

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
September 12, 2022**

[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: Fasihuddin, Phifer, Brugger, Percy, Pipczynski, McKenzie

Guests: J. Dowd, B. Fernandez, M. Wojtowicz, R. Fitzgibbons

1. Call to Order

At 5:30p, a motion to open the meeting was made by Percy, seconded by Brugger and carried unanimously by the committee.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie brought forward the following adjustments to the agenda: CPA discussion will start immediately after public comment. Following that will be the Title 1 presentation, followed by Field Trip discussion. Following this, Ms. Wojtowicz will present the MTSS program information, A. McKenzie will present Title III followed by the discussion of Policy Subcommittee items. These changes were made to accommodate participants schedules.

3. [Public Comment](#) – Chair Fasihuddin noted no participants for public comment were in attendance.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. CPA request: should school committee change CPA request to reflect the rate of inflation included in the Colliers plan? Discussion: A. McKenzie stated that after meeting with the CPA Committee, it was suggested that the funding request of \$1.4M be adjusted to \$1.6M to reflect the rate of inflation. Committee members agreed that the request amount should be changed to adjust for inflation. No formal vote is required. A. McKenzie, P. Pfeiffer and C. Desjardin will meet with the CPA Committee after this meeting to request the adjusted amount.

b. [Title I](#) Overview - program description; 2021-22 data (Fernandes/Dowd)

J. Dowd gave an overview stating that Title I provides funding for supplemental educational opportunities for elementary school students at risk for failure to meet state standards. Of note, this presentation contains last year's data. Students evaluated are in grade 1-6 with 41 students identified. (Students are identified via "FASTBridge" Screening tool 3 times per year.) Student selection criteria include the FASTbridge data, meeting with teacher and analysis of data. Students that are flagged are administered the Gates Macginitie Reading test, and those that perform below the normal curve qualify for Title I.

Ms. Fernandes reviewed reading growth data by grade level. She explained that she has been trained in Orton Gillingham literacy approach as well as the Science of Reading with Hill for Literacy, and has applied strategies from these trainings. She will continue weekly progress monitoring and screening three times per year. Ms. Dowd stated that other steps included more parent/family communication. There will also be literacy nights going forward that include students, families and school personnel.

A. McKenzie stated that Title I is a critical educational component. She stated that a school district should be able to point to systems and processes that are in place to identify students who can benefit from supplemental evidence-based instruction, and closely monitor students to make sure the interventions are having their intended effect.

A. McKenzie stated that screening at Hopkins Academy is being expanded. Students identified at risk will get appropriate academic support. The district goal is to have screening and intervention in math, literacy and mental health in grades K-12.

c. Update Central America Service Learning Trip - April 2023 (Fitzgibbons)

[Overview](#)

[Detailed Information](#)

R. Fitzgibbons reported that prior to the COVID pandemic the school committee had approved a service trip to Honduras. The trip is now scheduled for April 2023, but families have brought up concerns with safety. R. Fitzgibbons reached out to the company, Squads Abroad, who stated that many schools are changing to Guatemala. Ms. Fitzgibbon is asking to change the trip from Honduras to Guatemala. Discussion ensued regarding safety concerns. Squads Abroad will never take students into a “do not travel” zone, and police escorts are provided along with medical personnel. Ms. McKenzie also stated the trip may be less expensive due to airfare.

Vote to approve field trip location to Guatemala:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger

Vote: 5-0-0

d. Overview of MTSS/SEL Interventions and Implementation Progress Report (Wojtowicz)

M. Wojtowicz, Social and Emotional Learning / MTSS coach gave an overview of how the system works. Three areas of curriculum implementation include “Fly Five,” a K-8 social emotional learning curriculum, noting that diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging are embedded in the curriculum, Responsive Classroom which uses an evidence-based approach to teaching and discipline, and Positive Behavior Supports which features a framework for promoting, teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors.

M. Wojtowicz gave an overview of assessment process which includes universal screenings for all K-12 students in the areas of literacy, math and social, emotional and behavior skills. Teacher support includes professional development as well as individual teacher support. The goal is to have 80% or more of Hadley students meeting academic, social and behavioral expectations.

M. Wojtowicz reviewed the support for an individual child if the student is not performing up to expectations. In this case, the student is referred to the Tiered Support Team which includes various teachers, counselors and other professionals as needed. The referral can be for academic or behavioral performance. The team problem solves for the instruction, curriculum, environment, and then the learner, with an action plan that includes data collection.

