

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, December 6, 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
Members of the Memorial School Student Council
Bryan Goldstein and Lauren Kelly, JSHS Student Council Representatives
Dan Bourgerly, Advisor to Memorial School Student Council
Joe Drugan, Boys Cross Country Coach
Andrew Mainini and Lauren Chase, Girls Volleyball Coaches
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
JD Waswill, National Honor Society President
Linda Gross, Kate Atchue, Josh Crescenzi, Special Education Report
Kristi Brytowski, PACE President
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
William Gaine, Athletic Director

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm in the Media Center at the Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present.

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

2. Student Representatives' Report –

Memorial Elementary School: Members of the Memorial School Student Council introduced themselves to the School Committee and reported on recent activities. The Student Council officers include Attendance Secretary Ari Kotopolous, Recording Secretary Alyssa Spiezio, Treasurer Riley Thomson, Historian/Researcher Joe Mahoney, Photographer Robbie Minichello, Media Relations Officer Emily Stewart, Vice President Cam Whiting, and President Ahaan Singh. The officers were joined by fifth grade members, including Aaron Terbush, Lane Rutowski, Avery Sanosi, John McShane, Sydney Hall, Landon Sousa, Ellie Poitras, Lucas Levasseur, and C.J. Kivlehan. The students reported on projects and units being studied at each grade level at Memorial School. They also reported on the Halloween Dance, the Thanksgiving food drive and basket distribution, a shopping fundraiser, the annual pajama drive, recognizing Alzheimer Day, preparing for the installation of a buddy bench in the playground, and visits to Draper Place. The Committee thanked the students for their service to the community.

Jr.-Sr. High School: Lauren Kelly and Bryan Goldstein reported on recent and upcoming activities at the Jr.-Sr. High School, including: the mock election, turkey dinner to benefit the local food pantry; the delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to local families; FAST; fall sports; the winter cotillion; the beginning of winter sports; the pep rally before winter break; and midterms.

3. Recognition – Superintendent Crebase recognized Coach Drugan and the Boys Cross Country Team for their successful season which concluded with winning the State Championship.

She also recognized the Girls Volleyball Team and their coaches, Andrew Mainini and Lauren Chase, for their successful season and for receiving the MIAA Sportsmanship Award.

4. Superintendent's Comments –

- **Fall Sports Update:** The Superintendent announced that in addition to the Millis-Hopedale Football Team winning the State Championship, their coach, Dana Olson, has been named Coach of the Year by the New England Patriots. Coach Olson and the team will be recognized at the December 12th Patriots game at Gillette Stadium.
- **Turkey Dinner:** The Jr.-Sr. High School Student Council raised over twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) for the Milford Food Pantry at their annual turkey dinner.
- **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation:** Junior high students recently attended the Blackstone Valley STEM conference coordinated by the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation and Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Science. Students attended interactive workshops relating to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.
- ***The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*:** The Superintendent congratulated staff members Chris Chatham, Alex Wersted, and Laura Welch, and the entire student cast and crew for their successful production.
- **Business Honor Society Induction:** Ms. Crebase congratulated the new inductees of the Hopedale Chapter of the National Business Honor Society.

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

6. Financial Items

- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
- **Monthly Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly report for November 2016.
- There was a brief discussion regarding preparations for the new budget season and the expectation that a preliminary 2017-2018 budget will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

7. Committee on Policy – As recommended by the Policy Committee, members reviewed the following proposed policies for a final reading:

- **JKAA-Physical Restraint**
- **IB-Academic Freedom**
- **IC/ICA-School Year/School Calendar**
- **ID-School Day**
- **IE-Organization of Instruction**

After review, the Committee unanimously approved the above listed policies upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Pool.

The Committee also reviewed recommended policies **IGD-Curriculum Adoption** and **IHA-Basic Instructional Program** for a first reading. By consensus, the policies were moved forward for a final reading at the next meeting.

8. Agenda Items:

- **National Honor Society Presentation of Community Service Project, JD Waswill, NHS President –** Mr. Waswill announced a new NHS tradition which began on Veterans Day. NHS students, after working with town officials and representatives from the Community House, identified local veterans and volunteered to assist them with needed services. The students plan to make this an annual tradition to celebrate the veterans and their service to our country.
- **Special Education Report, Linda Gross, PPS Director –** Mrs. Gross was joined by Team Chairs Kate Atchue and Josh Crescenzi to present the annual special education report. Mrs. Atchue reported on a newly developed monthly lecture series being offered to staff. This year's topic was understanding autism. She is planning to introduce a new series of lectures next year. Mr. Crescenzi discussed how the Jr.-Sr. High School staff is assisting students as they transition

through the high school and helping them to prepare for post-secondary work and school experiences. Mrs. Gross reported that the new junior high program has been very successful and that she is investigating a new program at the elementary school to service students with therapeutic needs. She has also begun the 2017-2018 budget process and will be looking for ways to reduce expenditures and increase available funding. A review of special education services will be conducted to ensure the most efficient use of resources. The extended year program will also be reviewed and potentially restructured to improve services. Mrs. Gross thanked the Committee for supporting the funding of the new out-of-district coordinator position and reported that it has been a significant benefit to the special education department.

- **Possible Collaborative Opportunity with BICO** – The Superintendent reported that she is investigating membership in the local special education collaborative, Bi-County Collaborative in Franklin, Massachusetts. Superintendents of the member districts serve on the board of directors and districts benefit from professional development opportunities, sharing of services, and reduced tuition rates. After discussion and upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Pool, the Committee unanimously voted to support the district's membership application to BICO.
- **PACE Update, Kristi Brytowski, President** – Mrs. Brytowski reviewed recent fundraising and social activities sponsored by PACE, including the kindergarten ice cream social, bingo, the holiday shopping and vendor fair, the Halloween dance, enrichment activities, and the book fair. She reported that PACE's primary mission is to provide enrichment activities for students, including field trips, and to support teachers. As a result of a fundraiser last year which raised eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000), PACE is using some of their additional funds to help maintain the community garden and support local families in need.
- **Mission Statement Review** – The Superintendent reported that the administrative team has reviewed and affirmed the district's current mission statement and is working on the vision statement as they begin to frame the three to five year strategic plan. Input from parents, students, and staff will be sought throughout the process. It is anticipated that the vision statement will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

9. **Correspondence** – The Committee reviewed the Town of Hopedale's Remote Participation Policy and Public Body Checklists for: Creating and Approving Meeting Minutes, Posting a Meeting Notice, and Entering into Executive Session. The Committee briefly discussed whether they should adopt a remote participation policy and determined by consensus that such a policy is not needed at this time. They also reviewed Memorial School's December Calendar of Events.

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 January 3, 2017.

Adjournment – The Chair announced the need to enter executive session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for collective bargaining with the HEA- Unit A since an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Committee's position, 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: January 3, 2017