

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

Members Present: Craig Adams, Chair
Grace Pool, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Lori Hampsch
Kristen Poisson

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Ryan Coyle, Student Representative to the School Committee
Jen Holland and Ben Tahmoush, JSHS Student Council Representatives
Sophia Garzoli, Project 351 Representative
Morgan Foley, Power of One Award Recipient
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Elizabeth Callahan and Theresa Ehrlich, SEPAC Co-Chairs
Megan Ashton, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal

At 6:02 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 January 2, 2018 - Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Hampsch, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 2, 2018.

2. Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School: Jen Holland and Ben Tahmoush reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: auditions for the spring musical production, DECA district and state competitions, midterms, Penny Wars to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the STUCO Hyannis Leadership Conference, MCAS testing, and the spring sports season.

3. Recognition - The Superintendent recognized eighth grade student Sophia Garzoli for her participation in the Massachusetts Project 351 community service program, and senior Morgan Foley as the student recipient of this year's Power of One Award for her contributions as a role model, athlete, community volunteer and leader.

4. Superintendent's Comments –

- **DECA-** Congratulations were extended to Talitha Oliveri and the team of students who participated in this year's DECA district competition. Several students were chosen to participate in next month's state competition.
- **Internship Fair-** Students who completed internships during Semester 1 shared their experiences at an internship fair on January 9, 2018.
- **Update on Winter Sports-** The Superintendent reported on the successes of the winter teams.
- **Superintendent's Scholar Luncheon-** On January 9, 2018, the Superintendent and Mr. Atherton accompanied Superintendent Scholar Amina Hukanovic to this year's luncheon.
- **Dr. Potee's Presentation-** On January 11, 2018, Hopedale hosted an evening presentation on brain development and function which was sponsored by the Hopedale Opioid Task Force.
- **Hopedale JSHS Alumni Association Reception-** Staff and students honored the board members of the Hopedale High School Alumni Association on January 25, 2018 in appreciation of the grants and scholarships that have been awarded. The board members were provided with an overview and demonstrations of several of the projects that have been recently funded.

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

6. **Financial Items/Budget** -

- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the monthly warrant report for January 2018 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 six accounts payable warrants dated January 2,3,11,19 (two), and 25, 2018 totaling \$ 250,217.39.
- **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 January 2018 payroll warrants dated January 4 and 18, 2018 7 totaling of \$ 812,878.59.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for January 2018. There was a brief discussion regarding the deficit in the tuition reimbursement line.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

7. **Committee on Policy:** As recommended by the policy committee, members reviewed the following policies for a first reading. The language of currently existing policies was compared with the new drafts:

IJNDD – Policy on Social Media (proposed revision)

IK – Student Progress Reports to Parents/Guardians (proposed revision)

IKA – Grading and Final Examination (recommendation to rescind)

IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students (review)

Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members accepted the recommendation of the policy committee and unanimously voted to rescind Policy IKA – Grading and Final Examination. After review, and by consensus, the Committee approved the remaining policies for a final reading.

8. **Agenda Items:**

- **SEPAC Update** – Mrs. Callahan and Mrs. Ehrlich, Co-Chairs of Hopedale's Special Education Parents' Advisory Council (SEPAC) presented the annual update of the organization's activities. They reported on their meeting schedule, sponsorship of the annual basic rights workshop, hosting a presentation by author Jessica Minahan, the annual educator recognition event, scholarships for graduating seniors, grants to teachers, the I Can Bike summer program, See's candy fundraiser, and a teacher appreciation event at the elementary school.
- **Enrollment Projections** – The Superintendent presented charts reflecting the district's current enrollment by grade and by town, as well as enrollment projections for the 2018-2019 school year by grade level. She noted that 58 resident students are expected to enroll in kindergarten next year and that seven school choice applications have been received for that grade.
- **School Choice Report** – 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 fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2018, and data showing Hopedale's school choice tuition receipts and expenditures for incoming and outgoing school choice students from 1996 through 2017. Currently Hopedale is receiving 143 students and sending 45 students to other towns.
- **Budget Update** – The Superintendent reported that she has been invited to a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the general financial status of the Town. There will be a follow-up meeting scheduled to include the School Committee.
- **Overview of Grant Applications** - The Superintendent provided an overview of two grant applications submitted on behalf of the Jr.-Sr. High School to support the addition of computer programming courses. Ms. Crebase reported that successful grant funding would permit the implementation of a computer science pathway for students interested in pursuing careers in that area. Funding from Project Lead the Way, in the amount of \$20,000, would support the acquisition of a high school curriculum, consumables, equipment and supplies, as well as professional development to support new courses, i.e. Computer

Science Essentials, Computer Science Principles, and Advanced Computer Science. Funding from American Student Assistance, in the amount of \$125,000, would support hardware and consumables purchases, professional development, and expansion of the junior high explore offerings to include Computer Science 1, Computer Science 2, and Engineering. A discussion followed regarding the Committee's support of the new curriculum and the potential for funding a computer science curriculum if the grant applications are not successful.

- **Overview of Special Education Program Review** – Pupil Personnel Services Director Meg Ashton reported on a recent program review conducted by educational consultant Dorsey Yearley. Commendations from the report include the district's high quality staff, the district's commitment to supporting students, efficient use of financial resources, and successful outcomes for students. Recommendations for program improvement include the implementation of consistent inclusive practices throughout the district, reviewing the use of one-to-one assistants, providing opportunities for staff collaboration, improving communication among stakeholders, and reviewing transition processes. Ms. Ashton reported that all recommendations are being considered and program improvements are being implemented, including the revision of inclusion goals, collaboration among preschool and kindergarten as well as grade 6 and 7 staffs, and the exploration of partnerships with the Milford Public Schools.
- **JSHS Program of Studies for 2018-2019** – Principal Derek Atherton presented proposed changes for next year's program of studies. New course offerings include Latin American Literature and Film, Integrated Mathematics Parts I-III, AP Statistics, AP World History, Computer Science Essentials, Career Prep, Capstone Project, The Great Outdoors: A Study in Field Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, Digital Photography, and junior high leadership offerings. New explore courses include Grade 9 Civics, Grade 8 Engineering, and Grade 7 and 8 Computer Science. The Program of Studies Night is scheduled for February 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm. By consensus, the members approved all proposed revisions.

9. **Correspondence** – The Committee reviewed the *Legislative Bulletin* dated January 25, 2018.

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

11. **School Committee Calendar** – The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: March 6, 2018