

HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
September 23, 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, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie, Chris Desjardins

Student Representative: N/A

Absent: P. Phifer

Guests: Hadley Media representative; Celia Utley, Director of Student Services, Ken Richards, HEA President and HES Teacher

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

***Motion: Percy***

***Second: Pipczynski***

***Vote: 4-0-0***

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

A. McKenzie informed SC members that item 4m, School Department Capital requests, has been added to the agenda.

**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. [HPS Conditions of Assistance](#) – Director of Student Services, Celia Utley, was available to answer questions about the HPS Conditions of Assistance document, linked to these minutes. A. McKenzie explained that this document annually verifies that Hadley Public Schools complies with federal and state laws pertaining to students with disabilities. School Committee members had no questions. The document will be sent for signature.
- b. HEA presentation re: Question 2 – Mr. Richards asked to speak on behalf of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the Hadley Education Association on Ballot Question number 2. He explained that this is the initiative to repeal the competency assessment requirement for high school graduation. Mr. Richards asked the School Committee for verbal support for this ballot question. School committee members Percy, Fasihuddin, Brugger and Pipczynski verbalized support for the ballot question.
  - i. [Center for State Policy Analysis](#)
- c. Panama field trip – HA Teacher Fitzgibbons asked the School Committee to extend the opportunity for this field trip to eighth grade students. (It was previously approved for high school student participation.) School Committee members expressed support.

***Action – extend Panama Field Trip opportunity to eighth grade students:***

***Motion: Pipczynski***

***Second: Percy***

***Vote: 4-0-0***

- d. Hosting students from [Spain](#) – Ms. Fitzgibbons explained that a tour group will be coordinating students from Spain and is seeking support to invite Hadley families to host students from Spain. School Committee members expressed support.

***Action – Support inviting Hadley families to host students from Spain:***

***Motion: Percy***

***Second: Pipczynski***

***Vote: 4-0-0***

- e. Acceptance of donation school supplies from Walmart – A. McKenzie explained that per School Committee Policy, a vote must be made taken to accept a donation of school supplies from Walmart. She noted that donations included crayons, pens scissors, and arts and crafts materials. Chair Fasihuddin expressed thanks to Walmart for their donation.

***Action – Accept school supplies donation from Walmart:***

***Motion: Pipczynski***

***Second: Brugger***

***Vote: 4-0-0***

- f. School Safety: Equature Weapons Detection System – A. McKenzie explained that at the recommendation of the Hadley Police Department, the district applied for and received a grant for weapons detection equipment. There is no charge to the schools for this equipment that works with the

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existing camera system to identify weapons. The system sends “alerts” to a small group of designated personnel when it detects the possibility of a weapon. Administration, working with public safety, would make the determination of personnel who would receive this notification. The alert contains a copy of the image considered to be a possible weapon. She noted that the system is designed to prevent a weapon entering the school building and reduce the time of reacting to a possible threat. More information to be discussed in Executive Session.

Chair Fasihuddin stated she supports efforts in school safety concerning gun detection but questioned the source for ongoing funding and wants more information on whether this would be a pilot program. She also asked if other school districts are using this system. Discussion ensued regarding whether Artificial Intelligence parameters used in this system would be biased against or target certain populations and asked for more information on what the parameters would be. A. McKenzie will get more information and bring it back to committee for further discussion.

- g. Policy: [IHGB](#) first reading – E. Percy explained that this is the first read for this policy concerning home school and that it contains information on home schooled students participation in extra-curricular activities.
- h. Policy: [JFBB](#) first and final reading – C. Pipczynski explained that language was changed concerning “resident students” and provides for all enrolled students to have equal access to classes and programs within the district.

**Action – Approve Policy JFBB as presented:**

**Motion: Pipczynski      Second: Percy      Vote: 4-0-0**

- i. Policy: [ACAB- R](#) – E. Percy explained that this policy is being eliminated as it is outdated and further, regulations and laws that are referenced in the policy have been updated and changed, and appear in other updated policies. School legal recommends eliminating the policy.

**Action – Approve elimination of HPS Policy ACAB-R**

**Motion: Pipczynski      Second: Percy      Vote: 4-0-0**

- j. [Hartsbrook annual approval](#) – Dr. McKenzie stated that she reviewed the Hartsbrook School application packet and performed an onsite visit at the school. She recommended approving Hartsbrook as a private school in Hadley.

