

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes of March 28, 2022**

Zoom Meeting;

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

Present: Fasijuddin, Phifer, Klesch, Brugger, Percy, McKenzie, Desjardins

1. Call to Order

Klesch made a motion to open the meeting. It was seconded by Phifer and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Public Comment

None

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. Hopkins Program of Studies (Summary of changes) 2022-2023

McKenzie reviewed the summary of changes for the Program of Studies. She highlighted the new electives, which included computer science and computer-aided film design. Students are provided future course offerings so they can plan accordingly. Fasihuddin asked about alternative pathways to vocational training while remaining a student at Hopkins. McKenzie responded that she is working with a point person at CES for a process to address those type of opportunities. Percy made a motion to approve the Hopkins Academy Program of Studies as presented. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

b. SY2022-23 Calendar – DRAFT

McKenzie said that she would like to provide parents with information about school start and end dates, as well as school vacations, but the calendar will remain in draft form as far as other dates are concerned. Klesch made a motion to approve the draft 2022-2023 as presented. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

c. Updated SY2021-2022 Calendar (Spring Open House 5/12/2022; compensatory half-day 5/20/2022)

McKenzie said that since there was no open house in the fall due to Covid restrictions, there will be a combined open house for existing and new parents. The focus will be what is being offered by Hadley Public Schools. She explained that the contract for Unit A provides a compensatory half day in exchange for spending the evening time at Open House. McKenzie is hoping that potential school choice parents and students will attend. The change to the calendar for 2021-2022 would be to establish 5/20/22 as a half day. Fasihuddin said that she liked the idea very much. Brugger asked if May would be too late for school choice applications. McKenzie said that if all slots were full, there would be a waiting list, but there have always historically been open slots at Hopkins. Brugger also asked if future Open Houses would also be in the spring. McKenzie said that was being considered and spoke of the pros of doing so.

Fasihuddin asked about setting up parent conferences via zoom to accommodate some parents.

McKenzie said the revision does not need an approval vote. She mentioned that the last day of school currently is June 22, 2022.

d. FY23 [Budget](#) Public Hearing

McKenzie said that state law requires passing of budget to present to the town by SC vote. She said that there were only minor changes since the budget was presented to the SC in February. She summarized the changes in the budget from FY22 to FY 23 and provided written explanations. She mentioned that they would not be “locking in” oil prices as usually done this time of year and are hoping that the prices may be better in the summer. The request for local contributions represents a 3% increase with an increase in the operating budget of 1.45%. Fasihuddin commented that the budget was presented in a clear format and she was pleased. Percy asked if there was a deadline to lock in the oil prices and if they remained high how would the cost be absorbed. McKenzie said that most districts have not locked in and are hoping for positive changes in global events to reduce the price. Any additional heating costs not funded in the budget would be paid from School Choice funds. Fasihuddin inquired if alternative energy sources have been discussed. McKenzie responded that the Facilities Study will address heating issues/ options in the audit scheduled to be presented at the May SC meeting. Phifer made a motion to approve the local contribution to the FY23 budget in the amount of \$7,591,473. Percy seconded and the vote carried at 5-0-0.

e. Pre-K Tuition Rates FY23

The recommendation is for a 1.5% increase in tuition for FY23. The Pre-K Coordinator provided a chart outlining the programs and costs. Fasihuddin asked about any rebound in enrollment post COVID. McKenzie said there were 3 Pre-K classrooms with about 45 students total, which shows a good enrollment recovery. Phifer made a motion to approve the 1.5% Pre-K tuition increase for FY23. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

f. Update on SOA (Student opportunity Act)

McKenzie informed the SC that there was an increase in chapter 70 funding of \$30.00/ per pupil, totaling about \$15,000, as a result of the SOA. She said the plan was to use the funds for College and Career pathways particularly for students who are typically underrepresented. The law requires that the superintendent inform the SC of the plan. SC members were in agreement with the plan.

g. Request for approval to display flag

The Library media specialist requests permission to display the Ukrainian flag. She provided the SC with a written request. Percy made a motion to approve the flag request as presented. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

h. Capital Request to Town

IT items include updating switches in the school district network, Improvements for WIFI performance at HES with the addition of more access points and better connections in the

classrooms; replace carpeting at Hopkins and Central Office, and additional classroom screens and projectors. Fasihuddin thanked Desjardins for keeping up with the district technology needs.

Klesch made a motion to approve the four Capital Request items. Brugger seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

- i. UMass donated some science cabinets to Hopkins science classroom. Phifer made a motion to accept the donation of science rock cabinets from UMass. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

5. Business Manager Reports

- a. Expense- Desjardins said that expense report was as expected.
- b. Revolving-The Athletic Revolving Account had a large increase due to winter game event receipts. Desjardins added that expenditures from the student activity account would increase toward the end of the year as students participate in field trips.
- c. Grant-Grant expenses have been recorded, including ESSR, and the SOA summer grant. He added that some of the grants were delayed for approval and funding due to the increase in grant activity at DESE. Brugger asked about continuance of the post Covid summer programming. McKenzie said that she had not been informed of any yet.

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Finance – Percy has nothing to report- budget meeting pending
- b. Policy – Brugger informed the other members that the policy committee had met with Officer Romano to review the MOU between the Hadley Schools and Hadley Police Department. She said that the committee was going to conduct some more research and revising and would get back to the SC.
- c. CES - Klesch said that she would be attending the CES meeting later in the week and would report back to the SC with a summary.
- d. Negotiations - Brugger/Klesch- Unit A negotiations have been completed and the SC will discuss them in Executive Session.
- e. Fields and Capital – Phifer asked Desjardins if he had any updates. Desjardins said they started some work, including surveying and would be taking soil samples.

7. Announcements

Klesch's last SC meeting will be in April.

Fasihuddin announced a candidate for the SC election in May

Fasihuddin spoke of upcoming climate Day and said that Climate was a book topic of discussion at *Hadley Learns*.

8. Action Items

- a. Approval of Hopkins Program of Studies 2022-2023- Motion: Percy; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Approval to display Ukrainian Flag at HA- Motion: Percy; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.
- c. Approval of Capital Requests- Motion: Klesch; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.

- d. Approval FY23 Budget- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- e. Approval of SY 2022-2023 Calendar- Motion: Klesch; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.
- f. Acceptance of donated property – cabinets- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- g. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2022- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- h. Approval of AP Warrants for February 2022- Motion: Percy; Second: Phifer; Vote 4-0-1.
Klesch abstains.
- i. Approval of Warrants for February 2022- Motion: Klesch; Second: Brugger; Vote 4-0-1.
Phifer abstains.

9. Next Meeting Dates

April 25, 2022 @ 5pm - Policy Subcommittee

April 25, 2022 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee Meeting

10. Convene Executive Session

Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and NOT to reconvene in open session.

Motion to go adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session: Klesch; Second: Brugger

Roll Call Vote: Fasihuddin-yes; Brugger-yes; Klesch-yes; Phifer-yes; Percy-yes

6:52 PM