

**Hopedale School Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Grace Pool

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent  
Jenn Holland and Ben Tamoush, JSHS Student Council Representatives  
Lynne Davis, School Accountant  
L. Chase, J. Webb, D. Luchini, and H. Kapatoes, Professional Status Teachers  
Susan Mulready, Bright Beginnings Center Director  
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal  
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal  
Megan Ashton, Pupil Personnel Services Director  
Elsie Aldrich and Deb Diemont, Therapy Dog Presentation

The School Committee members met at 5:00 pm in the Draper Library at Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School for a reception to honor new staff. A brief tour of the renovated Multi-Purpose Room followed.

At 6:00 pm, the 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 August 23, 2017** - Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of August 23, 2017.

**2. Student Representatives' Report – Jr.-Sr. High School:** Jenn Holland and Ben Tamoush reported on recent and upcoming activities, including: Grade 7 Orientation, STUCO lock-in, the start of the fall sports season, upcoming Grade 7 class elections, Back-to-School Night, Day in the Park, the coffeehouse, a clothing drive, the annual college fair, and the arrival of the Spanish exchange students.

**3. Recognition** – The School Committee and Superintendent Crebase recognized faculty members who have attained professional status after three years of service. They include high school guidance counselor, Lauren Chase, high school nurse, Diane Luchini, high school math teacher, Jennifer Webb, and elementary special education teacher, Heather Kapatoes.

**4. Superintendent's Comments** –

- **Opening Day for Staff:** The first day for staff was August 28, 2017. Ms. Crebase presented the recently adopted strategic plan and the 2017-2018 professional development plan at the opening meeting.
- **Opening Day for Students:** Students in Grades 1 through 12 were welcomed back to school on August 29, 2017. Kindergarten and preschool students began the new year on August 30, 2017.
- **New Teacher Reception:** A reception was held earlier in the evening to honor the district's newly hired staff, including Megan Ashton, Pupil Personnel Services Director; Colleen Barden, Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Memorial School; Brian Bujold, Special Education Teacher at Memorial School; William DeVita, Math Teacher at the Jr.-Sr. High School; Kathleen Kavanagh, Nurse at Memorial School; Jacquelyn Lynch, Adjustment Counselor at Memorial School; Christina Palmucci, Spanish Teacher at the Jr.-Sr. High School and Memorial School; and Sarah Rafferty, English Teacher at the Jr.-Sr. High School.

- **Hiring Update:** The Superintendent reported that the new elementary music teacher will begin her employment this week; interviews have begun for the open Grade 6 special education position; a part-time technology support position with a focus on professional development will be posted; and applications are being reviewed for an elementary special education position due to a recent resignation.
- **BBC Orientation:** Bright Beginnings Center held a successful orientation for parents and students on August 29, 2017.
- **Kindergarten Orientation:** The orientation program for Kindergarten students and parents on August 29, 2017 was also a success.

5. **Committee Response to Superintendent's Comments** – A brief discussion followed regarding the Superintendent's first day experiences as she begins her second year with the district.

#### 6. **Financial Items**

- **Monthly Report of Accounts Payable Warrants:** The Committee reviewed the monthly warrant report for August as presented by Mrs. Davis. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of seven August accounts payable warrants dated: August 4 (two), August 11 (two), August 18 (two) and 25, 2017 in the amount of \$285,393.31.
- **Monthly Report of Payroll Warrants:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the members unanimously voted to ratify the payment of five August payroll warrants dated: August 3 (two), 17 (two) and 31, 2017 in the amount of \$638,152.61.
- **Monthly Budget Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the monthly budget report for August 2017.
- **Warrants for Signature:** There were no warrants distributed for signature.

#### 7. **Agenda Items:**

- **Opening of School Reports:**
  - Mrs. Mulready reported on the successful start at BBC and thanked the preschool and custodial staffs for their first-day preparations. She also congratulated the staff of the new extended-day program located at the preschool. Mrs. Mulready further noted that enrollment is full in all classes.
  - Mr. Miller reported on the positive first day at Memorial School. He noted that the opening day enrollment was 545 students with 25 new students. Upcoming activities include a Family Night for ESL students, Back to School Night and Nature's Classroom.
  - Mr. Atherton also reported an excellent opening day at the Jr.-Sr. High School. The beginning enrollment was 507 students with 17 students new to the district. He reviewed the senior class activities on the first day and welcomed the school's French exchange student.
  - Ms. Ashton reported on her successful transition as PPS Director and noted the new Flex Center program at Memorial School, recently hired special education staff, new staff training regarding special education processes, and the great start of the school year district-wide.
- **Superintendent's Goals** – The Superintendent presented four goals which will guide her second year as Superintendent. They include: 1) Professional Practice: refinement of the budget process to ensure thorough short and long range planning; 2) Student Learning: implementation of the preschool science curriculum, the elementary math curriculum, and the secondary English curriculum; 3) Student Learning: creation of a professional development plan which impacts teacher effectiveness and leads to increased student achievement; and 4) District Improvement: implementation of the district strategic plan. Each goal includes key actions and benchmarks to monitor its successful completion. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent's 2017-2018 goals.
- **School Committee Goals** – The Committee reviewed the draft goals that had been previously presented. The goals address the members' professional development, maintaining the member orientation manual, updating the policy manual, strengthening community relations, and creating a

responsible budget. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously adopted their 2017-2018 goals.

- **Therapy Dog Presentation** – Ms. Elsie Aldrich and Ms. Deb Diemont reported on a pilot program to introduce a therapy dog at Memorial School. The program will first be used during specialized reading and counseling sessions on a restricted basis and with parental permission. Data will be collected to ensure that the anticipated academic, emotional, physiological, and social benefits are confirmed. A lengthy discussion followed regarding potential liability issues, consideration of student allergies and phobias, and plans for parental waivers. The Superintendent will consult with legal counsel prior to the implementation of the program.

8. **Correspondence** – Superintendent Crebase presented the September calendar from Memorial School.

9. **Audience to Citizens** – Mrs. Alberto reported that a resident has made initial contact with the Hopedale Foundation and appropriate town boards to discuss support for improvements to the school’s athletic fields.

10. **School Committee Calendar** – The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

**Adjournment** – The Chair announced the need to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation which would have a detrimental effect on the Committee’s position if conducted in open session. The Committee would not be reconvening in open session. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm and to enter executive session for the stated purpose as follows: Mr. Adams – yes; Mrs. Hampsch – yes; Mrs. Poisson – yes; and Mrs. Alberto – yes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary  
APPROVED: October 3, 2017