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**Hopkinton School Board
Hopkinton, New Hampshire**

ADOPTED MINUTES

**School Board Meeting
Maple Street School – Cafeteria**

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 - 5:30 pm

School Board: Ms. Liz Durant, Chair; Mr. Dave Luneau, Vice Chair; Ms. Aviva Nestler, Mr. Matt Belanger, Mr. William Jones, Board Members

Administration: Mr. Steven Chamberlin, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Michelle Clark, Business Administrator; Mr. Matt Stone, Technology Director; Mr. Jay Burgess, Chair Facility Steering Committee

Student Representatives: Cooper Kimball Rhines

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Liz Durant called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Durant asked that a moment of silence in memory of former Maple Street School teacher Pat Heinz.

2. Additions/Deletions from Agenda by Superintendent

3. Correspondence

Superintendent Chamberlin read a letter describing Ms. Heinz last hour of her last day of school before her retirement.

Superintendent Chamberlin also shared an email from Town Administrator Neal Cass stating the Hopkinton Select Board voted not to support the facility project for the School District. (4-1 vote)

4. Approval of Minutes - None

5. Public Comment (1)

Mr. Ken Traum read the action from the Select Board meeting on January 22, 2018:

That the Select Board does not support the proposed \$29.8 million facilities project because the taxpayers cannot support the magnitude of the associated tax increase, and the Select Board supports the Budget Committee recommendation for the School Board to reconsider their proposal.

6. Comments from the Hopkinton School Board

Ms. Nestler reported that the School Board presentation at the recent NHSBA Delegate Assembly was well received. Mr. Luneau also thanked Superintendent Chamberlin, Ms. Durant, and Ms. Nestler for speaking before the assembly regarding being named School Board of the Year (2017). Mr. Luneau also thanked Mr. Belanger for the work on the Budget Committee.

7. Presentations and Staff Reports - None

56 **8. Items for Board Discussion**

- 57
- 58 a. Hopkinton School District Facility Project
- 59 i. Debrief January 17 Hopkinton Budget Committee Meeting
- 60 ii. Safety and Security
- 61 iii. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C) Accreditation
- 62 iv. Purchase of the Slusser Boys and Girls Club
- 63 v. Building Renovation and Expansion Capital Reserve Fund
- 64

65 Mr. Belanger reported that at the January 17th meeting the Budget Committee voted 9-1 against the facility
66 project. The Budget Committee made the recommendation to consider a facility project in the 12-16
67 million range.

68

69 Mr. Luneau thanked Mr. Belanger, Mr. Burgess, the steering committee, and Superintendent Chamberlin
70 for the many hours of work to determine the scope of the project. The School Board determined at the
71 January 2nd meeting the scope of the project and voted on three parts of the scope for a cost of \$29.8
72 million dollars. Mr. Luneau does not feel reducing the project today without careful examination of the
73 needs of each building would be the right move for the Board. It has taken five years of work to get to this
74 point.

75

76 Some things have already been addressed such as the Performance Contract which will address some of
77 the deficiencies in the NEASC report.

78

79 Mr. Burgess stated that to scale down the project from \$29million to \$12 million from now to February 7
80 (Public Hearing) would not be done with thought and care. The project was built from scope to cost not
81 cost to scope. The NEASC report will need to be reviewed and each piece of the project prioritized.

82

83 Ms. Nestler recognizes and acknowledges the concerns of the Budget Committee and the community and
84 believes that everyone wants what is right. She feels it would be wise and due diligence to relook at the
85 cost of the project, carefully review the scopes.

86

87 Mr. Belanger said are we sacrificing the needs of the student? The bond rate is low right now, it may not
88 be in a year, how much would we need to change.

89

90 Mr. Burghess stated that it would be difficult to reduce the project from \$23 million to 12 million, the
91 changes in the scope of the project and the feasibility of addressing the NEASC items would be hard
92 choices to make.

93

94 Mr. Jones stated the project began five years ago with looking at consolidating schools but due to
95 enrollment increases the project changed and now there is a need to add additional classrooms at Harold
96 Martin and the high school. The high school has many issues that need to be addressed. Is there a way to
97 increase revenue and tuition?