**Action – Approval of Hartsbrook private school application:**

**Motion: Pipczynski      Second: Brugger      Vote: 4-0-0**

- k. [Superintendent Updates](#) – A. McKenzie reminded the public that these updates are emailed to School Committee members and available to the public through the “Superintendent Updates” link on School Committee agenda(s).
- l. [Green School Works Grant Program](#) and [Solect Energy Proposal](#) – A. McKenzie stated that the Green School Works grant is not yet available for application – however at this time Hopkins Academy would not meet the criteria currently established, in that it (HA) is not located in a “environmental justice” community, nor is it a Title I school. HES, being a Title I school, could be eligible, so she will keep her eye on this for potential funding opportunities for HES.
- m. [School Dept. Capital Requests STM and ATM](#) – The linked information was supplied by acting Town Administrator Mason and Town Treasurer Sanderson and represents what the Town is recommending to the Capital Committee. The Town Capital committee will ultimately make their own recommendations. McKenzie explained that most of the school items are listed under debt exclusion and will not appear on the special town meeting warrant in November 2024. They will appear on the regular Town Meeting (Spring 2025) warrant and then, if passed, would go to a ballot vote. The other links provide information on all town capital requests by funding source and department.

- i. [All Town Capital Requests By Funding Source FY25](#)

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ii. [Capital Requests by Dept. 2025-35](#)

Since these items will not be discussed until Spring of 2025, McKenzie recommended that schools review and try to organize items and cluster items by criteria such as “safety,” or “accessibility.” This is a way to be clear about what schools are asking for and why they are needed. School committee members agreed.

- n. Business Manager Report – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the Expense and Revolving accounts linked to these minutes. We are still waiting on grant money for some purchase orders, and for the state on June revenues. Committee members had no questions.
- i. [Expense](#)
  - ii. [Revolving](#)
  - iii. Grants
  - iv. [Geothermal Project](#) Updates – C. Desjardins shared that designers from CHA will be at Hopkins Academy do another walkthrough. He stated that the TA study should be done and ready for school committee review in January 2025.

**5. Action Items – (not voted in previous discussions)**

- h. Approval of payroll and expense warrants for August  
**Motion: Percy                      Second: Pipczynski                      Vote: 4-0-0**
- i. Approval of SC Minutes - [07/22/2024](#)  
**Motion: Percy                      Second: Pipczynski                      Vote: 4-0-0**
- j. Appoint SC representative for bus driver, Unit A, and Unit D negotiations – Negotiations to start sometime after the holidays. C. Pipczynski expressed interest in being the representative for Unit A, T. Brugger for Unit D and E. Percy for Bus Drivers, with C. Pipczynski as an alternate for Unit D and Bus Drivers.  
**Action: Approve SC representatives for union negotiations – Pipczynski for Unit A, Brugger for Unit D, and Percy for Bus Drivers, with Pipczynski serving as alternate for Brugger and Percy when needed.**  
**Motion: Percy                      Second: Brugger                      Vote: 4-0-0**

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

- a. [Playground](#), SEPAC, CES: T. Brugger gave an update that SEPAC is going through a reorganization, and she is hoping to attend their next meeting. CES is meeting Wednesday. The playground is in place and pictures and updates are located on the link attached to these minutes. The playground needs to be inspected and woodchips need to be installed. A grand opening is planned for October 11 at 1pm. She also announced that CPA agreed to move the playground surfacing funding request to Special Town meeting.
- b. Finance – Fasihuddin – No report.
- c. Fields – C. Desjardins reported that he has been working on issues with the fields. He is meeting with the vendor on 09/24/2024 to follow up on concerns.
- d. Capital - Pipczynski
- e. Policy - Percy/Pipczynski – policies on nondiscrimination and sexual harassment are being reviewed.
- f. General Announcements – no announcements

- 7. Executive Session – (6:32pm)** – The Chair entertained a motion to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto, and not to reconvene in Open Session, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

**Motion to move to Executive Session: Pipczynski                      Second: Percy**

**Roll Call Vote: Pipczynski-yes; Brugger-yes; Percy-yes; Fasihuddin-yes**

- 8. Adjourn Regular Meeting: (6:32pm)**