

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, July 7, 2020**

Members Present: Lori Hampsch, Chair
Alysia Butler, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Kristi Brytowski

Members Absent: Jennifer McKeon

Also Present: Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Adam Banayan, Student Representative to the School Committee
Katelynn Brunt and Madison Sullivan, Student Council Representatives
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Director

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law, GL chapter 30A, section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hopedale School Committee was conducted via remote participation. The Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 pm under these provisions with a quorum present. She invited members of the public to monitor the meeting by using the information provided on the Town's website and announced that the meeting was being recorded and streaming live. A video of the meeting will be available on the Town website. Members of the public were encouraged to email comments or questions to schoolcommittee@hopedaleschools.org.

1. **Minutes of June 9, 22 and 25, 2020** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of June 9, June 22, and June 25, 2020.
2. **Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School:** Katelynn Brunt and Madison Sullivan reported that the Student Council Executive Board has been meeting virtually to set their 2020-2021 calendar and events, but hope to begin meeting in person soon.
3. **Introduction of School Committee Representative** - The Chair and Superintendent welcomed Adam Banayan as the Committee's student representative for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. **Superintendent's Comments** – The Superintendent reviewed year-end activities, including virtual award ceremonies, the Grade 6 celebration, and the parade for the Class of 2020. Ms. Crebase also noted that DESE has released their guidelines for the safe opening of school in the fall and the district's Reopening Advisory Committee has begun its work following those guidelines.
5. **Response to Superintendent's Comments** – There were no questions or comments from the members.
6. **Financial Items/Budget** -
 - **Acceptance of \$3,345 Grant from Project Lead The Way, Inc.:** The School Committee unanimously accepted this grant, which funds professional development and curriculum costs for the computer science program, upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Butler.

- **Acceptance of \$1,095 Grant from the Benevity Community Impact Fund:** The School Committee unanimously accepted this unrestricted grant upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Butler.

7. Committee Reports -

- **Committee on Budget:** The Chair reviewed recent meetings of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen and reported that the Town has voted to recommend a school budget in the amount of \$12,728,000 for FY 2021. The School Committee certified this amount at their Public Hearing on June 25, 2020. Mrs. Hampsch encouraged residents to review the Finance Committee information posted on the Town website in preparation for the Town Meeting scheduled for July 21, 2020.
- **Committee on Policy:** The Committee reviewed the following policies for a final reading and unanimously approved both upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Butler:

JICC Student Conduct on School Buses

JICFA Prohibition of Hazing

- **Committee on Fields:** The Chair reported that improvements have been made to Phillips and Draper Fields with the use of grant funds.

8. Agenda Items:

- **Advisory Committee for School Reopening:** The Superintendent reported that 70 parents, staff members and administrators are participating in the district's Reopening Advisory Committee and its sub-groups. At the group's initial meeting, its purpose, goals, structure, ground rules, and the roles of the chairs and secretaries were reviewed. It is anticipated that the final reopening plan will be completed by August 7, 2020.
- **Discussion of July 1/12 Budget:** Mrs. Davis reported that the Town has adopted a one-twelfth budget until a final FY 2021 budget is approved at Town Meeting.
- **Preschool Director Position Reclassification Discussion:** The Superintendent proposed to reclassify the current position of Preschool Director to Preschool Principal. She noted that the current duties mirror those of the district's principals including the observation and evaluation of staff, program and curriculum development, hiring, facility management, and budgeting. A discussion followed regarding the need for the reclassification, the impact on the current salary and FTE of the position, the uniqueness of the position in the local area and the needs of the district. Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee voted in favor of reclassifying the position with Mrs. Alberto abstaining.
- **Town Of Hopedale Master Plan Committee Discussion:** The Chair invited any interested Committee, staff or community members to join the Hopedale Master Plan Committee.
- **Confirmation of Routine Matters:** The members reviewed the schedule of routine matters for 2020-2021. Mrs. Butler suggested adding annual meetings with a local representative to discuss state budget matters and with our local member of the Blackstone Valley Technical Regional High School to discuss BVT's budget. No action was taken at this time.
- **Review of School Committee Goals:** The Chair presented the Committee's current goals and noted that they could be used as a foundation, along with the recent Committee self-evaluation, to prepare the 2020-2021 goals at the next meeting.
- **School Committee Reorganization-**
 - a. **Election of Chair-** Upon a motion by Mrs. Brytowski which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to elect Mrs. Butler as Chair.
 - b. **Election of Vice Chair-** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously voted to elect Mrs. Hampsch as Vice Chair.

Mrs. Butler assumed the role of Chair.

- c. **Election of Secretary-** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously voted to elect Ms. Crebase as Secretary.
- d. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously authorized the Chair and Vice Chair to sign bills, dated materials, grant applications, receipts, and other documents on behalf of the whole Committee pending ratification at the next regular meeting.
- e. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously designated the Superintendent of Schools as the Committee's agent for the application, receipt, and expenditure of monies under all state and federal grants as may be appropriate, subject to the ratification and approval of the whole Committee.
- f. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously authorized the Committee Chair and the Superintendent of Schools to act jointly on personnel matters and other emergency business matters occurring during vacation periods or between School Committee meetings when such action would be required before the next regular meeting of the whole Committee, such action to be subject to ratification at said next meeting.
- g. **Chairman Vote** – Mrs. Butler stated as Chair she would vote on all matters.
- h. **Sub-Committees** – By consensus, the members agreed to the following committee assignments:
 - Athletic Fields:** Lori Hampsch and Jennifer McKeon (voting member)
 - Budget and Capital Planning:** Kristi Brytowski and Lori Hampsch
 - Facilities and Operation:** not needed at this time
 - Health and Safety:** Kristi Brytowski and Alysia Butler
 - Negotiations:** Lisa Alberto and Lori Hampsch
 - Policy:** Lisa Alberto and Jennifer McKeon
 - Public Relations:** Lisa Alberto and Alysia Butler
 - Sick Leave Bank:** Kristi Brytowski, Alysia Butler and Jennifer McKeon

9. **Correspondence** –The Committee reviewed an email from a candidate for election to represent District 4 and a memo from Technology Director Nicholas Toupin regarding surplus technology hardware. Mrs. Hampsch shared an email from Nerissa Wallen, Chair of the Triton Regional School Committee, seeking support from the Committee for a funding resolution. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, if schools are to re-open this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of each school district to do so safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each school district is able to pay for the enormous additional staffing, transportation and material expenses required to do this; and

WHEREAS, the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines; therefore, let it be RESOLVED: that the state must guarantee every school district full reimbursement for whatever COVID-19 expenses are required to follow state mandates.

We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable.

THERE CAN BE NO UNFUNDED MANDATES FOR COVID-19.

Mrs. Hampsch will follow up with all appropriate parties.

10. School Committee Calendar – The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2020. The Chair noted the potential for an additional meeting to be scheduled prior to that date.

Adjournment – Prior to adjournment, Mrs. Alberto requested that scheduling in-person meetings be explored. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: AUGUST 5, 2020