

Minutes of the Hingham School Committee Workshop

December 2, 2019

School Department Conference Room

220 Central Street

Hingham, MA 02043

School Committee Attendees: Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, Ed Schreier

Administration Attendees: Dr. Paul Austin, John Ferris

Members of the Public: George Danis, Ray Estes, June Gustafson

1. The meeting was called to order by Michelle Ayer at 8:35PM.
2. The Committee discussed HPS Student Fees, including Athletic Fees, Pre-K/Kindergarten Fees and other school-related fees paid by HPS families. The Administration presented data regarding fees paid, including a comparison of Hingham athletic fees with athletic fees for our 20 benchmark towns. The purpose of looking at fees is to best offset the School Department budget, while still encouraging students to participate in school activities. This meeting was intended as an opportunity to determine what information is needed to consider any future decision regarding fees.
3. The Committee agreed that fully funded Kindergarten is a long-term goal. Regarding Athletic Fees, two items of concern include equity between sports and non-athletic activities, as well as equity between girls and boys sports. It was noted that in 2011 fees covered approximately 40% of the athletic budget. That budget has increased over time, but the athletic fees have not, other than a \$25 increase in 2014. A benefit of increasing fees would be increasing the budget offset. However, the Committee recognizes that the various booster groups also raise funds, which can result in families paying far more than just the athletic fees.
4. It was noted that most of our benchmark towns charge athletic fees per sport, unlike Hingham, which charges \$325 per year. Several potential alternative fee structures were discussed.
5. The Committee agreed that robust student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is valuable to our town and our schools, and should be encouraged.
6. Additionally, the Committee requested more information from the Administration. Specifically, the Committee would like to know the cost of running each program, the portion of each program funded by the school department budget, the portion of each program funded by fees, and the portion of each program funded by booster/parent groups or other sources.

7. Ray Estes shared his perspective on fees with the Committee.

8. On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 9:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

Agenda

School Committee Fee Report