

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
May 20, 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: None

Guests: John Fillio, Natalie Kina, Hadley Media representative, Tresor Akimana, HA student, Natalia Kina, ESL TR for the district, Jennifer Dowd, HES principal

**1. Call to Order: 5:31pm:**

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

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

A. McKenzie requested added information on TED talks at Hopkins Academy. Also added “Asset Disposition.”

**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. Student Presentation Community Read Home of the Brave – Hopkins Academy student Tresor Akimana explained to the School Committee how the book “Home of the Brave” impacted him and why he thought it was an important read. He explained that the story very much illustrated how he felt as a student who migrated from Africa, separated from his family, and stated that it relates to many people, no matter where they are from. He also stated that it reminds him of everything that is going on at home. He said that he is grateful to be here. He stated that his peers at HA also read the book, and he was happy to hear their thoughts as he felt it helped them understand where people like himself are coming from. He stated that there are conflicts in his native country in Central Africa, that people are suffering and his family that is there are in great danger. He stated that coming to HA at 12 years old was “interesting” and he “fell in love with this school.” He stated that HA taught him a lot and made him a better person. School Committee members thanked him for bringing this book forward and wished him well as he graduates from HA. Superintendent McKenzie praised Tresor and stated that he has made the HA community better by his presence and leadership.

b. Recognition of Edward Hopkins Education Foundation for support of HA fields renovation project – Chair Fasihuddin stated that the Edwards Hopkins Education Foundation was unintentionally left out of recognition and thanks at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony at the new athletic fields. She emphasized that this was an oversight and apologized for the error. Mr. Phifer took full responsibility for the oversight, apologized and stated that the Foundation was on the list for recognition, he simply missed it when going through the list.

c. Cal Ripken request to improve HES softball field – John Fillio, president of the Cal Ripken Youth baseball league presented an overview of requested improvements to the fields at Hadley Elementary School, stating that this is an overall youth sports (baseball and softball) request. He stated that batting cages that were damaged and came down were never reinstalled due to a fourth field being placed where the batting cage originally stood. He states he has had discussions with Principal Dowd, Jim Shea from Hadley Parks and Rec, and Jeff Mish, HPS Director of Facilities regarding the placement of a new batting cage. School Committee was in support of the project, but first Anne McKenzie will consult with the Town and School legal counsel about any legal issues to consider.

d. HES Updates and News: HES Principal Jennifer Dowd reviewed new programs available at Hadley Elementary School including Chinese Language/Cultural Club, Equestrian Club and Beginner Band.

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e. HA Updates and News – Ruthann Fitzgibbons reviewed events and news from Hopkins Academy, including a program with other area school districts hosting visiting French students, Dementia Friendly training with the Hadley Council on Aging, and announced that the University of Massachusetts will honor the Seal of Biliteracy for students - 12 credits for those who attain the Seal and 15 credits for students who attain the Seal with Distinction.

Anne McKenzie stated that Hopkins recently held a successful Personal Finance fair, noting that Hopkins recently approved Personal Financial Literacy as a requirement for graduation. She also announced that US News and World Report recently ranked HA as one of the best high schools in the state. She also shared that HA students are participating in TED talks, focusing on climate issues, and shared the agenda for the talks, [linked here](#). Superintendent McKenzie reviewed the post graduate plans for seniors, stating that 31 or 32 reporting seniors plan to pursue a degree. Many of those are interested in a STEM field.

f. Business Manager Reports – Chris Desjardins reviewed the following reports. Overall there are no surprises with any of the areas of expense, revolving or grants.

- i. [Expense](#)
- ii. [Revolving](#)
- iii. [Grants](#)
- iv. [Asset Disposition](#) – Mr. Desjardin requested School Committee approval to discard items appearing on the attached list.

**ACTION: Asset Disposition list as presented:**

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

Mr. Desjardins also mentioned that the designers for the locker room were onsite today taking pictures and should have plans available for review in the very near future.

g. Geothermal Project – Mr. Desjardins stated that test drilling will begin after graduation. He cautioned school committee members that the geothermal retrofit project is a very long process, stating that it will be months before the design is done, and it is at that point that the TA study can take place. Chair Fasihuddin discussed the need for a document with an overview of the project and why we are pursuing this project. A. McKenzie reminded SC that there is a SC meeting coming up on June 17, 2024 at 4:00pm with Sara Ross from Undaunted K12 that will discuss the overall project, specifics on cost estimates and general timeline on this project.

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

- a. Approval of payroll and expense warrants FY24

**ACTION: Approve FY24 payroll and expense warrants:**

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

- b. Approval of SC Minutes [April 22, 2024](#)

**ACTION: Approve SC Minutes from April 22, 2024 as presented:**

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

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

- a. [Playground](#), SEPAC, CES

T. Brugger stated that she will have a CES update at the next SC meeting. SEPAC is working on a schedule of presentations for the upcoming school year that will involve the overall community. Playground Committee has secured \$290,871 of the goal of \$300,00.00. The pre-K portion will also be fully funded through the Friends of Hadley Preschool. All information is available on the [linked document](#). Two vendors are supplying information that are being reviewed by the committee and school officials.

- b. Finance – Chair Fasihuddin announced that the Town approved the School budget. She also shared that as Division 5 Chair of the Massachusetts School Committee attending sessions at the state

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house. She shared that there is legislation advocating for augmented state funding for rural schools and will keep the district posted.

- c. Fields – Phifer – Mr. Desjardins stated that the rest of the walkway will be paved this week. Drainage issues will also be addressed.

- d. Capital – Pipczynski – no report

- e. Policy – Percy – no policy subcommittee meeting in May 2024

General Announcements: Booster Day at Hopkins will be September 21<sup>st</sup>. There is an [Hopkins Academy All Class Reunion](#) – information found in the link. Town election is Tuesday – information is available on the District and Town website. The Hadley Memorial Day parade is Sunday.

- 5. **Executive Session** – No Executive Session

- 6. **Next Meeting Date** – June 17, 2024 is a special SC meeting on geothermal project. June 24<sup>th</sup> is the next regular school committee meeting.prior.

- 7. **Adjourn Regular Meeting: 7:22pm – Motion: Percy                      Second: Phifer Vote 5-0-0**