – no meeting, nothing to report.
- b. CES** – Brugger – This was the first in person meeting (virtual attendance still available) since the COVID pandemic. A great number of people attended in person and were able to tour facilities and meet staff. Ms. Brugger stated that she shared the Executive Director’s report and the Hampshire County District Usage grid.
Chair Fasihuddin asked members to consider an in-person retreat in the summer.
- c. Policy** – Percy – nothing new to report.
- d. Fields** – Phifer – work is ongoing, working with Berkshire design on specs. He also commented on HVAC system – still waiting on Eversource for information on upgrades, but there is possible federal money available to upgrade systems. Chair Fasihuddin asked A. McKenzie to coordinate information to move forward as timing is essential.
- e. Capital** – Pipczynski – no report.
- 8. Announcements**
- a. Select Board Liaison - Joyce Chunglo**
- b. School Committee Member Updates** – Fasihuddin stated that a recent event called “Suspect Citizens” provided productive conversation. It can be viewed on the Hadley Media website. Also, a group of Hopkins Academy students will be holding an event in combination with Hadley

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Learns on May 9th titled “Never forget. Never again” about oppression in Xinjiang China. Also, there will be a third annual World’s Fair at the Hadley Senior Center on June 15th. All are welcome. Information on all upcoming events can be found on the website Hadleylearns.com.

c. **Upcoming Events HPS [Calendar](#)** – Friday is a half day for Hopkins Academy only.

9. **Action Items**

a. **Approval of [Minutes March 27, 2023](#)**

Action: Approve March 27, 2023 meeting minutes as presented:

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

b. **Approval of Warrants March 2023**

Action: Approve Warrants March 2023 as presented:

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

10. **Next Meeting Dates**

f. **Policy Subcommittee - May 22, 2023 @ 4:30 pm**

g. **Regular School Committee - May 22, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

11. **Executive Session – No Executive Session**

12. **Adjourn Regular Meeting – 7:02pm**

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

Approved 05/22/2023