

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

Members Present: Lori Hampsch, Chair
Alysia Butler, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Craig Adams
Jennifer McKeon

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Francis Hodgens, Student Representative to the School Committee
David Alberto, Jr., JSHS Student Council Representative
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Director

At 6:00 pm, the Chair called the meeting to order in the Media Center at the Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present.

1. Minutes of September 3, 2019 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the minutes of September 3, 2019 were unanimously approved by the members.

2. Student Representative Report – Jr.-Sr. High School: DJ Alberto reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: Day in the Park, Homecoming Weekend, the election of seventh grade officers, the annual tea for new staff members, Back to School Night, clothing drive, the upcoming senior class trip to Disney World, the annual turkey dinner and turkey run, annual coffeehouse, the fall production of *Clue*, STUCO and DECA fall meetings, Tri-M Honor Society induction, the Spanish and Italian exchange programs, and FAST.

3. Superintendent's Comments – The Superintendent reported on Back to School Nights recently held at Memorial Elementary School and the Jr.-Sr. High School; the recent Grade 6 trip to Nature's Classroom; the new manufacturing and engineering course being offered in collaboration with the Blackstone Valley schools; the tea for new staff; and the September 11th ceremony at Draper Atria Place.

4. Committee Response to Comments – There were no questions or comments from the members.

5. Financial Items

- **Monthly Reports of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed recent warrant reports for FY19 and 20 as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of one FY19 accounts payable warrant dated September 18, 2019 in the amount of \$11,367.84. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto the members unanimously voted to ratify five FY20 warrants dated August 28 (two), September 5, 12 and 19, 2019 in the amount of \$535,121.92.
- **Monthly Reports of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two FY20 payroll warrants dated September 12 and 26, 2019 in the amount of \$943,809.27.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for September 2019.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
- **Budget Transfer:** Mrs. Davis sought approval for budget transfers due to DESE reporting requirements. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the line item budget transfers as recommended by Mrs. Davis and reflected on the October Budget Transfers report.

- **Bus Parking Lot Proposal:** The Superintendent reported on a long-term parking solution for the school buses which is the result of a collaboration among Town departments. The proposed bus lot is located on land owned by the Town and would require an approximate investment of \$50,000 for paving, electric service and video monitoring. A discussion followed regarding the financial investment, the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Town, potential sources for funding and a possible date for relocation. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the Committee unanimously voted to fund the site improvements up to \$50,000.

6. Committee Reports

- **Committee on Policy:** A schedule for the review of policies was shared with the Committee. Also, on the recommendation of the policy sub-committee, members reviewed the following revised policy for a first reading:
JFBB – School Choice
 The draft policy includes non-discrimination language as recommended by MASC and refines the lottery process. The guidelines were also updated. A discussion followed confirming the priority for siblings and for the children of staff members. By consensus, the policy was moved forward for a second reading. It was confirmed that the guidelines are procedural and not part of the policy.
- **Committee on Budget:** Mrs. Hampsch reported that budget discussions have not yet begun at the sub-committee level. She reviewed the Student Opportunity Act, currently under consideration by the state legislature, which could impact Hopedale's Chapter 70 funds.
- **Committee on Fields:** Mrs. McKeon reported on the recent Fields Committee meeting. The composition of the Committee was discussed as well as potential funding sources for field design and development. The new co-chairs of the Committee are Mike Bresciani and Jim Abbruzzese.
- **Committee on Public Relations:** There was no report from the sub-committee.

7. Agenda Items:

- **Transportation Update:** On behalf of Transportation Coordinator Debra Brackett, the Superintendent reported that 144 Jr.-Sr. High School students and 265 elementary students are being transported. The new online registration and fee payment systems have been successful. Staffing needs have been fulfilled and there are no outstanding vehicle needs.
- **Review of Student Enrollment:** The Superintendent shared the enrollment numbers at each grade level for the Memorial School and the Jr.-Sr. High School. A brief discussion followed regarding class sizes. Mr. Adams expressed his interest in following enrollment trends by grade and from year to year.
- **PPS Director Update:** The Superintendent reported that three candidates have been invited for a second round of interviews to take place on October 2, 3, and 9. It is anticipated that the final candidate will be selected on October 10, 2019.
- **Update on Proposed Charter School:** The Superintendent reported that an application submitted for a local charter school is not being moved forward by DESE at this time.
- **Memorandum of Understanding with Police Department:** The Superintendent provided a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopedale Police Department for review and signature. Mrs. Hampsch signed it on behalf of the Committee.
- **School Action Plans:**
 - Bright Beginnings Center** – Director Kristen Poisson reported on the school's acceptance into DESE's Pyramid Model cohort for social emotional learning, new progress reports, implementation of the Eureka math program, expansion of the Foundations curriculum, professional development opportunities which will include the Pyramid Model, the introduction of a site-based extended day program, plans to streamline school registrations, and continued parent outreach efforts. Ms. Poisson confirmed the continued use of FOSS science kits.
 - Memorial Elementary School** – Principal Brian Miller highlighted his school's focus on social emotional learning, the Eureka math program, the implementation of the PLTW computer science curriculum, use of the Aimsweb math assessment to measure growth, data analysis, the hiring of a new Title I Math Teacher, planning for student transitions from preschool to the elementary school,

improvements to the reset room, and continuing family outreach efforts, including the district-wide ELL night for families.

Jr.-Sr. High School – Principal Derek Atherton discussed social emotional learning, the analysis of data, a continued goal of writing across the curriculum, the introduction of a new ninth grade STEM explore class, implementation of the computer science and biomedical pathways, reintroducing a focus on curriculum mapping, review of the substantially separate program, group counseling efforts, development of the ELL curriculum, providing professional development opportunities, and the continuation of community outreach efforts.

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence to share with the Committee.

9. Audience to Citizens – The Superintendent wished Town Administrator Steve Sette well in his new position in Uxbridge.

10. Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Committee will be on November 5, 2019.

Adjournment – The Chair announced the need to enter executive session to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining with Units A and C since an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto and seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members voted by roll call vote to enter executive session for the stated purpose as follows: Mrs. Butler- yes; Mrs. Hampsch- yes; Mr. Adams- yes; Mrs. Alberto- yes; and Mrs. McKeon- yes. The Chair stated that the Committee would not be reconvening in public session and declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: November 5, 2019