

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

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

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Lauren Kelly, JSHS Student Council Representative
Catherine Clement, Superintendent's Scholar
Lucas Machado, Emily Waldman, and Missy Davis, Central District Music Students
Alyssa Pool, Central District Music Student and Power of One Award Recipient
Ann LaBrode, Science Teacher
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Talitha Oliveri and Cameron Smith, FinFit Presentation
Bill Gaine, Athletic Director
Tom Hammann, Facilities Manager
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Anthony Beaudry, Music Teacher

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 January 3 and 24, 2017 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mr. Adams, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 3, 2017 and January 24, 2017.

2. Student Representatives' Report –Ms. Kelly reported on recent and upcoming events at the Jr.-Sr. High School including: preparations for the production of *Shrek*, the DECA district competition, midterms, the Central District Concert, Mock Trial, the Dessert Extravaganza, All School Music Night, the Clark Tournament, Penny Wars to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the STUCO Hyannis Leadership Conference.

3. Recognition –

- Superintendent Crebase recognized Catherine Clement from the Class of 2017 for being selected as the Superintendent's Scholar. Ms. Clement was honored at a luncheon hosted by the Worcester County Superintendent's Association on January 10, 2017.
- Several students were recognized for being selected to represent Hopedale at the recent Central District Concert. They include Alyssa Pool, Jacob Martin, Juliet Maglitta, Lucas Machado, Emily Waldman, and Missy Davis.
- Alyssa Pool was also recognized as the recipient of the first Power of One Award granted to a member of the student body.
- Jr.-Sr. High School teacher Ann LaBrode was recognized for introducing her students to STEM experiences. Mrs. LaBrode reported on the many field trips and visits she has arranged.

4. Superintendent's Comments –

- **Update on PPS Director Position**- An interview team comprised of a parent representative, School Committee member, speech and language pathologist, representative from the Pupil Personnel Services Office, the team chairs, teachers, and building administrators, interviewed five

candidates on January 31, 2017. The team selected two candidates who have been moved forward for second round interviews with the administrative team.

- **Overview of Strategic Planning for BBC-** To increase enrollment and build additional revenue, Bright Beginnings Center is working to expand its programs based upon a needs assessment survey which indicated that families are interested in full day, before school, and after school programs. These results were confirmed at a recent Open House at the preschool. Mrs. Mulready and Mrs. Daige are working to develop new before school and after school offerings. They will present their proposal with revenue projections, expenses, and enrollment projections at the March meeting.
- **Elementary Musical-** Congratulations were extended to the staff, students and crew of the *The Lion King* elementary production under the direction of Chelsea Cook.
- **DECA-** Congratulations were extended to Talitha Oliveri and her team of fifty-three students who participated in this year's DECA district competition. Fifteen students were chosen to participate in next month's state competition.
- **Martin Luther King and the Power of One Celebration-** The legacy of Martin Luther King was celebrated at the high school on January 12th with a presentation by Guy Peartree performing as Frederic Douglass and an evening program at the Union Church. Alyssa Pool from the class of 2017 and community member Ernie Chaplin were honored with Power of One Awards. Congratulations were extended to high school teacher Kate Connors for organizing the events.
- **Cross Country Team Visit to the State House -** the Boys Cross Country Team was recently invited to the State House to be recognized by Representative Brian Murray and Senator Ryan Fattman for their successful season.
- **Update on Winter Sports-** Athletic Director Bill Gaine was present to provide the sports update and noted that the tournament season will begin on February 24th. He reported on the successes of the winter teams, extended his thanks to the Boosters Club for their support, recognized Brian Espanet for scoring his 1,000th point in basketball and signing with UNH, and acknowledged the student athletes who have participated in leadership opportunities.

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.
- **Review/Approval of Warrant Signing Schedule:** Mrs. Davis presented a schedule for members to sign weekly warrants in the accounting office. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to approve the schedule as presented for the months of January through June 2017.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly report for January 2017.
- **Monthly Report of Warrants and Payroll:** The Committee reviewed the monthly warrant and payroll reports as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Pool, the members unanimously voted to approve the payment of warrants dated January 6, 12, 20 and 27, 2017 and the January payrolls dated January 14 and 28, 2017, as presented.
- **FY 2018 Budget Discussion:** Ms. Crebase reported that the Finance Committee has recommended that salary increases be limited to 2% and that budget increases be limited to 5%. Mrs. Hampsch recommended that new expenditures included in the current FY 2018 preliminary budget be prioritized.
- **Special Education Proposal:** The Superintendent presented a proposal by Dorsey Yearley, a special education consultant, to review district programs for students from preschool through high school at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. The Committee discussed their support for going forward with a review of the district's special education programs. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to approve the proposal and to employ Ms. Yearley for the services presented.

