

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

Members Present: Grace Pool, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Kristen Poisson

Members Absent: Craig Adams, Chair
Lori Hampsch

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Ryan Coyle, Student Representative to the School Committee
Ben Tahmoush, JSHS Student Council Representative
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Ben Tahmoush, Andrew Doran, Josh Weaver, FinFit Fair Presentation
Susan Mulready, Bright Beginnings Center Director
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal

At 6:00 pm, the Vice Chair called the meeting to order in the Media Center at the Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present.

1. **Minutes of October 3, 2017** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Poisson which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of October 3, 2017.

2. **Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School:** Ben Tamoush reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: senior class trip to Disney World, annual coffeehouse, college fair, ring dance, fall athletic successes, annual turkey dinner and turkey run, FAST, winter cotillion, tree lighting, Toys for Tots campaign, and the start of the winter sports season.

3. **Recognition** – The Superintendent recognized three members of the school community for demonstrating leadership: student Ryan Coyle who exhibits active citizenship and is a role model for other students, student athlete Brandon Hall for his successes and inspiration as a long-time member the cross country team, and faculty member John Mancone for his dedication to the teaching profession in and out of the classroom.

4. **Superintendent's Comments** –

- **Professional Development Days: October 6th and November 3rd**- On October 6th, junior/senior high school teachers attended a presentation by Bill Daggett on preparing students for the future. The elementary faculty attended a presentation by Linda Dusenbury on social and emotional learning. On November 3rd, all staff attended an early release presentation by Attorney Alina Nir regarding special education and 504 plans.
- **Senior Trip to Disney**- The senior class recently enjoyed a successful trip to Disney World.
- **Tri M Induction Ceremony**- Twenty-seven new members were inducted on October 12th into the Tri M Music Society.
- **PACE Halloween Dance**- Memorial School students enjoyed a Halloween Dance on October 20th which was sponsored by PACE.
- **Ring Dance**- Sophomores received their class rings in an annual celebration at the Community House on October 21st.
- **Bright Beginnings Center News**- The preschool celebrated October with costumes, a successful fundraiser, and Mrs. Mulready's initial posts on twitter. It was also reported that 22% of BBC students participate in the new before and after school programs.

- **Pajama Drive-** The elementary school is participating in the Scholastic Reading Club Pajama Drive to benefit the Pajama Program. Scholastic is matching each donation of pajamas with a book for students in need.
- **Bullying Training-** With the designation of October as anti-bullying month, classes focused on activities and lessons supporting the district’s anti-bullying curriculum and initiatives.
- **Evacuation Drills-** Over the past two weeks, each building participated in an off-site evacuation drill with the support of the Hopedale police and fire departments. A follow-up emergency preparedness roundtable session is scheduled with school, fire, and police officials.
- **Screenagers-** A presentation of *Screenagers* for adults in the community is scheduled for November 9th. Students in grades 5 through 12 will view the film on November 13th.

5. **Committee Response to Superintendent’s Comments** – There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

6. **Financial Items**

- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the monthly warrant report for October as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of five accounts payable warrants dated September 29, October 6, 12, 19, and 26, 2017 totaling \$256,871.88.
- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of two October payroll warrants dated October 12 and 26, 2017 totaling of \$879,104.49.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for October 2017.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

7. **Committee on Policy:** As recommended by the policy committee, members reviewed the following proposed policies for a first reading. The language of currently existing policies was compared with the new drafts: **IJOA-Field Trips and Out-of-State Trips and Excursions**
JJH-Student Late Night or Overnight Travel
JJH-R – Student Travel Regulations
JJE – Policy on Student Fund-Raising Activities

After review, and by consensus, the Committee approved the above listed policies for a final reading.

