

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 7, 2020

Remote meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chair Kerry Ni called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. She stated that the meeting was being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Attendees were advised that the meeting and all communications during the meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. Any participant who wished to record the meeting was asked to notify the chair at the start of the in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording. Chair Ni advised that the Harbor Media was recording the session.

Members Present: Kerry Ni, Carlos AF Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jennifer Benham

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, James LaBillois, Suzanne Vinnes, John Ferris, Susan D'Amato

Visitors Present: No sign in as this was a remote meeting.

2. Item 2 "To Review Budget Guidelines for FY'22" was included in the Budget Overview presented in Item 3 below.
3. Chair Ni advised that this is the first time that the School Committee is seeing the budget information and, as a result, would not be taking public comment at this meeting. There will be subsequent meetings at which there will be opportunities for public comment. Dr. Austin shared a presentation that provided a first draft of the FY'22 Budget. The budget is built on the premise that schools will return to full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The presentation addressed:
 - i. The academic and social-emotional impacts of the Global Pandemic
 - ii. A review of the Hingham Public Schools Vision and Mission statements.
 - iii. A review of the Guiding Principles for the FY'22 Budget
 - iv. A review of the goals for the FY'22 Budget
 - v. An explanation that the budget would be presented in two parts. Part 1 is the Level Services budget, which is a base budget that reflects the cost of the providing the same programs and services as in previous years. Part II is the Recovery Budget, which addresses the needs of students following the return to full in-person learning.
 - vi. The FY'22 Level Services Budget equals \$60,057,183, which is a 5.86% increase from the FY'21 budget. Dr. Austin provided details on the revenue losses as a result of the pandemic.
 - vii. The FY'22 Recovery Budget equals \$62,478,220, which is 10.13% increase from the FY'21 budget. Dr. Austin provided additional details regarding the breakdown of the Recovery Budget. Dr. Austin stated that he understands that this is a big increase from the prior year and explained that the Administration feels that this is necessary to meet the needs of students upon the return to full in-person learning.

- viii. A breakdown of the Recovery Budget Additions, which include additional staffing for Elementary and Secondary for Regular Education, additional staffing for Elementary and Secondary for Special Education, and a Special Education Summer Program Compensatory Program. The budget also included the addition of District-wide staffing and programs.
- ix. Dr. Austin shared slides that provided a detailed breakdown of the budget.

Dr. Austin and John Ferris responded to questions from the School Committee regarding the details of the budget. Discussion topics included details on the revenue losses, details on the technology costs, the additional staffing requests for the Special Education program, class sizes, a request for a breakdown on one-time costs vs. recurring costs in the budget, a request for further detail on new positions, a request for additional detail on courses that were not offered in the current year, costs associated with Full Day Kindergarten, Special Education Compensatory services, whether there were considerations for the possibility that schools remain remote in the fall, and a request to share student and benchmark data that will help to support the budget request.

- 4. The Committee discussed a Warrant Article for a majority vote approval for the Hingham Public Schools to enter into a five year bus lease for big yellow buses.

On a motion by Carlos A F Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,
It was

Voted: To authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to submit to the Town, on or before January 20, 2021, the warrant article for leasing regular education buses for up to 5 years.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O’Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

- 5. The Committee discussed two Warrant Articles related to the project to be performed in conjunction with the MSBA for the Accelerated Repair Project at Plymouth River Elementary School that will address the windows and doors at Plymouth River and other items as may be required the MSBA.

On a motion by Carlos A F Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,
It was

Voted: To authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to submit a placeholder warrant for funding of a project to be performed in conjunction with the MSBA for the Accelerated Repair Project at Plymouth River Elementary School that will address the windows and doors at Plymouth River and other items as may be required by the MSBA.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

On a motion by Carlos A F Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,
It was

Voted: To authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to submit an article to expand the role of the 2017 School Building Committee to manage the window repair project at the Plymouth River Elementary School.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

6. The Committee discussed a motion to amend the FY '22 budget calendar to reflect the change in dates for the Budget Work Sessions from January 13 to January 14, from January 20 to January 21, from January 27 to January 28, and to add the date for a meeting with the Capital Outlay Committee on January 20, 2021 at 7:30.

On a motion by Carlos A F Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,
It was

Voted: To approve the amendment to the FY '22 budget calendar as proposed.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. There was no discussion for this item.

8. On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 8:32




















Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Libby Lewiecki

Documents Included:

Name ↑

 AgendaBudget I 2021_0107b.pdf 
 Item 2 FY'22 Guidelines Revised for November 16 2020b.pdf 
 Item 3a - Budget Overview_2021_0107 SC Meeting.pdf 
 Item 3b - Working copy of FY 22 Proposed Budget.pdf 
 Item 3c - FY 22 Instructional Employees for Budget - New Format.pdf 
 Item 3d - FY 22 Working Copy of Backup Budget Pages.pdf 
 Item 4.0 Warrant Language for School Buses.docx 
 Item 5a PSB_Vote_Language_Cities-Hingham 1.5.21.pdf 
 Item 5b Article - 2017 School Building Committee Repsonsible for PRS Windows.pdf 
 Item 6 FY 22 Budget Calendar Updated 1.4.2021.doc 