98

99 Mr. Luneau stated that the state has not funded building aid since 2010, it is possible that the state will
100 bring some back.

101

102 Ms. Nestler said she would like to go through the plan carefully to see what the impact of a 12-16 million
103 project – what would not be included in that scenario.

104

105 Mr. Belanger asked if Superintendent Chamberlin was comfortable waiting another year to consider the
106 project and if safety and security would be compromised.

107

108 Superintendent Chamberlin said that preschool would need to be moved to Maple Street and that the
109 district may have to look at portable classrooms. Superintendent Chamberlin stated that the district was
110 just notified that funding through a grant for safety and security has been awarded. The grant would be
111 funded at 80% from the state and 20% through the district. (\$317,000/\$79,000)

112 With this grant, we will be safer (controlled access) but it will not be Best Practice. If the Board accepts
113 the grant the proposed FY 19 budget would need to reflect this amount.

114
115 Currently, out of six states across New England, 72 schools are on warning and 3 on probation (none in
116 NH).

117
118 Ms. Durant stated that an action item will be added to rescind the project at this time as the Board does not
119 have the support for a \$29million dollar project and the Board will not have the information it needs in two
120 week's time to change the scope and cost of the project.

121
122 Student Representative Cooper Kimball Rhines stated that over the past four years he has had great
123 classes, amazing teachers, the curriculum is better than other schools. He asked if the community was
124 okay if the school goes from being ranked #1 to 2nd or 3rd.

125
126 Ms. Durant stated that this merely an opportunity to step back, look at how to move forward, and to
127 continue to work on what the community can support.

128
129 *b.* FY 19 Budget

130 *i.* Debrief January 17 Hopkinton Budget Committee

131 *ii.* FY 19 Funding Level

132
133 Mr. Belanger reported that the Budget Committee is proposing a flat budget/flat tax rate including the
134 purchase of the Boys and Girls Club. Decreasing the budget by \$355,000.

135
136 Ms. Nestler stated the current SAU office is not acceptable and the opportunity to purchase the Boys and
137 Girls Club.

138
139 Mr. Jones stated that available property does not pop up often.

140
141 Ms. Durant stated that from comments from the Board, that they are in agreement to rescind the facility
142 project, recommend to amend the operating budget to include the grant for safety and security. She further
143 stated that the Board is not compelled to change the purchase of the Boys and Girls Club.

144
145 **9. Public Comment (2)**

146 Mr. Arnold Coda asked what the cost of the purchase of the Boys and Girls Club would be.

147
148 Superintendent Chamberlin stated that the purchase price including closing cost would be \$200,000 with an
149 additional \$25,000 for architectural plans. In March 2019 the cost to renovate the building would be put
150 forward. The building as it is now is not equipped to be an office and the current SAU office cannot be
151 expanded.

152
153 Mr. Coda also shared his notes from past years when he was School District Treasurer of questions that he
154 asked Dr. Ayers...back in 2005 it was suggested to accept tuition students...if we build they will come, but
155 the community did not want to do this. It is unfortunate that we have waited so long to address the updates
156 needed at all schools. He asked the Board back in August to hold public forums to get information out to the
157 community. The Board did not want to do this.

158
159 Ms. Durant stated that the Board took a different approach and offered over 20 opportunities for the
160 community to participate in the process.

161
162 Mrs. Louise Carr asked for a breakdown of the cost for each building (facility project) and would it be
163 possible to build out at HMS or MSS.

165 Mr. Burgess replies that \$23 million would be for HMHS, \$5.5 million for HMS, and \$3.2 million for MSS.
166 It would not be cost-effective to close a school and fund construction cost. The previous bond was paid off
167 last year.

168
169 Mrs. Bonnie Cressy thanked the board for all their hard work. When she heard about the facility project and
170 the projected cost she read all the reports on the SAU website. She asked how the project went from a
171 proposed cost of \$29 million to a recommendation of \$12 million.

172
173 Mr. Belanger stated that the Budget committee felt that with the previous bond of \$7 million and by doubling
174 it in range of \$12-16 million and review of the architect report that this would be a number that they might
175 be able to support.

