

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

Members Present: Kristi Brytowski, Vice Chair
Jennifer McKeon
Alysia Butler
Kaitlin Federico

Members Absent: Lisa Alberto

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Stephanie Ridolfi, Athletic Director
Nora Hodgens, School Committee Representative/Student Council Co-Representative
Ashleigh Bourgeois, Student Council Co-Representative

Chairing the meeting, Mrs. Brytowski called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Media Center at the Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present.

1. **Minutes of October 5, 2021** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler and seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the minutes of October 5, 2021 were unanimously approved by the members.

The student representatives' report was temporarily passed over.

2. **Superintendent's Comments** – The Superintendent reported one positive student COVID-19 case at the Memorial School and one student case at the Jr.-Sr. High School. She noted that the district continues to follow DESE's Academic Roadmap to guide its recovery from the pandemic. Ms. Crebase also extended her appreciation to the staff and community for their support during last week's early release due to a power outage.
3. **Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments** - Mrs. Butler thanked the administration for the smooth and well-communicated dismissal process during the power outage emergency.

The Vice Chair welcomed the student representatives for their report.

4. **Student Representatives' Report** - Nora Hodgens and Ashleigh Bourgeois reported on recent and upcoming events, including STUCO meetings and conferences, Homecoming, induction ceremonies for honor societies, ring dances, clothing and toy drives, continuing preparations for the Thanksgiving turkey run, community dinner and FAST, and planning for the Winter Cotillion and secret snowflake gift swap.
5. **Financial Items**
 - **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the accounts payable report as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of five warrants dated: October 7 (two) and 21 (three), 2021 in the amount of \$278,713.71.

- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon which was seconded by Mrs. Butler, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two payroll warrants dated: October 7 and 21, 2021, in the amount of \$972,702.99.
 - **Monthly Budget Reports:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report.
 - **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
 - **Acceptance of Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Grants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler and seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the Committee unanimously voted to accept funds from the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,214 to fund the purchase of a table saw for the high school Careers in Construction Program, \$700 to fund the purchase of inversion goggles for the AP Psychology class, and \$5,000 to support the Jr.-Sr. High School's application for Innovative Pathway designation in the areas of biomedical science and business.
6. **Committee on Budget:** The Superintendent reported that the development of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget will begin over the next month with individual department meetings. The Budget Subcommittee will have its initial meeting on November 10th, and a draft budget will be presented to the full Committee in January 2022.
7. **Committee on Facilities:** The first Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 18th with Facilities Manager Paul. Flaherty.
8. **Agenda Items:**
- **Athletic Fall Program Review:** Mrs. Ridolphi reported on the successful fall sports season which is continuing through tournament games and noted the increased student participation as compared to last year during pandemic restrictions. Schools are awaiting guidance from DESE for the start of the winter season.
 - **Winter Coaching Appointments:** The following coaches were announced for the winter season: Tony Cordani-Varsity Boys Basketball, Tom D'Urso-JV Boys Basketball, Ed Healey-Middle School Boys Basketball, Jason Rojee-Varsity Girls Basketball, Shelley Hynes-JV Girls Basketball, Josh Euglow-Middle School Girls Basketball, Sarah Comeau, Tim Maguire and Joe Drugan- Indoor Track, Mike MacQuarrie-Varsity Ice Hockey and Mike Snyder-JV Ice Hockey. The following positions remain open: Varsity and JV Cheer.
 - **Test and Stay Update:** The planned November 1st start of the Test and Stay program was preceded by a limited pilot program at the Memorial School in October with eleven students (deemed close contacts) participating. All tested students were able to remain in school rather than being sent home to quarantine. Training sessions for school personnel and Hopedale EMTs is underway. Students and staff will be tested if they are determined to be close contacts within school or develop symptoms during the school day. A discussion followed regarding the potential impact of increased student vaccination rates and the successful launch of the program.
 - **MCAS Review:** The Superintendent reviewed recently released MCAS data and noted areas of accomplishment as compared with average scores for the state. Noting that the tests were administered during an unprecedented year, DESE is recommending that districts use the data for recovery planning and has not issued accountability data. Ms. Crebase reviewed areas that suggest learning gaps and which will be the focus of ongoing curriculum adjustments.
 - **JSHS Data Report:** Mr. Atherton reviewed important fall dates for high school students and the post-secondary plans of the Class of 2021, which included two- and four-year colleges, career schools, military service and the workforce. He reported comparison data for PSAT, SAT and ACT scores, noting that participation rates have decreased due to COVID restrictions and the declining number of colleges requiring standardized test scores. Mr. Atherton reported that 97 students participated in the 2021 AP exams in biology, calculus, chemistry, ELA, psychology, Spanish,

statistics, US history, world history, computer science and music theory. Scores and comparison data were provided. Most test scores compared favorably to average state scores. A discussion followed regarding lower scores in AP Chemistry, which is dependent on labs and may have been impacted by hybrid and remote learning. Also discussed was the potential for offering PSAT exams during the school day which has not been adopted to date due to scheduling challenges.

- **MASS/MASC Conference:** Although not on the original agenda and due to the time sensitive nature of the topic, the Vice Chair permitted Mrs. Butler to discuss the upcoming MASS/MASC conference, to invite members to participate virtually in the weekend sessions, and to share questions and interests with her regarding resolutions being presented at the conference.
- **BBC Memorial Garden:** Mrs. Butler reported on the ceremony dedicating the new garden at BBC in memory of Abbe Lawrence.

9. **Correspondence** – The members reviewed the BICO Quarterly Report dated October 13, 2021.

10. **Audience to Citizens** – No members of the audience requested to address the Committee.

The next meeting of the Committee will be December 7, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The Vice Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: January 4, 2022