

HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
November 25, 2024

Zoom Meeting: 5:30 PM – Regular Meeting recording: [\(1\)](#) and [\(2\)](#)

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, Chris Desjardins

Student Representative: N/A

Absent: A. McKenzie

Guests: Hadley Media representative; Jennifer Dowd, HES principal, Maggie Potter, HA Student, Susan Duncan, Middle School Team Leader & Science Department Chair

1. Call to Order: 5:31pm:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 5-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Fasihuddin explained that Superintendent McKenzie was unable to attend the meeting due to unexpected personal circumstances. Due to her absence many agenda items will be tabled until the December 2024 School Committee meeting.

3. [Public Comment](#) – Chair Fasihuddin stated that public comment will be held for the moment in order to cover two agenda items first.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

~~a. Introduction of Student Representative to the School Committee, Aisha Anjum (McKenzie)~~

b. Presentation of M.A.S.S Award, Maggie Potter – Fasihuddin introduced Hopkins Academy student Maggie Potter who is the recipient of this year's Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award. Ms. Potter is an accomplished student and athlete who's grade point average exceeds 4.0. She captains many athletic teams, is a class officer, key club president, in short, a leader. She is also a volunteer in the community. Fasihuddin congratulated Maggie and recognized her on all of her accomplishments. She also recognized Maggie's parents who participated in the meeting.

c. [Nature's Classroom Fieldtrip](#) – Ms. Duncan presented an overview of the June 2025 Nature's Classroom overnight fieldtrip for consideration of approval by the School Committee. (Information on the trip included on the link provided.)

Action: Approval of Nature's Classroom fieldtrip as presented:

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0

d. School Safety (McKenzie)

~~i. [Equature Aware](#) – vote~~

~~ii. Update on health and safety procedures: [playground](#), [asbestos](#), [water](#), [IAQ](#) – discussion~~

e. [Curriculum and Instructional Materials](#) (McKenzie) – discussion

f. [Donor Recognition HA Athletic Fields](#) – Mr. Desjardins presented an option for a sign designed for donor recognition, linked to this agenda item. Discussion ensued regarding materials and weather resistance, color and ability to add on. Mr. Phifer suggested finessing the text and overall format and offered to help with design of the sign.

g. Policy Reviews Second and Final Reading

~~i. Policy: [IHGB](#) second and final reading (Percy) – vote~~

h. Policy Reviews First Reading

~~i. Policy: [Revised AC Non Discrimination](#) first reading (Percy) – discussion~~

~~ii. Policy: [Revised AC-R](#) first reading (Percy) – discussion~~

~~iii. Policy: [Revised ACA Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex](#) first reading (Pipczynski) – discussion~~

~~iv. Policy: [ACA-R Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Under Title IX Including Sex-Based Harassment of Sex](#) first reading (Pipczynski) – discussion~~

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- ~~v. Policy: [ACAB Sexual and Sex Based Harassment and Retaliation](#) first reading~~
- ~~vi. [International Student Policy](#) first reading (Pipczynski) – discussion~~
- ~~i. Review of [Civil Rights Grievance procedure](#) and [Grievance Process for Title IX complaints](#) (McKenzie) – discussion~~
- j. Acceptance of Donation from Home Depot – Desjardins informed the School Committee that Home Depot made a generous donation of materials to the HA Life Skills classroom students, including paint, paintbrushes and various wood projects. SC thanked Home Depot for their contribution
Action: Approval and accept donation of classroom materials from Home Depot:
Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0
- ~~k. [Superintendent Updates](#)~~
- l. Locker Room Update (Desjardins)
 - i. [Proposed Scope of Work](#) and revised cost estimate. Mr. Desjardins explained that due to rising costs of materials and labor, HPS does not have the funds for a complete locker room renovation. He included a new proposed scope of work, linked to these meeting minutes. The new design includes complete renovation of the girls’ locker room, and a partial renovation of the boys’ side including a gender neutral bathroom and enclosed Athletic Director’s office. The AD’s office is used for work but is also a private place that referees may use. Discussion ensued regarding how this impacts what was originally asked of and approved by the Town, and how it might impact future asks. Discussion ensued, with capital committee member Pipczynski stating that her feeling is that we need to move forward with this project, especially on the girls’ side which has more need for renovation. Ms. Brugger stated that schools need to be communicating with the Town about any potential changes to the project. Members discussed an option of full renovation of the girls’ locker room with limited renovation to the boys’ side, including ADA as well as cosmetic renovations. Ms. Brugger suggested communicating to the town that due to funding, the schools propose we will go with the proposed new plan that involves renovating the girls locker room and make adjustments to the boys’ locker room as presented in the [attached plan](#). Chair Fasihuddin stated that this information must be communicated to the Town Select Board and Capital planning committee.
Action: Communicate to the Select Board/Capital planning committee the approval of the revised plan to renovate the girls’ locker room while only completing the highlighted areas of the boys’ locker room.
Motion: Brugger Second: Phifer Vote: 5-0-0
- m. STM Updates – Mr. Desjardins stated that items having to do with School funding passed at the Special Town Meeting held on November 14th. SC members thanked Ms. Brugger for her presentation on the CPA funding article for the rubber surface installation for the new playgrounds. The committee also thanked the CPA committee as well as community members of the Town of Hadley for their support.
- n. Business Manager Report – Mr. Desjardins reviewed each of the items, stating that grants are slow in coming in, and as they come in he will transfer some of the expenses to the grants. In regard to the revolving account, he stated that we are still waiting on reimbursement from the state for free lunches we have served. October revenues have not been posted. In regard to Grants, Mr. Desjardins noted that there are many grant that we have applied for and will be receiving to offset school expenses.
 - i. [Expense](#) -
 - ii. [Revolving](#)
 - iii. [Grants](#)

