

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
December 16, 2024**

Zoom Meeting: 5:30 PM – Regular Meeting recording: [Click Here](#)

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, A. McKenzie

Student Representative: N/A

Absent:

Guests: Hadley Media representative; Steve Bigda, HPS IT Director; Sgt. Michael Romano, Hadley Police Officer and School Resource Officer

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm:

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

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie stated that Asset Disposition review 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. Introduction of Student Representative to the School Committee, Aisha Anjum – A. McKenzie stated that Student Representative Aisha Anjum was not available to attend this meeting due to study requirements. She is a Senior at Hopkins Academy, very involved and an excellent student. She will be at the January 2025 meeting of the School Committee.

b. School Safety

i. [Equature Aware](#) – A. McKenzie provided the linked document answering concerns raised by School Committee members at the last discussion of this software product designed to detect and alert designated individuals when weapons are detected on anyone entering the school. IT Director Bigda and School Resource Officer Romano have both been involved in discussions with Equature and are in favor of implementation. Sargent Romano did comment that there are some logistics to be worked out in terms of procedures if an alert is received, but overall if the system works in the way it is intended, it is worth implementation.

Action: Approve implementation of the Equatur Aware weapons detection system for HPS

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

ii. Update on health and safety procedures: [playground](#), [asbestos](#), [water](#), [IAQ](#) – A. McKenzie explained that these linked documents are the procedures in place to ensure student and staff health and safety. These procedures exceed what is minimally required by state law.

c. [Curriculum and Instructional Materials](#) - A. McKenzie explained that there has been recent discussion and questions from parents and members of the public about how materials for curriculum are selected, who selects them, and who decides what is suitable at different grade levels. The linked document provides information on curriculum adoption and development. She noted that DESE and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees discourage school committee involvement in making decisions about educational materials, except to the extent that they reflect a major expense or significant shift in the district's curriculum. Discussion ensued regarding how parents are notified of curriculum. McKenzie stated that Hopkins Academy students and parents/guardians receive a syllabus, mainly via Google classroom. If a parent/guardian has a question they are able to contact the teacher. Information on how Hadley Elementary school informs parents/guardians about curriculum will be brought to the next School Committee meeting.

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SC members stressed that they trust and support the school teachers with curriculum material selection. Ms. Pipczynski also pointed out that teachers are always willing to make accommodations if a parent or student has a valid issue with curriculum materials.

- d. [Donor Recognition HA Athletic Fields](#) – Mr. Desjardins presented a new option for a sign designed for donor recognition (linked to these minutes.) Discussion ensued regarding the sign of the size, need to validate information and proof all information. Discussion also ensued regarding recognition of past individuals or groups responsible for the field project. Mr. Desjardins noted the suggestions and will bring a new draft back for consideration.
- e. Policy Reviews Second and Final Reading
 - i. Policy: [IHGB](#) second and final reading: Policy Sub-committee member Percy reviewed the IHGB policy (Homeschooling), linked to these minutes.
Action: Approve Policy IHGB (Homeschooling) as presented:
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0
- f. Policy Reviews First Reading - reading – Mr. Percy presented the linked policy for first reading. These have been reviewed by the school attorney who contributed to the content.
 - i. Policy: [Revised AC Non Discrimination](#)
 - ii. Policy: [Revised AC-R](#) first reading
 - iii. Policy: [Revised ACA Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex](#)
 - iv. Policy: [ACA-R Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Under Title IX Including Sex-Based Harassment of Sex](#)
 - v. Policy: [ACAB Sexual and Sex Based Harassment and Retaliation](#)
 - vi. [International Student Policy](#)
- g. Review of [Civil Rights Grievance procedure](#) and [Grievance Process for Title IX complaints](#) – A. McKenzie explained that these grievance processes are referred to in several of the policies submitted for first reading (earlier in this agenda). These procedures replace policy ACAB-R which was out of date and no longer aligned with Title IX.
- h. [Superintendent Updates](#) – A. McKenzie reminded SC and the public that the Superintendent Update are linked to the agenda and always available for view through the link on the agenda or meeting minutes. She noted that DESE issued [Update on Student Competency Determinations](#), and DESE recommends we publicly review our local competency determination at a future SC meeting. McKenzie will research if there are any students that may not have graduated due to the 10th grade MCAS requirement, and who might qualify for an HA diploma absent of the MCAS requirement.
- i. Business Manager Report – Mr. Desjardins reviewed each of the items, stating that he has transferred many of the expenses to grants.
 - i. [Expense](#)
 - ii. [Revolving](#)
 - iii. [Grants](#)
 - iv. [Geothermal Project Updates](#) – Th project manager will attend the January 2025 meeting. Also, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has added heat pump conversion to the accelerated repair program. There is a very tight turnaround time as vote of the School Committee and Select Board is required for a statement of interest to be submitted by March 21, 2025.
 - v. [Asset Disposition](#) – Mr. Desjardins reviewed the linked list of items that are no longer used, mostly old IT equipment. A suggestion was made to donate items to maker's space.
Action: Approve Asset Disposition as presented:
Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 5-0-0

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

- a. Approval of Equature Aware Weapons Detection (see previous discussion)

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- b. Approval of policy IHGB (see previous discussion)
- c. **Approval of payroll and expense warrants for November**

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

- d. **Approval of SC Minutes: [11/25/2024](#)**

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

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

- a. Playground, SEPAC, CES: CES [Annual Report](#) and [Executive Director Report](#). Information on CES linked to these minutes for review. No news on the playground. SEPAC met and had an Occupational Therapist present. They also have a newsletter that is distributed to all interested parties.
- b. Finance – Tri-board has not met, but preliminary budgets are due to the Select Board by January 10, 2025.
- c. Fields – No new information
- d. Capital – No new information
- e. Policy - Percy/Pipczynski
 - i. Section A - policy subcommittee review complete
 - ii. Section H - initial policy subcommittee review December
 - iii. Section F - initial policy subcommittee review December
- f. Student Representative Update – report next month
 - i. Upcoming Events
- g. General Announcements
 - i. David Fil - Selectboard Liaison to SC – Mr. Fil was not in attendance
 - ii. Ms. Brugger announced that there is a fundraiser for the 6th grade class this coming Wednesday at Texas Roadhouse. Contact Ms. Brugger for more information.

7. Executive Session – No executive session

8. Next Meeting Dates

January 27, 2025 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee

January 27, 2025 @ 4 pm - Policy subcommittee

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: (6:50pm)

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