M. Wojtowicz reviewed highlights from the 21-22 school year, stating the of 16 students referred, 13 demonstrated accelerated growth. There was a decrease in undesired behavior in middle school, and 94% of participants in Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) professional development training indicated they learned something they can apply immediately. Also, the SEL/MTSS coach position secured competitive grants in FY22 and FY23.

Chair Fasihuddin stressed the need to highlight case stories of transformation in teaching and learning for others to emulate. C. Pipczynski commented on the program and stated that it is important that parents have access to this presentation as it illustrates the important work that is happening and how it benefits all in the classroom by providing support in learning which improves behavior and thus helps all students succeed. T. Brugger agreed and suggested a communication to parents with a description of the program. Brugger also suggested a highlighting a staff member in communications to parents.

e. [Title III](#) Overview – English Language Learner (ELL) enrollment and achievement data (McKenzie)

A. McKenzie explained that this overview is to review how we identify students who need supplemental evidence-based intervention and instruction in order to meet grade level expectations. Title III refers to the English as a Second Language program. She explained that when any child enrolls in the district, a home language survey is completed. If a language other than English is spoken in the home, the child is screened and offered English as a second language if they score in a certain range. Families have the option of opting out, though they rarely do opt out. Language proficiency is monitored through additional testing. Once students meet certain thresholds, they can exit out of English as a Second Language (ESL). Currently the district has 14 students enrolled with Kindergarteners still being evaluated.

The State sets progress targets for ELL students. 40% of students met progress targets, more students had moderate to very high growth. The 40% rate, down from previous years rates, may indicate an impact of the COVID pandemic. A. McKenzie stated that scores are monitored routinely in order to identify the proper interventions and support needed.

C. Pipczynski brought up a possible concern that parents may have concerns on time allotment for screening that may take away from regular curriculum. A. McKenzie advised that the tool used is computerized and quick – it is an efficient tool with results provided immediately in order for staff to put in the proper interventions. McKenzie also pointed out that the screening also identifies students who may be accelerated and benefit from higher level opportunities. Staffing is adequate as there are fewer students in the population needing interventions, along with funding from grants that assist with screening and proactive interventions with behavior.

5. Business Manager Reports - no reports this month

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Finance – Fasihuddin – no tri-board meeting – waiting to hear when next meeting is scheduled.
- b. CES – Brugger – these meetings start next week, will have an update next meeting.
- c. Policy – Percy
 - (a.) First Reading – [District Wellness Policy](#). E. Percy stated the updated Wellness Policy was reviewed and updated by school personnel. The Wellness Policy is presented here for first reading. J. Dowd stated that the wellness team was reconvened to review the wellness policy, update membership and strengthen language. The wellness team will continue to meet throughout the school year.
 - (b.) Final Reading – Fuel Efficiency [Policy](#). E. Percy stated that the version in front of the school committee includes language from legal that reflect this policy being a school policy and not a policy of the town.
Vote to approve location:
Motion: Pipczynski / Second: Pfeiffer Vote: 5-0-0
- d. Capital – P. Phifer stated that he is attending a CPA meeting following this meeting to discuss requests. The capital committee meets on Wednesday, Mr. Phifer is traveling and may need a committee member to attend on his behalf if he is unable to attend. He will know more soon and contact school committee members if he is unable to attend so that a school representative can attend in his place. C. Pipczynski offered to attend if Phifer is unable.
- e. Negotiations – Pipczynski – the initial introductory meeting has happened and additional meetings have been scheduled.

7. Announcements

- a. Select Board Liaison - Joyce Chunglo – not in attendance due to prior engagement.
- b. Upcoming Events HPS [Calendar](#) A. McKenzie reminded everyone that September 20th is the first day of the “single tier” schedule where Hopkins Academy will have a delayed start and Hadley Elementary will have an early dismissal. More information on bus schedule will be sent to parents later in the week.
- c. H. Fasihuddin reminded everyone that the Hadley Community World’s Fair is scheduled for September 23 at the Hadley Library.

8. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes August 22, 2022 - Motion: Percy / Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0
- b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes August 22, 2022 - bring to October meeting - link to agenda in October
- c. Approval of Warrants August 2022 - Motion: Brugger / Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0
- d. Approval of Fuel Efficiency Policy (see vote in topic discussion)
- e. Approval of Change of Field Trip Venue to Guatemala (see vote in topic discussion)

9. Next Meeting Dates

October 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm for regular meeting

October 24, 2022 at 4:30 policy subcommittee

10. Adjourn Regular Meeting: 6:43pm

- a. Brugger / Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

Approved 10/24/2022