

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes- September 20, 2021**

Zoom Meeting

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

Present: Fasihuddin, Phifer, Brugger, Percy, McKenzie Absent: Klesch, Desjardins

1. Call to Order

Upon request from the chair, Phifer made a motion to open the meeting. It was seconded by Percy and the vote carried 4-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

McKenzie said she will provide a brief update on ESSR pandemic relief funding; there will be no business/ financial reports as Desjardins is out on medical leave. She said she will require a SC vote on consideration to increase the school nurse per diem rate. There will be no CES report this evening due to Klesch’s absence.

3. Public Comment

Sarah Pegus - expressed disappointment that pooled COVID testing has not yet started at the schools.

Emily Pfeiffer- requests that school bus windows remain open, vaccine mandate and mask mandate.

Rachel Briggs- Agrees there should be a vaccine mandate and mask requirement. Asks for stronger, clearer language for snacks and lunch outside, rather than “when possible”.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. PreK Handbook and Summary of Changes

Lauren Wenner is present to review the summary of changes. Links to the handbook and summary of changes are made available for public access. She reviewed the changes, including rates, schedule, and pick up/ drop off procedures. Phifer made a motion to approve the updated PreK Handbook as presented. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 4-0-0.

b. Vaccine Mandates: State and local policies, practices, and recommendations

McKenzie reviewed vaccine mandates and said that impact bargaining unit discussions would have to take place once a federal ruling has been established. Phifer and Percy volunteered to serve in those discussions with HEA. McKenzie said she would respond to some of the concerns expressed during public comment. She said that the state has a new vendor for pool testing. Hadley applied for the pool testing as soon as applications were accepted. Currently specimen collection materials are being shipped and testing will start as soon as received. McKenzie said she will address and follow up regarding bus windows. She expressed her appreciation for Five Star Bus in being responsive and providing services. She said that HPS defers to the local BOH for masking policies. Outdoor lunch supervision may be part of the impact bargaining. McKenzie will check with building principals.

- c. HPS Employee [Handbook](#) and [Summary](#) of Changes
McKenzie provided the summary of changes for the handbook for nonunion employees. Approval of SC is required. Brugger asked if there had been any changes to the calendar regarding items such as parent conferences, etc. McKenzie said that those dates are being discussed and will be brought to SC. Brugger made a motion to approve the updated Non-Union Employee Handbook as presented. Percy seconded and the vote carried 4-0-0.
- d. Request from community member - Endorsement of House bill H. [926](#)
McKenzie informed the committee that Fasihuddin had received a request from a community member that the SC take a position on House Bill H.926. which addresses the use of pesticides on playgrounds and school property. The individual making the request acknowledged that there is no current use of concerning pesticides but wanted to voice support for the bill in general. McKenzie said that she had reached to see if other school committees had passed a resolution or if MASC was recommending support of the bill in order to obtain some language for such support. This information can be brought back to the SC if so desired. The SC will wait for more information.

5. Business Manager Reports- Reports will be available for the October meeting

- a. Expense Report
- b. Grant Report
- c. Revolving Accounts Report

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. CES – Klesch- October meeting
- b. Finance – Percy reported on the recent TriBoard meeting which presented information of a split tax rate for one year. He added that the presentation is available on line if anyone wishes to view it.
- c. Policy – Brugger- will be meeting in October and will provide an update at that time
- d. Fields and Capital – Phifer- new soccer field has been used and in response to public inquiry the topography was planned to address water issues. McKenzie provided an ESSR COVID relief funding update. The focus of the first phase of the grant will focus on safe facilities and social emotional support for students.

7. Announcements

Fasihuddin provided updates on the October, November, and December **Hadley Learns** series in collaboration with the library and the schools

8. Action Items

- a. Approval of PreK Handbook- Motion: Phifer; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-0.
- b. Approval of HPS Employee Handbook- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-0.
- c. Approval of AP Warrants for August 2021- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-0.
- d. Approval of Warrants for August 2021- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 3-0-1. (Phifer abstains)
- e. Approval of Minutes of August 30, 2021- Motion: Percy; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-0.

9. Next Meeting Dates

October 25, 2021 @ 5pm Policy Subcommittee

October 25, 2021 @ 5:30 Regular School Committee Meeting

10. Convene Executive Session- No need for Executive Session

11. Adjourn Regular Meeting 6:46 pm

Brugger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 4-0-0.