

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 31, 2019
Executive Session and Special Meeting 7:00 PM
High School Library
MINUTES

I. Call to Order in Open Session

School Committee Chair Nancy Cavanaugh opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM with the following present:

Members:

Also Present:

Ms. Nancy Cavanaugh, Chair
Ms. Meenakshi Bharath, Vice Chair
Ms. Jennifer Devlin, Member (left meeting at 8:15pm,
returned remotely 8:45pm)
Ms. Amanda Fargiano, Member
Ms. Meg Tyler, Member

Dr. Carol Cavanaugh, Superintendent
Ms. Jennifer Parson, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Susan Rothermich, Director of Finance
and Operations

II. Executive Session

For the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to avoiding litigation because doing so in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Tyler, seconded by Ms. Fargiano, the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ms. Cavanaugh:	Yes	Ms. Tyler:	Yes
Ms. Bharath:	Yes	Ms. Fargiano:	Yes
Ms. Devlin:	Yes		

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Reports

- A. **SC Chair Report** – The Hopkinton Youth Commission is pursuing training on diversity and inclusion with vision. Ms. Cavanaugh and Ms. Bharath were invited to attend the presentation and will provide information from the presentation to the School Committee at the February meeting. The Committee will then decide if they wish to participate in the training.

V. New Business

- A. **Legacy Farms Host Community Agreement** – Dr. Cavanaugh
Action: Discuss the Legacy Farms Host Community Agreement.

Discussion: Dr. Cavanaugh explained that legal counsels from both the town and school have mutually recommended that both articles be passed over at the Town Meeting.

Motion: Move to authorize the Chair of the School Committee to make a motion regarding Article 5 of the Town Meeting Warrant of February 11, 2019, Special Town Meeting as follows: The School Committee moves that the town vote to take no action on Article 5. Such authorization to be subject to the Board of Selectmen recommending that the town vote to take no action on Article 6 of the Town Meeting Warrant of that same meeting. Motion made by Ms. Bharath, seconded by Ms. Fargiano.

Vote: Favor: 4 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Devlin)

B. Hopkinton High School Substance Abuse Prevention Grant - Dr. Cavanaugh

For Consideration: The Superintendent recommends that the School Committee accept the Hopkinton High School Substance Abuse Prevention Grant for \$75,000.

Motion: Move to accept the Hopkinton High School Substance Abuse Prevention Grant for \$75,000. Motion made by Ms. Fargiano, seconded by Ms. Bharath.

Vote: Favor: 4 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Devlin)

VI. Old Business

A. School Committee Chair Annual Report – Ms. Cavanaugh

School Committee members supported the draft provided by Ms. Cavanaugh. The report will be submitted to the Town.

B. FY Capital Budget Review – Ms. Rothermich

For Consideration: The Superintendent recommends the School Committee review the FY20 Capital Budget.

Discussion: Ms. Cavanaugh explained that the Town Manager did not recommend two of the School Committee Capital Articles for kitchen equipment and vehicle replacements. Reservations about the bus parking lot were expressed by Ms. Bharath and Ms. Fargiano. Concerns were centered around the location should the property be needed for the potential need to expand classroom space at the high school due to increasing enrollment. The special education van was also discussed.

Ms. Devlin joined the meeting remotely at 8:45pm.

The funding approved at the 2018 town meeting for the bus parking lot was reviewed. The approved funding can only be used for a bus parking lot and must be used within 2 years. Building the bus lot at another location would require a new feasibility study and appropriated funds cannot be used for a new study. Safety concerns about students, busses and cars using the same space were reiterated. More information was requested on the possible use of another site for the lot.

Motion: Move to approve the FY20 Capital Budget as recommended by the Town Manager of \$1,310,000. Motion made by Ms. Tyler, seconded by Ms. Devlin.

Roll call vote:

Nancy Cavanaugh - yes
Meenakshi Bharath – yes
Jennifer Devlin – yes
Amanda Fargiano – yes
Meg Tyler – yes

Motion: Move to approve review of the location of the bus parking lot given the student population growth and the possible need for expansion of the high school and other related concerns including safety, and this information must be reviewed with the School Committee prior to proceeding with this project. Motion made by Ms. Bharath, seconded by Ms. Tyler.

Roll call vote:

Nancy Cavanaugh - yes
Meenakshi Bharath – yes
Jennifer Devlin – yes
Amanda Fargiano – yes
Meg Tyler – yes

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Tyler, seconded by Ms. Bharath.

Roll call vote:

Nancy Cavanaugh - yes
Meenakshi Bharath – yes
Jennifer Devlin – yes
Amanda Fargiano – yes
Meg Tyler – yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cavanaugh, Chair
Meenakshi Bharath, Vice Chair