176
177 Ms. Durant thanked everyone for attending.

178
179 **10. Materials Provided**

180 Revised Tiers

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182 **11. Important Dates**

183 January 24 – 3rd meeting with Budget Committee (if needed)

184 February 7 – HBC Public Hearing, HMHS Audi, 6:30 pm

185 February 20 – School Board Meeting, MSS, 5:30 pm

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187 **ACTION ITEMS**

188
189 **12.** Upon further consideration, the Hopkinton School Board accept the superintendent’s recommendation to
190 rescind action item 18, approved at the January 2, 2018 meeting, which proposed a \$29,831,948
191 renovation and addition to school district property.

192
193 **A motion was proposed by Ms. Durant, moved by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Ms. Nestler, motion**
194 **carries.**

195
196 **Vote: In favor, Mr. Luneau, Ms. Nestler, Mr. Jones, Ms. Durant, Mr. Belanger voting against. (4-1)**

197
198 *Mr. Belanger stated that he supports the project and is not confident that the Budget Committee will*
199 *embrace the project next year.*

200
201 **13.** The Hopkinton School Board accept the Superintendents recommendation to increase the FY 19 Operating
202 Budget to \$20,000,471 an increase of \$397,000, offset by revenue of \$317,000 for safety and security at all
203 school buildings.

204
205 **A motion was proposed by Ms. Durant, moved by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Ms. Nestler, all in favor,**
206 **motion carries.**

207
208 **14. Nonpublic Session**

209 Nonpublic Session for the Discussion of Matters as Per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), and (c)

210 Negotiations

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212
213 At 7:07 pm, a motion was proposed by Ms. Durant, moved by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Ms. Nestler, that
214 the Board enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), and (c) for the
215 discussion of negotiations. Motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Nestler (yes), Mr. Luneau (yes), Mr.
216 Belanger (yes), Mr. Jones (yes), Ms. Durant (yes), all in favor.

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219 RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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221 The Board reconvened from nonpublic session at 7:44 pm.

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15. Adjournment

At 7:45 pm, Mr. Luneau moved, seconded by Ms. Nestler, to adjourn the meeting, motion passed, all in favor, not opposed.

If you have any questions for members of the Hopkinton School Board or Administration please feel encouraged to contact them at the phone numbers or emails below:

Hopkinton School Board

- Liz Durant, ldurant@sau66.org
- David Luneau, dluneau@sau66.org
- Matt Belanger, mbelanger@sau66.org
- Aviva Nestler, anestler@sau66.org
- Bill Jones, wjones@sau66.org

Administration

- Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent, 746-5186, schamberlin@hopkintonschools.org
- Michelle Clark, Business Administrator, 746-5186 mclark@hopkintonschools.org
- Meghan Bamford, Director of Student Services, 746-5186, mbamford@hopkintonschools.org
- Matt Stone, Director of Technology, 746-5186, mstone@hopkintonschools.org
- Bill Carozza, Principal, Harold Martin & Maple Street Schools, 746-3473, bcarozza@hopkintonschools.org
- Amy Doyle, Asst. Principal, Harold Martin & Maple Street Schools, 746-3473/746-4195, adoyle@hopkintonschools.org
- Chris Kelley, Principal, Hopkinton Middle and High Schools, 746-4167, ckelley@hopkintonschools.org
- Rebecca Gagnon, Asst. Principal, Hopkinton Middle and High Schools, 746-4167, rgagnon@hopkintonschools.org

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Maple Street School, Hopkinton, NH
Nonpublic Minutes
January 23, 2018

In Attendance: Ms. Liz Durant, Chair; Mr. Dave Luneau, Vice Chair; Ms. Aviva Nestler, Mr. Bill Jones, Mr. Matt Belanger, and Superintendent Steve Chamberlin.

Nonpublic Session for the Discussion of Matters as Per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), and (c)

Negotiations

During the nonpublic session, the Board discussed negotiations.

The Board came out of nonpublic session at 7:44pm.

A motion was proposed by Ms. Durant to adjourn from nonpublic session, moved by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Ms. Nestler, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Vincent