

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, August 25, 2020**

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

Also Present: Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Katelynn Brunt and Madison Sullivan, Student Council Representatives
Stephanie Ridolfi, Athletic Director
Derek Atherton, Jr-Sr High School Principal
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Principal

The School Committee members met in-person with Ms. Crebase and Facilities Manager Tom Hammann for a tour of the facilities at 4:30 pm.

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 and August 7, 2020 Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, the regular business meeting of the Hopedale School Committee was conducted via remote participation. Members of the Committee and the Superintendent participated in-person at the Memorial Elementary School. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 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.

1. Minutes of August 5, 2020 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of August 5, 2020.

2. Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School: Katelynn Brunt and Madison Sullivan reported on the Student Council Executive Board's meetings, which have been held virtually. They announced that the annual "Lock-In" for incoming seventh grade students, the fall apple-picking event and the Tea for New Staff have been temporarily postponed. Meetings and events will be held in-person as soon as permissible under state guidelines.

3. Superintendent's Comments – The Superintendent provided an update on the Safer Schools and Community Initiative Grant and reviewed the Graduation Ceremony held on July 25, 2020 for the Class of 2020.

4. Response to Superintendent's Comments – Mrs. Hampsch expressed appreciation on behalf of the Committee for the work of the administration to support and celebrate the Class of 2020.

5. Financial Items/Budget -

- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature. Mrs. Davis will prepare a rotating schedule for members to approve warrants on a bi-weekly basis in the office.
- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the recent warrant report for FY20 and FY21 as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of eight FY20 accounts payable warrants dated: June 10 (two), June 23 (two), July 9, July 16, July 22 and July 30, 2020 in the amount of \$425,452.74; and three FY21 warrants dated: July 22 and July 30 (two) in the amount of \$120,780.30.
- **Monthly Reports of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of six FY20 payroll warrants dated: June 4, 18 (two) and July 2, 16 and 30, 2020 in the amount of \$2,273,049.66; and two FY21 warrants dated: July 16 and 30, 2020 in the amount of \$134,391.06.
- **Ratification of FY20 Year-End Budget Transfers:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to ratify the FY20 year-end budget transfers previously authorized by the Chair on August 10, 2020, and reflected on the Year-End Budget Transfers FY 2019-2020 report provided by Mrs. Davis.
- **Monthly Budget Reports:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget reports for June and July 2020.
- **Approval of FY21 Beginning-of-Year Budget Transfers:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY21 beginning-of-year budget transfers as reflected in the Beginning of School Budget Transfers Fiscal Year 2020-2021 report provided by Mrs. Davis.
- **Authorization of Principals to Receive/Disburse Funds:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to authorize the principals of Memorial Elementary School and the Jr.-Sr. High School, and their designees, to receive and disburse student activity funds in accordance with Committee policies.
- **Approval of Student Activity Sub-Accounts:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Hampsch, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the student-activity sub-accounts as represented on the ledger balance summary for each school, including the stated sources and uses of funds.
- **Vote for Maximum Student Activity Balances:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Hampsch, the Committee unanimously voted to establish a maximum balance of \$15,000 for each school's student activity checking account.
- **Acceptance of Summer and Vacation Learning Program Grant:** Upon a motion by Mr. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the Committee unanimously voted to accept funds from DESE's FY21 Summer and Vacation Learning Program Grant in the amount of \$11,850 to support district and school efforts to develop, expand, or enhance high quality in-person, virtual, or hybrid summer and/or school vacation learning programs during the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Acceptance of Remote Learning Technology Grant:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the Committee unanimously voted to accept funds from DESE's Remote Learning and Technology Grant in the amount of \$64,885 to support access to technology for students during the 2020-2021 school year. The funds will be used to acquire Chromebooks and iPads for students.

6. Committee Reports -

- **Committee on Policy:** Mrs. McKeon provided an update from the Policy Subcommittee's meeting on August 24, 2020. New and recommended policies from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will be introduced at upcoming meetings, including a policy regarding face coverings.

- **Committee on Budget:** The Superintendent provided an update from the Town Meeting held on July 21, 2020 and reminded residents of the override ballot vote being held on September 15, 2020.

7. Agenda Items:

- **MIAA Update and Athletics Overview:** Athletic Director Stephanie Ridolfi reported that there will be a fall sports season for the Jr-Sr High School, which will include a schedule of competition in limited sports with no championship or tournament games, from September 18 through November 20, 2020. She has received a positive response from students who would like to participate as athletes in the fall season and is awaiting further guidelines from the state. A virtual “Meet the Coach” event is being planned.
- **School Reopening Update:** The Superintendent reviewed the building enhancements, PPE purchases, hallway protocols, two-week professional development schedule and class assignments which are being finalized at all schools. Additional staffing needs are being funded through grants for COVID-related expenses. A synopsis of the Hybrid Model and the Remote Learning Academy schedules was provided. Ms. Crebase also shared that a potential daycare program is being investigated by the Extended Day Director. The schools will continue to work with the Hopedale Board of Health to insure a safe opening of buildings.
- **Bus Fees Discussion:** The Superintendent reported that bus registration has begun and sought the Committee’s guidance on whether fees should be adjusted to reflect the hybrid schedule students will be following for the first month of the school year. Due to the impending override ballot vote which may affect transportation funding, the Committee unanimously voted to table the bus fee discussion until the September 8, 2020 meeting, upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. McKeon.

8. Correspondence –The Committee reviewed the Quarterly Report from the Bi-County Collaborative for June, 2020. The members also accepted an invitation from the Hopedale Board of Health to conduct a joint public forum on the reopening of school to be held virtually on September 2, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020.

Adjourn to Executive Session- The Chair announced the need to enter executive session 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. 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 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: September 8, 2020