

**Hopedale School Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

Members Present: Lisa Alberto, Chair  
Jennifer McKeon  
Alysia Butler  
Kristi Brytowski  
Kaitlin Federico

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent  
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director  
Lynne Davis, School Accountant  
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal  
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Principal  
Kate Guertin, Candidate for School Committee  
Nora Hodgens, School Committee Representative and Student Council Co-Representative  
Ashleigh Bourgeois, Student Council Representative  
Alexandra Daniel and Student Representatives, Memorial Student Council  
Julia Manning and Kathy Haynes, PTO Officers  
Talitha Oliveri and Student Representatives, DECA

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Media Center at 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present.

1. **Minutes of February 23, March 1 and 9, 2022** - Upon separate motions, each made by Mrs. Butler and seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the minutes of February 23, 2022, March 1, 2022 and March 9, 2022 were unanimously approved.
2. **Student Representatives' Report** - Ashleigh Bourgeois and Nora Hodgens reported on recent and upcoming events, including STUCO meetings and conferences, monthly staff appreciation events, the upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid*, DECA competitions and All State concerts. Planning is underway for executive board elections, the Stuff-a-Bus food collection, the return of Mr. Hopedale, a car wash and National Administrators Day.
3. **Superintendent's Comments** – The Superintendent reported on decreasing COVID cases, reduced physical distancing, and the successful transition to mask-optional settings throughout the district. She noted the Blackstone Valley Educator Job Fair scheduled for April 7th and the Town Election on May 10th. Congratulations were extended to the girls basketball team for their championship win and Fran Rossi on her retirement.
4. **Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments** - There was a brief discussion confirming the last day of school as June 17th.
5. **Financial Items**
  - **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the accounts payable report as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of six warrants dated: March 10 (two) and 24 (four), 2022 in the amount of \$304,625.63.

- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two payroll warrants dated: March 10 and 24, 2022, in the amount of \$988,149.11.
- **Monthly Budget Reports:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

6. **Committee on Policy** - There were no policies brought forward for review.

7. **Committee on Budget**- The Superintendent reported that a joint meeting between the School Committee and Finance Committee was held on March 9th, the budget sub-committee will meet on April 25th, and a budget workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 26th. The Committee will schedule the annual public budget hearing at their next meeting.

8. **Agenda Items** -

- **JSHS PTO Update:** PTO President Julia Manning and Vice President Kathy Haynes reported on recent activities, collaborations with other school organizations, events being planned and community outreach. They are looking to build their membership and interest in the organization.
- **DECA Presentation:** DECA Advisor Talitha Oliveri and student representatives reported on their successes at the recent state competition and their upcoming participation in the International DECA Career Development Conference in Atlanta. The students will compete in roleplay situations, deliver presentations, attend leadership workshops, network with other students, and participate in educational leisure activities.
- **DECA Out-of-State Field Trip:** Mrs. Olivieri presented DECA's official request to attend the International DECA Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from April 23 through 27, 2022. Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously approved the out-of-state field trip.
- **Last Day for Seniors:** Ms. Hodgins presented a request from the Class of 2022 for the Committee to approve an early release from classes on the 168th day of school. The request was approved by a unanimous vote, upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski.
- **Hiring Discussion for Office Manager/School Committee Executive Assistant:** The Superintendent presented a timeline for the hiring process and inquired whether any member had interest in serving on the hiring committee. Ms. McKeon volunteered to participate.
- **School Choice Application Update:** The Superintendent presented a chart reflecting current school choice applications by grade, the number of applicants with priority under the School Committee policy and current enrollments by grade. After a brief discussion regarding potential withdrawals by students accepted to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical School, the number of residents enrolling for kindergarten, and the number of students applying in higher grade levels, the Superintendent recommended that the Committee revisit their discussion on acceptances at the May meeting. The members concurred.
- **District Strategic Plan Progress Report:** The Superintendent highlighted work on the district's four strategic objectives. With regard to Objective #1, *implementing the Acceleration Roadmap*, Ms. Crebase reported on SEL screening tools, enrichment programs, community events, iReady data analysis and academic supports. For Objective #2, *ensuring academic growth and the acquisition of skills to ensure recovery and progress for all students*, she highlighted efforts using a multi-tiered system of support, making curriculum decisions based on data, and implementing a new process to evaluate curriculum. Highlights for Objective #3, *ensuring growth in social/emotional competencies and the application of those skills*, the Superintendent discussed integration of academics and SEL, universal strategies to promote self-care, interventions, and the availability of additional counselors. Objective #4, *embracing and advancing a culture and climate*

*that supports diversity, equity and inclusive practices*, focused on a return to previous events and programs, professional development, and the promotion of diversity and multicultural awareness throughout the district.

- **Superintendent Self-Evaluation:** The Superintendent shared her end-of-year self-evaluation. Evidence of progress on Goal #1, *implementation of the Acceleration Roadmap*, highlighted ongoing data analysis to inform decision-making, a focus on curriculum development, and the use of American Rescue Act funds for curriculum, technology improvements, mental health supports, and formative assessments. She also reported on the Jr.-Sr. High School college and career pathway work. With regard to Goal #2, *fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion*, Ms. Crebase reported on the successful re-entry of students to all buildings. Work completed on Goal #3, *implementing the district strategic plan and school action plans*, involved the development of the final strategic plan document. A discussion followed regarding current curriculum development and the resources recommended by DESE through their CURATE (Curriculum Ratings by Teachers) project.
- **Distribution of Superintendent Evaluation Form:** The Superintendent Evaluation process was reviewed by the Chair. Members were encouraged to complete their individual assessments and deliver them to the Chair by April 22, 2022 for consolidation.

9. **Correspondence** - The Committee reviewed the *Town of Hopedale Code of Conduct and Ethics* as adopted by the Select Board on February 28, 2022 and an email from resident Colleen Stone about potential traffic patterns on Plain Street. The Committee also reviewed a recently received letter from Rob Russell of the Hopedale Booster Club seeking the Committee's support for the 11th annual Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk on May 14, 2022. The Committee endorsed the event by consensus.

10. **Audience to Citizens** – No members of the audience asked to address the Committee.

The next regular meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 3, 2022 at 6:00 pm. A budget workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2022.

Upon a request by the Chair to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a strategy session to discuss upcoming negotiations with the Superintendent, without returning to public session, a motion made by Mrs. McKeon was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski and the members voted as follows: Mrs. McKeon - yes, Mrs. Butler - yes, Mrs. Brytowski - yes, Mrs. Federico - yes, and Mrs. Alberto - yes.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary  
APPROVED: May 3, 2022