7. Committee on Policy –Members reviewed the following proposed policies for a final reading: IHAM-Health Education and IHAMA-Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education. After review, the Committee unanimously approved both policies for adoption upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Pool. The Committee also reviewed the following recommended policies for a first reading: ECAF-Security Camera System, IHBA-Observations of Special Education Programs, IHBEA-English Language Learners, and IHBF-Homebound Instruction. By consensus, the policies were moved forward for a final reading at the next meeting.

8. Agenda Items:

- **FinFit Presentation** – Jr.-Sr. High School business teacher Mrs. Oliveri and Mr. Smith, member of the class of 2017, presented an overview of the recent Financial Fitness Fair which introduced members of the junior and senior classes to issues of financial literacy. Referring to the new FinFit4life website, Mrs. Oliveri and Mr. Smith reviewed the program's goals, implementation plans, and the results of student surveys. Next steps include developing a program for elementary students.
- **Friends of Music, Grace Pool and Lynne Davis** – Mrs. Pool and Mrs. Davis, Friends of Music officers, presented the annual update of the organization's activities. They reported on recent and upcoming activities including the Great East Festival, the Central District and All State Concerts, fundraisers, and the granting of scholarships to members of the graduating class. Mr. Beaudry and Mr. Chatham of the high school music program were acknowledged for their support of the organization. It was noted that 30% of the Jr.-Sr. High School students participate in the music program.
- **Facilities Update, Tom Hammann** – Mr. Hammann reported that he has begun Phase I of the LED installation project on the Prospect Street side of Memorial School. Phase II will include the Adin Street side of Memorial School and Phase III will involve the Jr.-Sr. High School. Mr. Hammann also reported on the positive results of the recent water testing at all three schools and the planned installation of new locks in various locations. Finally, he noted that a consultant will be reviewing the district's heating systems.
- **Lead and Copper Water Testing Report** – Ms. Crebase reported that lead and copper levels in the water at the district schools was recently tested under a state funded grant. Some copper levels required minimal corrective action and all lead results were below mandated levels. Letters are being sent home to all households to report the results.
- **Enrollment Projections** – The Superintendent presented enrollment projections for the 2017-2018 school year by grade level. Ms. Crebase noted that the district has received eleven school choice applications for kindergarten and recommends maintaining four sections at that grade level.
- **School Choice Report** – The Superintendent presented a chart from the DESE showing Hopedale's school choice enrollment trends from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2017, graphs by grade and by town indicating current incoming and outgoing school choice enrollments, and a chart from the Office of School Finance showing Hopedale's school choice tuition receipts and expenditures for incoming and outgoing school choice students from 1996 through 2016.
- **JSHS Program of Studies** – Mr. Atherton presented proposed changes to the 2017-2018 Program of Studies. New full year courses include Advanced Placement Art, Environmental Science Lab, and a learning center similar to those at the college level. New semester based courses include Oceanography, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), Music Theater, and Theater Production. Mr. Atherton noted that current staff is available to teach all courses. Courses that will continue to be offered with some modification include Standardized Test Prep and Music Technology which will become junior explore classes, Communication Methods in the 21st Century which will blend this year's College Writing and Blogging offerings, and Literature in Film which was not run this year. The Program of Studies Night is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm. By consensus, the members approved all the proposed revisions.
- **Superintendent's Entry Plan Report of Findings** - The Superintendent presented an in-depth report of her entry plan findings which are based on DESE standards and indicators regarding

leadership, governance, and communication; curriculum and instruction; assessment; student support; human resource management and staff development; and fiscal and asset management. The findings will be used to develop the district's strategic plan which will ensure a positive focus on growth, instructional excellence and student achievement.

- **Core Values for the Strategic Plan** – Ms. Crebase presented the core values which will guide the development of the district's strategic plan. The values, which were developed by the administrative team, will apply at all grade levels from preschool through grade 12 and include active citizenship, responsibility, and respect.
- **2017-2018 Calendar Update** – The Superintendent noted the addition of November 10th as a holiday to observe Veterans Day which falls on a Saturday next year, and November 30th and December 1st as elementary early release days for parent conferences. The calendar will be brought forward for final approval at the April meeting.
- **Out-of-State Field Trips** – The Superintendent presented two requests for out-of-state field trips. The music department requested approval for fifth and sixth grade music students to visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH in conjunction with the Great East Music Festival on June 2, 2017. Mr. Beaudry offered additional details regarding transportation, costs, fundraising and student interest. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to approve the trip. The second application for approval was from the Class of 2019 and their advisor Jennifer Santosuosso for travel to Newport, Rhode Island on May 30, 2017 in conjunction with their study of *The Great Gatsby*. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously approved the trip.

9. **Correspondence** – The Committee reviewed the MASC *Legislative Bulletin* dated January 27, 2016 and the elementary calendar for February 2017.

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 March 7, 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 Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Pool, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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: March 7, 2017