

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

Members Present: Craig Adams, Chair
Grace Pool, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Lori Hampsch
Kristen Poisson

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Ryan Coyle, Student Representative to the School Committee
Jen Holland and Ben Tahmouh, JSJS Student Council Representatives
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Amina Hukanovic, Superintendent's Scholar
Kristi Brytowski, PACE President
Megan Ashton, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Sharyn Mulvaney, Guidance Counselor
Angela Scanlon, School Adjustment Counselor
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal

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 November 7, 2017 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee approved the minutes of November 7, 2017. Mr. Adams and Mrs. Hampsch abstained from voting due to their absence from the meeting.

2. Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School: Jen Holland and Ben Tahmouh reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: the DECA fundraiser, turkey dinner to benefit the local food pantry; delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to local families; FAST; Business Honor Society induction ceremony; production of *The Outsiders*; winter concerts, auditions for the spring musical, the FinFit Fair; and midterms.

3. Recognition – The Superintendent recognized senior Amina Hukanovic as this year's Superintendent's Scholar. Ms. Hukanovic will be honored at a luncheon hosted by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association in January.

4. Superintendent's Comments –

- **Nutcracker Ballet** – Hopedale students Sophie Cyr and Lily Romano will be performing in this year's Greater Milford Ballet Association's performance of *The Nutcracker*.
- **BBC Event Update** - The preschool hosted a Barnes and Noble fundraiser.
- **Playground Improvements** – The Wilson and Leporati families volunteered to complete major improvements at the Memorial School playground. The donations of resources from Bump Your Stump and 495 Rental are greatly appreciated.
- **Sports Update** – Forty-two percent of the student body participated in the fall sports program which included nine teams with five league championships, four district championships, and one state championship. The winter program will offer seven varsity, three junior varsity, and two junior high programs and will begin on December 9, 2017.
- **Turkey Dinner** – The annual turkey dinner was a success and proceeds were donated to the Milford Food Pantry.

- **Community Service Projects** – A major focus during the month of November was community service which included students providing food for families in need, organizing bags for the Milford Food Pantry, the Candy Cane Project for the Opioid Task Force, and the elementary school pajama drive.
- **School Production of *The Outsiders*** – Congratulations were extended to staff members Chris Chatham, Alex Wersted, and Laura Buchanan, and the entire student cast and crew for their successful production.
- **Business Honor Society Induction** – The Business Honor Society held its induction ceremony on November 14, 2017.
- **John and Abigail Adams Scholarship** – Twenty-four students received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship to attend a Massachusetts state college or university.
- **Varsity Math Team** – Congratulations were extended to the team for their recent first place finishes.
- **Installation of Air Conditioning Unit** – The air conditioning unit for the Memorial School server room has been installed.
- **Update on LED Project in Auditorium** – Installation of LED lights is continuing.

5. **Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments** – There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

6. **Financial Items**

- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the monthly warrant report for November as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of six accounts payable warrants dated October 27 (two), November 2, 8, 16, and 21, 2017 totaling \$ 230,059.84 .
- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Pool, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two November payroll warrants dated November 9 and 22, 2017 totaling of \$ 896,962.46.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for November 2017.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

7. **Committee on Policy:** Members reviewed the following policies for a second reading. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously adopted the policies.

IJOA-Field Trips and Out-of-State Trips and Excursions

JJH-Student Late Night or Overnight Travel

JJH-R – Student Travel Regulations

JJE – Policy on Student Fund-Raising Activities

8. **Agenda Items:**

- **Memorial PACE Report – PACE Update, Kristi Brytowski, President** – Mrs. Brytowski reviewed recent fundraising and social activities sponsored by PACE, including the kindergarten ice cream social, kindergarten orientation, bingo, the holiday shopping and vendor fair, the Halloween dance, enrichment activities, 5K run, Fun Run, and book fairs. The members and administrators extended their thanks for PACE's support.
- **Special Education Report – Special Education Report, Megan Ashton, PPS Director** – Ms. Ashton outlined her three primary goals for the current year which include communication at all levels with all stakeholders, reviewing transition procedures from the preschool to the elementary school and from the elementary school to the junior high, and working with the elementary leadership team to review inclusion practices in kindergarten through grade 6. Ms. Ashton updated the members regarding recent hires and staff changes, her work with SEPAC, and potential collaborations with the Milford schools.

- **MetroWest Health Survey** – Mrs. Mulvaney and Mrs. Scanlon presented results of the October 2016 administration of the MetroWest Health Survey. They also reported on programmatic improvements being implemented to address issues. Highlighted trends include the use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes, substance use, bullying and cyber-bullying, student stress, and mental health issues. Support and education are being provided through presenters, curricular changes, LOOP, and the advisory program. A discussion followed regarding the similarity of Hopedale’s results with other area districts, how administration uses the data to drive curriculum, and the importance of having supports in place for students to feel comfortable seeking help. Detailed survey results will be posted on the high school website.
- **BiCounty Collaborative** – The Superintendent reported that the seventeen-member collaborative has voted to accept Hopedale’s application. She reviewed the organization’s mission, purpose and focus. Financial benefits were also explained, including a reduction in tuition costs and the absence of membership dues and fees. By consensus, the members agreed to review the collaborative agreement in full and to delay their vote on approval until the January meeting.

9. **Correspondence** – The Committee reviewed the elementary school December calendar.

10. **Audience to Citizens** – There were no citizens present who wished to address the Committee.

11. **School Committee Calendar** – The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2017.

Adjournment –Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
 APPROVED: January 2, 2018