

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 28, 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 Liza O'Reilly,
It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on January 21, 2021.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – not present at time of vote

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

3. Dr. Austin advised that the percent increase in the proposed budget is now 9.92% as a result of an increase in circuit breaker.

Dr. LaBillois presented information on the application that the District submitted for the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). The SOA requires that all districts submit a three-year, evidence-based plan aimed at closing persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups. The plan was submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by the January 15, 2021 deadline and the Hingham School Committee is required to vote on the plan. Dr. LaBillois advised the SOA plan was built around Hingham's HTSS (Hingham Tiered System of Supports) model. Dr. LaBillois shared details of the positions that would be utilized at the Elementary schools and Hingham Middle School in support of the program. There was a lengthy discussion around the state funding and the need to address the disparities among the subgroups that were addressed by the SOA. The subgroups include Students with Disabilities and High Needs students. The High Needs Student group further consists of three subgroups - English Language

Learners, Students from lower Socio-Economic backgrounds, and Students with Disabilities. Mr. Ferris advised that the current budget proposal does not include a potential increase in state funding because those funds are shared with the town and the district does not yet know the amount of state funding or what percentage of the funds the schools would receive from the town. There was a request for data that would show the historical trends on the performance disparities.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the Student Opportunity Act Application that was submitted by the District.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Dr. Austin and Mr. Ferris reviewed the overall budget proposal. The proposed budget is \$62,478,220, which is an increase of 9.92% as compared to the prior year. The percentage increase is lower than what was previously projected as a result of an increase in the circuit breaker offset. Mr. Ferris provided an overview of FY 2022 Offsets to the proposed budgets, the March 2020 Enrollments upon which the budget is based, and projected enrollments for upcoming years.

Mr. Ferris provided a review of the expenditures and balances in the revolving accounts. The balances in many of the revolving accounts have decreased due to COVID-19, which resulted in decreases in revenue collected from programs such as Full Day Kindergarten, Kids in Action, and Athletic fees/gate receipts. There were questions and discussion from the Committee and the community regarding the revolving accounts.

4. John Ferris provided a preview of the FY'21 Forecast and Incremental COVID Spending. Mr. Ferris advised that although the budget is showing a deficit of approximately \$2.2M at this point, he is still expecting COVID reimbursements from the County. He shared detail on the COVID expenditures and expected reimbursements.
5. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. There was no discussion for this item.
6. On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Liza O'Reilly,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9:23 PM

Michelle Ayer – not present at time of vote


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:



-  Historical Documents



-  Agenda Budget WorkShop IV 01-28-2021.pdf 


-  Item 2 - 01_21_21 Minutes Budget Workshop III.pdf 

-  Item 3 - Budget WorkShop Update January 28, 2021.pdf 

-  Item 3b -Revolving Accounts 1.28.21 All.pdf 

-  Item 3b -Revolving Accounts Few Years 1.28.21.pdf 

-  Item 4 - Estimated Extra COVID Related Spending_January 21... 

-  Item 4 - Forecast Snapshot January 21, 2021.pdf 