

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 21, 2021

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

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on January 14, 2021.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

3. The Committee received an update on the FY'22 Operating Budget with a focus on the Special Education and Vocational Education functions.

Dr. Austin shared an overview of the FY'22 Budget. The Total Proposed Budget equals \$62,478,220, which is a 10.13% increase from the prior year. The breakdown is as follows: Proposed Regular Education budget is \$46,574,106; Proposed Special Education budget is \$15,701,827; Proposed Vocational Education budget is \$202,287. Dr. Austin provided a breakdown of recurring vs. non-recurring additions to the budget and addressed the updates to the budget since the last budget meeting.

Dr. Vinnes, Director of Student Services, provided the details behind the Special Education budget. The presentation included:

- The historical context and vision of the program
- The conceptual frameworks for Special Education - Legal and Medical
- Department Updates from 2018 to Present; including parent/school partnerships, Specialized Programming, Professional Growth, and the COVID-19 Pandemic impacts.
- 2021-2022 Student Services Initiatives with a shift to a Transdisciplinary model and Transdisciplinary Teaming.
- The requests for additional positions and restructuring of the Student Services department including:
 - One Elementary Administrator of Special Education
 - One Secondary Administrator of Special Education
 - Four Special Education Teachers
 - Three Speech and Language Pathologists
 - ESY (Extended School Year) Expansion

The School Committee asked questions and provided feedback on the Special Education presentation.

John Ferris provided additional detail on the proposed budget for Vocational Education. The requested increase is \$28,813. Mr. Ferris advised that the application deadline for Vo-tech is March 1 so there is still an opportunity to have additional students that are accepted.

4. John Ferris provided an update on the Capital Outlay Committee meeting that was held on January 20, 2021. The Capital Outlay Committee discussed the Plymouth River Vestibule and \$80,000 that remained in the current budget. Mr. Ferris advised that there is a need for both a Facilities Study and a Master Plan for Plymouth River. The School Committee discussed the overall improvements required for Plymouth River windows, doors, vestibule, and class space and how to most efficiently address the needed improvements. Mr. Ferris questioned the School Committee if they wanted to consider requesting a Master Plan and Facilities Study from Habeeb & Associates. The Committee agreed to amend the agenda for the January 25, 2021 School Committee meeting to vote on the study from Habeeb & Associates. Carlos Da Silva made a recommendation that Technology expenses be moved from the Capital Budget to the Operating Budget to allow for other capital improvements.
5. The Committee discussed the timeline for future budget discussions. Mr. Ferris recommended to keep the Public Hearing on the budget on February 8, 2021. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to keep the Public Hearing on February 8, 2021. Nes Correnti questioned the lack of a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director in the budget. Dr. LaBillois advised that there are other changes that need to take place that will allow the district to better understand the required need prior to bringing on that leadership position. Chair Ni added that she sees the budget as a multi-year process. Liza O'Reilly offered to consolidate budget requests from prior years and historical trends to enable the district to tell the complete story behind the budget.
6. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. There was no discussion for this item.

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 8:43 PM

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 ↑



Agenda Budget WorkShop III -01-21-2021.pdf



Item 2 - 01_14_21 Minutes Budget Workshop I.pdf



Item 3 - Student Services Budget Presentation SC_12120.pdf

