HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035 December 21, 2023

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, P. Phifer, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Student Representative:

Absent: None

Guests: Chris Desjardins, Director of Finance, Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm

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

2. Adjustments to the Agenda No Adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comment – Chair Fasihuddin asked for any public comment. She noted that no raised hands were observed requesting to make a statement or comment.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Update: Locker Project Special Election Results 12/12/23 (McKenzie/Desjardins) Superintendent McKenzie thanked the Town for their support of this project. Mr. Desjardins explained that there is a walkthrough scheduled for HVAC project coming up, and that the locker rooms will be included in the tour. He asked the School Committee's feedback on waiting for HVAC plans prior to beginning work on the locker room project. Discussion ensued regarding timing and how to best move forward with the locker room project. Chair Fasihuddin stated that an early assessment by the geothermal engineers might reveal that there are no or minimal considerations regarding locker room upgrades that will impact the HVAC project, and if that is the case, we should start the project summer of 2024. Mr. Desjardin also explained next steps in the locker room project, which includes possible modifications of the existing plans based on most current need.
- b. M.G.L Chapter 71 Section 94 Virtual School Enrollment Cap A. McKenzie explained to School Committee members that there is a law that she was previously unaware of, that the school committee can vote to restrict enrollment of students in the Hadley virtual school if the total enrollment of Hadley students in the virtual schools exceeds 1 per cent of the total enrollment in its district in a particular year; provided, however, that no student enrolled in a commonwealth virtual school shall be compelled to withdraw as a result of this vote. Discussion ensued with outcome being to table this until such time that there is a compelling need to have a cap on virtual school attendance.
- c. Superintendent Report Superintendent McKenzie thanked HES staff and Hadley Police for their work and response to a recent situation of a student elopement at HES. She also announced that families from Hopkins Academy, Smith Academy and another western Massachusetts school will be hosting 37 students from France in May 2024. We are also currently preparing for an onsite visit by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) who will be reviewing the Special Education program. This review will take place in mid-January, all contact information is located in the linked report as well as the HPS website. Dr. McKenzie concluded her report by sharing information on the Hopkins Academy Community Read, which features a book selected by Hopkins Academy students titled "Home of the Brave." One student commented that this book summarized his experiences in life. This book will be read by students, staff and faculty throughout the district,

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and the community organization "Hadley Learns" will also read it and invite Hopkins students in to facilitate discussion.

d. Business Manager Report

- i. <u>Expense</u> Mr. Desjardins reviewed the linked document pertaining to expenses and explained that as of this date we are where we need to be. He further explained that he is waiting for funds to be transferred to grants, as grants were approved late by DESE. Now that they are approved, he will be able to transfer expenses to grants.
- ii. Revolving Mr. Desjardins reviewed status of revolving accounts. No questions by the School Committee.
- e. Student Representative Updates no report tonight
- f. FY25 Budget Update A. McKenzie and C. Desjardins updated the School Committee on budget status. After first pass we are at 3.5% increase over last year in local contribution with a 2.1% increase in total budget. A. McKenzie informed SC members that the schools must provide the town with a starting point that is due on January 5, 2024. SC members will be copied on the submission.

5. Action Item

a. Approval of 11/20/2023 School Committee Minutes

Action Item: Approve 11/20/2023 School Committee Minutes as presented:

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

b. Motion

6. School Committee Updates and General Announcements

- a. Playground and CES Report SC Member T. Brugger Playground Committee has met and is gathering information as breaking down tasks. Future meetings will include planning for fundraising.
- b. Finance H. Fasihuddin reported that a tri-board (Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee) met in December and decided to meet monthly in future months. She also reported that she and A. McKenzie attended a Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference, and that she (Fasihuddin) has been appointed chair of Division 5 as of January 1, 2024.
- c. Fields weather has impacted progress but things are moving forward. The SC thanked the Young Men's Club and Hadley Park and Rec for their support and assistance with providing fields and space for athletics while the fields are being worked on.
- d. Capital and Negotiations No report.
- e. Policy Policy Subcommittee met today but nothing new for the school committee at this time.

7. Executive Session: 6:27pm

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; and not to return to open session.

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger

Roll call vote: Brugger - yes; Phifer - Yes; Pipczynski - Yes; Percy - Yes; Fasihuddin - Yes

8. Adjourn Regular Meeting to Executive Session – 6:27pm