

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
April 28, 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, C. Pipczynski, Chris Desjardins, A. McKenzie

Student Representative: Aisha Anjum

Absent: P. Phifer

Guests: Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm: Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 4-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie stated that the meeting will start out of order with the student representative report. Information was added to the agenda pertaining to a new program at Easthampton Savings Bank for schools. T. Brugger will be updating the committee on the status of Unit A negotiations in open session, there is no need for executive session.

3. [Public Comment](#) – No one in attendance requested to make a public comment.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Student Representative Aisha Anjum reported that the Panama Service Learning field trip is going well. At this time participants are still travelling. Activities included work on a construction project designed to provide running water to a community school and teaching lessons (in Spanish) about environmental conservation. She went on to recognize students for their accomplishments in the Athletic Equestrian League, the High School Region 1 Science Fair, and the Middle School Region 1 Science Fair. She also reported that the Drama Club performance of “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery,” was a success. She announced that the Hopkins Academy Spring Concert is scheduled for May 15th and HA graduation is May 30th.
- b. Website Redesign – A. McKenzie informed School Committee member that IT Director Steve Bigda is working with the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) on website redesign. She mentioned that Mr. Bigda may reach out to members from time to time on different items on redesign. The redesigned website should be launched the Summer of 2025.
- c. [Field Trip Squads Abroad](#) Guatemala Grades 8-12 – A. McKenzie stated that the linked document features an itinerary from 2023 and serves to give SC members an idea of what this trip would look like in 2027. Reviewing this now will give more time for fundraising and for students/families to start saving. McKenzie stated that Squads Abroad closely monitor travel advisories and would not go where there is a travel advisory. If this occurs the destination of the proposed trip would be changed.

Action: Approve the future (2027) Field Trip with Squads Abroad to Guatemala (GR. 8-12)

Motion: Pipczynski

Second: Percy

Vote: 4-0-0

- d. Acceptance of Donation – A. McKenzie reported that the current piano at HA is beyond repair, and that Amherst College had graciously offered to donate a Steinway Model B Piano. Per SC policy, the donation needs to be accepted by the School Committee, and the School Committee must also approve the disposition of the old piano.

Action: Approve the donation of a Steinway Model B Piano from Amherst College and approve disposition of the existing piano at HA.

Motion: Pipczynski

Second: Brugger

Vote: 4-0-0

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- e. [ESB Program for Schools](#) – A. McKenzie informed the School Committee that Easthampton Savings Bank has a school support program – information can be found in the linked document.
 - f. Food Services USDA Audit – Mr. Desjardins explained that this type of audit occurs approximately every 4 years. There were a few minor findings but all items have been corrected.
 - g. [Superintendent Updates](#) – Information is available on the attached link. Superintendent McKenzie stated that Finance Committee member Parmar requested to be the liaison between the Finance Committee and the School Committee. McKenzie also attended an informational meeting at the Council on Aging regarding School policies, budget and programs.
Chair Fasihuddin recognized Anne McKenzie as the recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents President’s Award. The award is presented to one superintendent annually to recognize outstanding service to public education and M.A.S.S. Awardees are selected for their dedication to improving the quality of education for all students, especially those from underserved populations.
 - h. [Donor Recognition HA Athletic Fields](#) - Mr. Desjardins reviewed the attached document and asked committee members for input. Discussion ensued regarding the need for guidelines for equitable donor recognition. Anne McKenzie provided the attached HPS policy FF on “Naming Facilities.” This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.
 - i. [FF Policy on Naming Facilities](#)
 - j. Business Manager Report – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the reports below linked to these minutes. It was decided to wait to vote on the Designer Fee Increase as Mr. Phifer was not available at this meeting to weigh in.
 - i. [Revolving Accounts](#)
 - ii. [Expense Report](#)
 - iii. [Grant Report](#) and [Summary](#)
 - iv. [Geothermal Project](#) Updates (ESCO)
 - a. Designer Fee Increase \$25,000 - **vote**
- 5. Action Items (items not covered in previous discussion)**
- a. Approval of payroll and expense warrants for April 2025
Motion: Brugger Second: Pipczynski Vote:4-0-0
 - b. Approval of SC Minutes: 3/24/2025
Motion: Brugger Second: Percy Vote:4-0-0
- 6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements**
- a. Playground, SEPAC, CES, Unit A Negotiations- T. Brugger reported that we are still waiting for quotes pertaining to the rubber surfacing for the playground. SEPAC is meeting this Wednesday morning with Anne McKenzie. CES did not meet in April but meets later in May – a summative report has been emailed to SC members. Unit A collective bargaining negotiations have wrapped up. Next month there will be an executive session to review and vote on the contract. She concluded her report announcing the 6th grade fundraiser of “ducking” is beginning – contact her for more information.
 - b. Finance – H. Fasihuddin reminded SC members that Annual Town meeting is Thursday, May 1. The school budget is on the warrant for vote.
 - c. Fields – Mr. Desjardins reported that he has observed some patches of dead grass in the fields and has been in touch with the contractor on both the grass issue and drainage issues.
 - d. Capital – nothing to report
 - e. Policy – E. Percy reported that Policy Subcommittee met earlier today and will bring policies to SC in future months.

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f. General Announcements

- i. David Fil - Selectboard Liaison to SC – Mr. Fil was not in attendance – no report.

7. Executive Session – No Executive Session

- 8. Next Meeting Dates** –The committee agreed that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, May 19th as the fourth Monday of May (May 26) is Memorial Day. Chair Fasihuddin encouraged School Committee members to march in this year's Memorial Day parade.

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: (6:40pm)

Approved 05/19/2025