

**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,

