

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Wednesday, August 5, 2020**

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

Also Present: Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent
 Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
 Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
 Donna Hennessy, Memorial School Assistant Principal
 Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Director
 Bill Fisher, Board of Health Agent

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 6:01 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 School Committee website and announced that the meeting was being recorded. 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 July 7, 2020** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Hampsch, the meeting minutes for July 7, 2020 were unanimously approved.

2. **Agenda Items:**

- **Hopedale Schools Reopening Plan:** The Chair welcomed the audience and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves. She offered an opening statement and turned the presentation of the Reopening Plan over to the Superintendent. Ms. Crebase reported that 75 parents, staff members and administrators participated in the district's Reopening Advisory Committee. In addition to the executive board, five subcommittees studied and put forward plans on Academic Programming, Logistics, Student Life and Extracurricular Activities, Physical Safety and Mental Health, and Equity and Access. The members reviewed information gathered from surveys to staff members and families; plans from other school districts; and guidance from the state, the CDC (Center for Disease Control), and the local Board of Health. The Plan focuses on bringing the district's staff and students back to school in a phased, hybrid model with safety procedures and protocols in place.

Phase I consists of a two-week period, from August 31 through September 15, for staff to return to the school buildings and prepare for the start of the school year. In Phase II, from September 16 through October 15, students will participate in either a hybrid model through which they will receive in-person instruction for two days and remote instruction for three days each week, or a Remote Learning Academy. An analysis of the data collected during Phase II will determine the model for Phase III which may be a continuation of the hybrid model, in-person learning, or remote learning.

The Superintendent provided an in-depth review of each model of instruction, technology purchases and enhancements, safety protocols, and building improvements to be implemented. The meeting was then turned over to the Recording Secretary to present written statements and questions which had been submitted from the community. The Superintendent, Principal Atherton, Assistant Principal Hennessy, and Health Agent Fisher addressed approximately one hundred submitted questions. The questions concerned issues of safety, training, models of instruction, technology, staffing, available resources, student supports, finances, daily routines and schedules, and Board of Health protocols, among others. A list of the residents and parents who submitted questions and statements is attached. Copies of all emails have been retained.

At the conclusion of the presentation and questions, the Chair asked for a motion to move forward the Reopening Plan as recommended by the Superintendent. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee began discussion of the Plan. Mrs. Hampsch, Mrs. McKeon and Mrs. Brytowski acknowledged their support of the Plan based on corroborating data, the work of the Advisory Committee, public surveys reflecting support for in-person learning, and the Plan's emphasis on safety. Mrs. Alberto and Mrs. Butler, though noting support for the Plan in general, raised concerns especially with regard to transmission and testing. At the end of discussion, the Chair called for a roll call vote to move forward with the Plan and all members voted in the affirmative.

- **School Calendar 2020-2021:** The Superintendent recommended a periodic review of the calendar as the Phases proceed. At this time, the calendar needed to be revised to reflect a new start date for students. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously revised the start of school for students to September 16, 2020. The Superintendent noted that the school administration will continue to monitor students' schedules to ensure an equitable distribution of in-person and remote learning days for those who elect the hybrid model.

Adjourn to Executive Session- The Chair announced the need to enter executive session i) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation since an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and ii) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto and seconded by Mrs. Hampsch, the members voted by roll call vote to enter executive session for the stated purposes as follows: Mrs. Alberto-yes; Mrs. Brytowski- yes; Mrs. McKeon-yes; Mrs. Hampsch-yes and Mrs. Butler-yes.. The Chair stated that the Committee would not be reconvening in public session and declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: August 25, 2020