

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

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

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
John McCarthy, Student Representative to the School Committee
Bryan Goldstein, JSHS Student Council Representative
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Derek Atherton, Jr-Sr High School Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Susan Mulready, BBC Director
Barbara Mangano and Lisa Hanson, Garden of Hope
Talitha Oliveri, FinFit Fair Coordinator
Jill St. Martin, Sharyn Mulvaney and Lauren Chase, Guidance Counselors

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

1. Minutes of September 6, 2016 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of September 6, 2016.

2. Student Representatives' Report – Jr-Sr High School: Bryan Goldstein reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: Day in the Park, Homecoming, the election of seventh grade officers, the annual tea for new staff members, Back to School Night, a clothing drive, the upcoming senior class trip to Disney World, the annual turkey dinner and turkey run, the annual coffeehouse, and the STUCO fall regional meeting.

3. Recognition – Superintendent Crebase recognized staff members Barbara Mangano and Lisa Hanson for their work creating the Garden of Hope at the Memorial School. The garden will produce food to share with community members in need and will provide an outdoor learning experience for students. In addition, Ms. Crebase recognized student athlete Brian Espanet for committing to the University of Maine's football program and Catherine Clement for being selected as a National Merit Scholar.

4. Superintendent's Comments –

- **Freedom Street Bridge Work:** Although work on the bridge is beginning later than anticipated, it is expected that the project will be completed on schedule.
- **Fall Sports:** The fall sports season is off to a great start and new Athletic Director Bill Gainie has been scheduling, managing game operations, and overseeing athletic eligibility and MIAA protocols. Additionally, he and his interns are currently revamping the athletic website.
- **Nature's Classroom:** Sixth grade students attended a one week overnight educational program in Charlton at Nature's Classroom. Students had the opportunity to learn while experiencing the great outdoors.

- **Back to School Nights:** The Superintendent commended the administration and teachers for the exceptional Back to School Nights held at each building.
- **MCAS:** MCAS results were released to the public on September 26, 2016. Administrators and staff will review data during the professional development day on Friday, October 7, 2016. They will work to identify areas of growth, areas of strength, and areas in need of improvement. A report of MCAS information will be shared at the November 1, 2016 School Committee meeting.
- **IT/Educational Technology Position:** The IT/Educational Technology position has been filled. This full year position will support our technology expansion and ensure the effective use of technology at all grade levels. Responsibilities include the installation and maintenance of technology, providing basic technical support for hardware and software, working with other IT personnel on technology projects, and supporting staff through direct classroom integration as well as individual and group professional development activities. The successful candidate, Darius Corcoran, is a recent graduate of LaSalle College and will start on October 11th.
- **Out-of-District Coordinator Position:** The Out-of-District Coordinator position has also been filled. Margo Austein has begun work completing file reviews and making connections with parents. Margo is a retired Special Education Director and Assistant Superintendent with a wealth of knowledge and experience who is familiar with all of the agencies and schools with which she will be working.

5. Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments – The Committee is looking forward to meeting the new staff members.

6. Correspondence – The Committee reviewed a letter of recognition from the DESE for retired teacher Nancy Johnson and a letter from the House of Representatives regarding Chapter 70 funding.

7. Financial Items

- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
- **Monthly Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly report for September 2016 and noted that she is monitoring the account for tuition reimbursement, which is showing a negative balance.
- Mrs. Davis sought the Committee's approval to transfer the sum of \$15,310 from the tuition collaborative account (9400) to the team chair account (2315). Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the transfer.

8. Committee on Policy –

- **Plan and Timeline:** The Policy Committee presented a 2016-2017 Policy Review Schedule which sets forth a plan for the upcoming school year. A discussion followed regarding the new physical restraint law and the timeline for reviewing the related policy.
- **Memorandum of Understanding:** The Committee reviewed the proposed memorandum of understanding between the Hopedale Public Schools and the Hopedale Police Department. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the memorandum of understanding was unanimously approved.

9. Agenda Items:

- **Financial Fitness Fair** – Mrs. Oliveri, and several members of her FinFit team, which includes students Gerard Crepeau, Cameron Smith, Mitchell Siefring and Kate Pino, presented a preview of the upcoming Financial Fitness Fair. The program will be extended to juniors in addition to seniors this year. They also shared a video of last year's successful event.

- **Guidance Report** - Jill St. Martin, Sharyn Mulvaney, and Lauren Chase, guidance counselors at the Jr.-Sr. High School, reviewed the future plans and standardized test scores for members of the Class of 2016. They also reported on school-wide SAT, ACT, PSAT, and AP scores; important upcoming dates; and new course offerings, including Mathematics in Architectural Design, Music Technology and Standardized Test Preparation. Several successful programs were highlighted, including Apex credit recovery, Advisory, and peer mentoring LOOP. A discussion followed regarding AP test scores, planned data analysis to examine the scores, and the weight of honors courses compared to AP courses in the GPA scale.
- **Opening of School, BBC** – Mrs. Mulready reported on the successful beginning of the preschool year. There are presently 72 students enrolled. Recent events include the Curriculum Night and professional training on Google applications.
- **Transportation Update** – The Superintendent reported that 273 students received bus passes at the elementary level and are transported along 5 routes. At the high school level, 162 students have bus passes and are transported along 2 routes. The scheduling of late-bus routes is being monitored for effectiveness.

10. Strategic Plan Update – The Superintendent presented a comprehensive district strategic plan for the current year. The stated goals include: curriculum, instruction, and assessment; management and operations; family and community engagement; and professional culture. Ms. Crebase reviewed several recent accomplishments and planned goals, including curriculum mapping and vertical alignment of core classes, implementation of mindfulness strategies, continuation of the evaluation protocol, hiring of an educational/IT technician, network infrastructure upgrades, improved building security, community communication improvements, and staff training. The Superintendent shared a district plan template from the DESE as a model for future strategic planning. A similar template will be used by building administrators as they create their school improvement plans.

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

12. School Committee Calendar – The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for November 1, 2016.

Adjournment – The Chair announced the need to enter executive session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for collective bargaining with the HEA since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, without reconvening in open session. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm and to enter executive session for the stated purpose as follows: Mr. Adams – yes, Mrs. Pool – yes; Mrs. Hampsch – yes; Mrs. Poisson – yes; and Mrs. Alberto – yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: November 1, 2016