

**Hopedale School Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

Members Present: Lori Hampsch, Chair  
Alysia Butler, Vice Chair  
Lisa Alberto  
Craig Adams  
Jennifer McKeon

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent  
Francis Hodgens, Student Representative to the School Committee  
David Alberto, Jr., Jr.-Sr. High School Student Council Representative  
Lynne Davis, School Accountant  
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal  
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director  
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal  
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Director

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 February 4, 2020** - Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the meeting minutes for February 4, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**2. Student Representative Report – Jr.-Sr. High School:** DJ Alberto reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: DECA competitions, the exchange program trips to Italy and Spain, the STUCO Hyannis Leadership Conference, Mr. Hopedale, Stuff-a-Bus, MCAS testing, Scholastic Book Fair, fundraising to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the start of the spring sports season, the spring musical *Annie*, Central Districts, the music trip to New York City, and the March 5<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Night.

**3. Superintendent's Comments** –The Superintendent congratulated DECA students who will be participating in the International Career Development Conference in Nashville. She also reported that three candidates for the position of Hopedale Town Administrator have been selected by the Board of Selectmen for final interviews which will take place on March 13, 2020. There are 111 students registered to attend Bright Beginnings Center next year, the majority of whom are Hopedale residents. Memorial School recently completed successful after-school enrichment programs, including yoga, robotics, math and a book club, and celebrated a week of random acts of kindness. High school students have returned from their recent exchange program experiences in Spain and Italy. The administration is closely following all developments concerning the potential spread of the coronavirus. Highlights of the winter sports season were shared and the addition of a Town Meeting warrant article to cover the capital costs of the Town's tennis courts was discussed. Finally, the Superintendent reminded residents about the upcoming Curriculum Fair.

**4. Committee Response to Comments** – There were no questions or comments from the members.

**5. Financial Items**

- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the accounts payable warrant report as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of six warrants dated January 29, 30, February 6, 13, and 20 (two), 2020 in the amount of \$298,427.38.

- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the payroll warrant report as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two payroll warrants dated February 13 and 27, 2020 in the amount of \$936,457.80.

- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for February 2020. She highlighted deficits in the long-term substitute and course reimbursement accounts which will be resolved by year-end. She also reported that the new electronic signature protocol will be implemented in the near future.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

#### 6. **Committee Reports**

- **Committee on Policy:** Mrs. Alberto reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020.
- **Committee on Budget:** The Chair and Vice Chair attended a recent Finance Committee meeting where a projected \$1.2 million dollar shortfall in the Town's FY2021 budget was discussed. The deficit is due in part to trash fees, health insurance premiums and regional school assessments. The Superintendent reported that she will be discussing the school's budget at an upcoming Selectmen's Meeting at the end of the month.
- **Committee on Fields:** Mrs. McKeon reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2020.
- **Committee on Public Relations:** There was no report.

#### 7. **Agenda Items**

- **Spring Coaching Assignments:** The Superintendent presented the following spring coaching assignments: Josh Crescenzi, Varsity Baseball; Shanna Lathrop, Varsity Softball; Jane LeClaire, Junior Varsity Softball; Alex Laumeister, Boys Tennis; Arthur Rizzo, Girls Tennis; Eric Moxim, Varsity Boys Lacrosse; Eric Overdahl, Junior Varsity Boys Lacrosse; Kayla Merrigan, Varsity Girls Lacrosse; and Joe Drugan, Tim Maguire, and Sarah Rafferty, Track and Field. The positions for Junior Varsity Baseball and Junior Varsity Girls Lacrosse coaches are open at this time.
- **Student Opportunity Act:** The Superintendent presented the Hopedale Public Schools 2021-2023 Student Opportunity Plan for approval. The Plan is required by the new Student Opportunity Act which provides increased funding for public schools. Hopedale's Plan confirms that new funding from the state will be used to provide additional support for English Language Learners, special education students with significant disabilities, general special education students, and high risk social/emotional students. The administration sought input from stakeholders in the district, including school councils and SEPAC, to formulate the Plan. Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously approved the Plan.
- **Review of Routine Matters Schedule:** The Chair presented the current Schedule of Routine Matters for discussion. The Committee, by consensus, determined that it should formally review the Schedule annually. A discussion followed regarding the appropriate times to review the school year calendar [December], to vote on the final school year calendar [February], to schedule the Superintendent's Self-Evaluation [April] and to distribute the Superintendent Evaluation rubric to members [April]. The Committee added an annual report on applications and acceptances to BVT in May. Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the revised Schedule of Routine Matters.

8. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence to review.

9. **Audience to Citizens** – There were no members of the audience who asked to address the members.

**Next Meeting** – The next general business meeting of the Committee is scheduled for April 7, 2020. The Budget Workshop scheduled for March 17, 2020 has been postponed until there is more financial information from the Town.

**Adjournment** – Upon a motion by Mr. Adams which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary  
APPROVED: April 21, 2020