

**Hopedale School Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

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  
Lauren Kelly and Bryan Goldstein, JSBS Student Council Representatives  
Ben Tahmoush and Jenny Holland, JSBS Student Council Representatives (2017-2018)  
Talitha Oliveri, DECA Advisor  
Lynne Davis, School Accountant  
Megan Ashton, Pupil Personnel Service Director (2017-2018)  
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal  
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal

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 March 7 and 21, 2017** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of March 7 and 21, 2017.

**2. Student Representatives' Report** –Ms. Kelly and Mr. Goldstein reported on recent and upcoming events at the Jr.-Sr. High School including: the DECA state competition, Penny Wars, STUCO Hyannis Leadership Conference, NHS blood drive, Diversity Week, Mr. Hopedale, Shrek the Musical, the start of Quarter 4, Stuff-A-Bus, Career Fair for sophomores, AP tests, Walk for Hunger, the junior high semi-formal, the new freshman/sophomore spring dance, and prom.

Representatives of the Class of 2017 presented a formal request to the School Committee to approve May 19, 2017 as their last day of formal classes. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously approved the request.

**3. Recognition** – The Superintendent recognized students Mitchell Siefring, Gerry Crepeau, Cam Smith and Kendall Zonghi for advancing to the DECA International Competition in Anaheim, California. Ms. Crebase summarized the students' projects and invited them to discuss their experiences at the state competition. Mrs. Oliveri and the students thanked the community for their generous financial support for the upcoming trip and specifically recognized platinum donor Consigli Construction and silver donor Milford National Bank.

**4. Superintendent's Comments** –

- **Early Release Professional Development**- On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. David Pook, one of the original writers of the ELA standards, presented to all district staff.
- **Shrek the Musical**- Congratulations were extended to the staff, crew, actors and directors for the exceptional production.
- **Destination Imagination**- Approximately 70 students in grades 3 through 9 participated in the recent Destination Imagination competition. The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade team and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team advanced to the state tournament to compete at WPI. Ms. Crebase congratulated all teams and the 25 teachers, coaches, and volunteers who made this program such a success.
- **Empty Bowls**- Art teacher, Laura Welch, hosted an ice cream fundraiser which raised \$1600 for charity. Each donor received a handmade ceramic bowl.

- **MIAA Opioid Crisis Conference-** Athletic Director Bill Gaine, teacher Brian Kiesman and four 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in workshops dealing with the nature of addiction, teen brain development, signs and symptoms of use, the prevalence of drugs in communities, and personal recovery stories.
- **Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference-** 16 student leaders participated in activities, workshops, seminars, state elections, and the annual Polar Plunge which raised \$1500.
- **All-State Band-** Congratulations were extended to band students Alyssa Pool and Jacob Martin who were selected to perform at the All-State Concert in Boston.
- **Community Education Forum-** Ms. Crebase reported on the forum hosted at Nipmuc Regional High School. DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester reported on recent educational improvements in Massachusetts which have made it the highest achieving state in the country.

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

**6. Financial Items**

- **Monthly Report of Warrants and Payroll:** The Committee reviewed the monthly reports presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of six warrants dated March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2017 in the amount of \$233,969.65. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two payroll warrants dated March 11 and 25, 2017 in the amount of \$884,322.78.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly report for March 2017 and noted a deficit in the transportation account.
- **Budget Transfer Request:** Mrs. Davis presented a request to transfer \$25,000 from the tuition account (9400) to the transportation account (3300) due to changes in out-of-district transportation and placements. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the request.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
- **Preliminary FY 18 Budget Update:** The Superintendent reported that there have been no changes in the preliminary budget since the last meeting and that it is under review by the Finance Committee.
- **Town Meeting Warrant:** Mrs. Davis shared a draft warrant article for Town Meeting seeking to establish a revolving account for Jr.-Sr. High School summer school tuition. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the proposed article.
- **Extended Day Pay Scale:** The Superintendent presented a three-year pay scale for extended care program employees to begin during the 2017-2018 school year. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously adopted the recommended pay scale.

**7. Committee on Policy** –Members reviewed the following proposed policies for a first reading: ADDA - Background Checks; ADDA-R-DCJIS – CORI Policy; IHGB and IHGB-R – Home Schooling, along with a revised home schooling application; and IJ – Instructional Materials. The Committee agreed by consensus to consider them for approval at the next meeting with no changes.

**8. Agenda Items:**

- **Introduction of Megan Ashton** – The Superintendent introduced Ms. Ashton who will serve as the district's Director of Pupil Personnel Services beginning on July 1, 2017. Ms. Crebase summarized the interview process and reported on this afternoon's meet and greet sessions. Ms. Ashton shared her past work experiences and noted she is looking forward to beginning her new position.
- **Calendar Review** – Ms. Crebase presented the final 2017-2018 district calendar for the Committee's approval. She noted that it reflects the traditional start of school before Labor Day and three week-long vacations. Suggestions from the HEA and the administrative team were incorporated into the final draft. Recommendations from some HEA members to begin the school year after Labor Day and not schedule early release days alongside holidays and vacations were considered but not included. A brief discussion followed regarding a survey to determine support for shortening or combining

vacations in the future. Upon a motion by Mrs. Pool which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the 2017-2018 district calendar as presented.

- **Strategic Plan** – The Superintendent presented an updated District Plan Overview for 2017-2020 which includes four strategic objectives. The initiatives to support objective #2, i.e. to ensure that staff development and professional learning is on-going, relevant, accessible and inclusive, were listed. They include maintaining focus on established professional development, initiating a yearlong plan to increase student performance, and ensuring that activities focus on strategies that meet the needs of all learners. Ms. Crebase noted that each school level action plan will mirror the district's to ensure a common direction throughout the school system.
- **Confirmation of Public Hearing** – The Superintendent recommended that the Committee schedule their public budget hearing for Tuesday, May 2, 2017 prior to the Committee's regular business meeting. The members agreed by consensus.
- **Superintendent Self-Evaluation** – Ms. Crebase noted that she has completed her self-evaluation and invited members of the Committee to view the supporting evidence in her office.
- **Distribution of Superintendent End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation** – The Chair asked all members to review the Superintendent's self-evaluation and to return their individual summative evaluation documents to the Chair by April 22, 2017.
- **School Choice Seats for 2017-2018 Kindergarten Class** – The Superintendent provided a chart showing historical data for kindergarten school choice applications since the 2013-2014 school year. For the upcoming year, there are 65 Hopedale residents registered and 14 school choice applicants with two having priority under the current policy. A discussion followed regarding the benefit of leaving four seats open for potential new residents. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Pool, the Committee unanimously voted to accept the two applications with priority and 9 additional applications by random lottery.
- **ClearGov Discussion** – The Superintendent recommended subscribing to the ClearGov service in collaboration with the Town which has not yet made their decision. The members discussed benefits of the system, including ease of navigation and accessibility to a wide range of data, as well as potential other uses of funds. No action was taken.

9. **Correspondence** – The Committee reviewed a letter dated March 17, 2017 from the Bi-County Collaborative and the March 2017 issue of the MASC Bulletin. The Superintendent reported on a recent meeting with representatives from BICO and noted that Hopedale's application to join the collaborative is being considered.

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

11. **School Committee Calendar** – The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is a budget workshop scheduled for April 25, 2017, if needed. The next regular business meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2017. In addition, the Chair noted that School Committee Evaluation rubrics will be distributed at the May meeting and that she will present the final consolidated report at the June meeting.

**Adjournment** – Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary  
APPROVED: May 2, 2017