8. **Agenda Items:**

- **Financial Fitness Fair** – Student members of the FinFit Team, Josh Weaver, Andrew Doran, and Ben Tahmoush, presented an overview of the upcoming FinFit Fair scheduled for December 8, 2017. They discussed how the Fair and its preceding activities will encourage students to become financially literate through engagement, simulations, and empowerment.
- **Athletic Program Review** – Mr. Atherton reported on the successful fall season and reported important upcoming dates including Meet Your Winter Coaches Night and Fall Sports Awards on November 20th and the start of winter try-outs on November 27th. Upcoming projects were highlighted such as updating banners at Draper Gym, celebrating senior athletes with posters, certification training for coaches, sponsoring a unified bowling event in the spring, and continuing the Hall of Fame.
- **Winter Coaching Appointments** – Winter coaching assignments were announced as follows: Girls Varsity Basketball- Corey Phillips; Girls Junior Varsity Basketball- Kelly Gallagher; Girls Junior High Basketball- Jane LeClaire; Varsity Ice Hockey- Greg LaBossiere; Junior Varsity Ice Hockey- Mike MacQuarrie; Boys Varsity Basketball- Tony Cordani; Boys Junior Varsity Basketball- Tom D’Urso; Boys Junior High Basketball- Mike Rodrigues; Indoor Track-Tim Maguire; Indoor Track Assistants- Rosemary Talbot and Joe Drugan; Varsity Cheerleading- Amy Lombardi; Junior Varsity Cheerleading- Dena Lombardi; and Ski Team- Shawn Ashby.
- **Official October Enrollment Numbers** – The Superintendent reported that the district foundation enrollment as of October 2nd is 944. The district enrollment for all students is 1133.

- **Out-of-State Field Trip Request** – On behalf of the International Club, the Superintendent presented a request for students to travel to Iceland from April 12 to 17, 2018. The field trip was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson.
- **MCAS Analysis Report** – The Superintendent reviewed recently released MCAS data and noted areas of accomplishment as well as recommended action steps towards improvement. Highlighted successes include the overall performance of 10th grade students, 5th grade science scores, 4th grade growth in ELA and mathematics, the success of students using the computerized format of the test and, at every grade level and in all subject areas, scores exceeding state averages. Action steps include identifying and supporting students with scores in the ‘not meeting expectations’ range, aligning science instruction to the standards at all grades, focusing on fractions in grade three, and improving technology proficiency for all students. With the implementation of the new-generation MCAS format, Ms. Crebase noted that the reported data sets a baseline with no historical comparison available. She did, however, provide comparisons to neighboring districts which reflected Hopedale’s strong performance.
- **School Improvement Plan Updates** - Administrators introduced the new format for their school improvement plans which mirrors the layout of the district’s strategic plan. The School Committee applauded the administrators’ efforts in developing such thorough plans and noted their appreciation for the new informative presentations.

Bright Beginnings Center - Director Susan Mulready highlighted the continued implementation of the *Foundations* curriculum to improve students’ literacy skills, the potential acquisition of Smartboards and FOSS science kits to support the STEM curriculum, the addition of fall progress reports, the potential expansion of the daycare program to summer months, restructuring the school’s current leadership model, instituting parent workshops, and reviewing playground improvements.

Memorial Elementary School – Principal Brian Miller highlighted his school’s focus on social and emotional learning, the refinement of service provider roles, implementation of the new mathematics curriculum, the introduction of new reading strategies, supporting at-risk students, curriculum mapping, planning enrichment activities, continuing PLC’s, family outreach efforts, increasing professional development opportunities, evaluating the FLEX Center program, aligning the science curriculum throughout the district, and providing parent curriculum nights.

Jr.-Sr. High School – Principal Derek Atherton highlighted the analysis of data from SAT/ACT/PSAT and MCAS testing, using pre- and post-assessments to inform instruction, collaborating with the grade 6 team to improve mathematics instruction, implementing reading strategies throughout the curriculum, developing professional development opportunities, investigating opportunities for accelerated learners, reviewing the addition of computer science courses, curriculum mapping, creating a drop-in transition center, improvements to the grade 7 orientation program, and expanding the substantially separate program to higher grades.

9. Correspondence – The Committee reviewed a note from former student John McCarthy, the October MASC Bulletin, a grant award notification from the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, an Info-Gram from Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C regarding open meeting law regulations, elementary school council minutes from October 11, 2017, and the elementary school November calendar.

10. Audience to Citizens – There were no citizens present who wished to address the Committee.

11. School Committee Calendar – The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

Adjournment –Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
 APPROVED: December 5, 2017