

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

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

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
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Principal
Nora Hodgens, School Committee Representative/Student Council Co-Representative
Ashleigh Bourgeois, Student Council Co-Representative

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Media Center at 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present .

1. **Minutes of December 7, 2021, and January 4 and 21, 2022** - Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the minutes of December 7, 2021 were unanimously approved by the members who were present at that meeting. Upon a motion by Mrs. Brytowski and seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the minutes of January 4, 2022 were unanimously approved by the members who were present at that meeting. Upon a motion by Mrs. Brytowski and seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the minutes of January 21, 2022 were unanimously approved.
2. **Student Representatives' Report** - Ashleigh Bourgeois reported on recent and upcoming events, including STUCO meetings and conferences, monthly staff appreciation events, the upcoming productions of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Little Mermaid*, the career fair, fundraisers and DECA competitions.
3. **Superintendent's Comments** – The Superintendent reported on the decreasing numbers of positive COVID cases in the schools, the reduced town positivity rate (19%), the vaccination percentages of students and staff at Memorial School and the Jr.-Sr. High School, and the numbers of staff and families who have opted into the new at-home COVID testing program. At their recent meeting, the Parks Commission indicated support for next year's Forest Friends program at BBC. The DESE Tiered Focused Monitoring review, which examined the district's application of special education and civil rights standards, has been completed and will be shared with the Committee when the final report is received. Building-level assessments, counseling and curriculum support for students is continuing as the district follows the DESE Acceleration Roadmap.
4. **Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments** - There were no comments from the members.
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 and seconded by

Mrs. Brytowski, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of three warrants dated: January 13 and January 27 (two), 2022 in the amount of \$258,150.75.

- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two payroll warrants dated: January 13 and 27, 2022, in the amount of \$919,007.38.
- **Monthly Budget Reports:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report. After a brief discussion and by consensus, the Committee agreed that the deficit in the substitute line would be resolved later in the year.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.
- **MyCAP Development and Implementation Grant:** Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Committee unanimously voted to accept the \$2,500 grant from DESE. The funds will be used to support staff at the Jr.-Sr. High School as they develop and implement the MyCAP program, which ensures that students graduate college and career ready.

6. **Committee on Policy:** Mrs. McKeon reported that the following policies have been reviewed with no recommended revisions: **GCK- Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers, GCMC- Staff Meetings, GCO- Evaluation of Professional Staff, GCQD- Resignation of Professional Staff Members, GCQF- Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members and GDQC- Retirement of Support Staff Members.** The following policies were presented for a First Read and include revisions which reflect notes and language recommended by MASC:

GCJ- Professional Teacher Status

GCQE- Retirement of Professional Staff Members

GCRD- Tutoring for Pay

GDB- Support Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans

GDO- Evaluation of Support Staff

GDQD- Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members

By consensus, the members agreed to move the policies forward for a Second Read at the next meeting.

7. **Committee on Budget:** The Superintendent reported that the Town Administrator recently met with department heads to review a streamlined process for the FY 2023 budget. Also, the Finance Committee has shared its preliminary timeline and plans for the FY 2023 budget process. Ms. Crebase is working to schedule a joint meeting between the Finance Committee and School Committee.

8. **Agenda Items:**

- **Jr.-Sr. High School Program of Studies:** Mr. Atherton presented a summary of the new and revised courses to be offered for the 2022-2023 school year. The courses include a seventh grade elective in Entrepreneurship, Explore 9 STEM, American Music and Culture, Criminal Justice and Debate, high school level Entrepreneurship, Employability Skills, Holocaust and the Pursuit for Social Justice, and The World Through Data. A virtual Curriculum Night for families will be held on February 15, 2022. There were discussions regarding the content of Explore 9 STEM, the reason some courses were not offered during the current year, the ongoing applications for Innovative Pathways, a return to in-person Curriculum Nights in the future, and the introduction of The World Through Data as a semester-based elective to increase students' exposure to mathematics.
- **Health Curriculum Overview:** The Superintendent shared the district's health curriculum for Kindergarten through Grade 12. It was brought forward at this time to provide families an opportunity to review the program in light of statewide and national interest in school health curriculum.

- **School Year Calendar Review:** The Superintendent had recommended that union leadership consult with HEA members regarding their request to extend the traditional school year by two days to include Jewish holidays. The union reported back that there was no strong preference voiced by the members. With regard to the Committee's suggestion to move the early release day in May to later in the month, Mr. Atherton reviewed the plans for the seniors' last week of school and senior week. He noted that adding the day to Memorial Day weekend would not impact senior activities. Upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the members voted unanimously to move the May early release day from May 12th to May 26th. Also, upon a motion by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the members voted unanimously to approve all other 2022-2023 dates as presented in the draft.
- **Enrollment Projections:** The Superintendent presented charts reflecting the district's projected enrollment by grade for the upcoming school year, as well as historical data reflecting school choice and resident enrollments for kindergarten. She noted that registration for the 2022-2023 kindergarten class is being held this month.
- **Enrollment Data:** The Committee reviewed a chart of all enrollments by grade level for the current school year.
- **School Choice Data:** The Superintendent presented charts by grade and by town indicating current incoming and outgoing school choice enrollments, a graph from DESE showing Hopedale's school choice enrollment trends from 1996 through 2021, and data for receipts/expenditures for incoming and outgoing school choice students from 1996 through 2021. Currently, Hopedale is receiving 175 students and sending 26 students to other districts under the school choice program. Applications for next school year will be available on the district website on March 1, 2022. A brief discussion followed on the decreasing trend for Hopedale students to attend other schools through the school choice program, and the increasing trend toward higher enrollments in Hopedale from other towns.
- **Winter Coaching Appointments:** The following complete list of coaches was reviewed 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, Tim Maguire-Head Indoor Track, Sarah Comeau and Joe Drugan- Assistant Indoor Track, Mike MacQuarrie-Varsity Ice Hockey, Mike Snyder-JV Ice Hockey, and Sarah Vaillancourt- Cheer.

9. **Correspondence** - There was no correspondence to review.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will be March 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. McKeon which was seconded by Mrs. Brytowski, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: March 1, 2022