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- iv. [Geothermal Project Updates](#) – Completion of the design has been bumped out a month or two, as the designers need to know what is happening with the locker rooms. In conversation with the designer, they have asked for additional time to present the TA study. Chair Fasihuddin asked that the designer be held accountable to present at the January 2025 meeting of the School Committee. Mr. Phifer also cautioned that there may be new tax rules coming into effect with the new federal administration that may impact funding for the project.

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

- ~~a. Approval of Equature Aware Weapons Detection~~
- ~~b. Approval of policy IHGB~~
- c. Acceptance of donation from Home Depot – see discussion item
- ~~d. Approval of STM warrant request~~
- e. Approval of payroll and expense warrants for September and October:**
Motion: Percy Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0
- f. Approval of SC Minutes: [08/26/2024](#) and [09/23/2024](#):**
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

- a. Playground, SEPAC, CES: T. Brugger stated that SEPAC meets in two weeks, she is planning on attending the meeting and will report back. She is also planning on attending the CES November meeting, CES did not hold a meeting in October.
- b. Finance – Fasihuddin – Chair Fasihuddin stated that she attended a MASC conference in November that included two very important sessions, one on Cybersecurity and one on funding for Special Education. She has asked the Cybersecurity presentation be made available to all school committees in Western MA.

The presenter on Special Education funding had important information on how to structure Special Education funding request to the state for reimbursement. Fasihuddin asked for this information be made available to school committee members in Western Mass.

Chair Fasihuddin expressed concern about dwindling funding throughout the state, and is asking for support in sending a letter to Governor Healey about ongoing support for Rural districts. She will send more information, including a draft of a letter of support. Another issue is regarding vocational school transportation. Fasihuddin is asking School Committee members to consider a letter of support regarding funding for vocational school transportation.

Ms. Fasihuddin announced that the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School has asked to add an additional 100 seats. This will impact enrollment at Hadley Public Schools. Ms. Fasihuddin asked SC member to send letter to DESE urging the state not to allow an additional 100 seats.

There is also concern about charter school funding, which is syphoning funding for municipalities. Chair Fasihuddin reported that 58% of school funding goes to charter schools and not to Hadley Public Schools. She asked SC members to consider these points and offer feedback. She will bring more information to SC members on how funding works.

- c. Fields – No new information
- d. Capital – No new information
- e. Policy - Percy/Pipczynski – policies on nondiscrimination and sexual harassment are being reviewed.

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- f. General Announcements – Ms. Fasihuddin announced that HA Diversity Club is holding a “Supper for Sudan” on December 5 from 5:30-7:30 at Hopkins. All proceeds go to the International Rescue Committee.

- i. David Fil - Selectboard Liaison to SC – Mr. Fil was not in attendance

7. Executive Session – No executive session

8. Next Meeting Dates

December 16, 2024 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee

December 16, 2024 @ 4 pm - policy subcommittee

Chair Fasihuddin expressed thanks to all members of the School Committee for all of their efforts on various projects throughout the year. SC members thanked Chair Fasihuddin for her leadership

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: (7:15pm)

Motion: Percy

Second: Pipczynski

Vote: 5-0-0