

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 13, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer called the public hearing to order at 6:00PM, and began by reading the following statement for those participating by zoom:

This meeting is being offered 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 meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording. Chair Ayer advised that the Harbor Media was recording the session. No other participants indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

School Committee members present: Chair Michelle Ayer, Vice-Chair Nes Correnti, Secretary Jen Benham, Kerry Ni, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson, Matt Cosman

School Committee members absent: none

This meeting incorporated the use of the OWL camera to broadcast the meeting via Zoom.

Central Office Members present: Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams, Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, and Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong.

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson and High School Student Council Representative Nathan Tesler

Visitors present: Liza O'Reilly, Mary Powers, Melissa Sadler, Leslie Whitman, Kim Johnson, and HEA co-Presidents June Gustafson and Jacqueline Beaupre. There were approximately 133 remote visitors.

Chair Michelle Ayer took a moment to explain that this year, two budgets will be presented at town meeting; one is a balanced budget which would result in reduced services, and the other is a level services budget which would keep the current level of services, but requires an override to be approved at town meeting, and town election.

Public Hearing on the FY24 Operating Budget

Superintendent Dr. Adams and Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong gave a presentation of the proposed FY24 Budget. The presentation detailed a level services budget, as well as a reduced services budget in which cuts would be necessary if an override is not approved.

Comments and questions about the proposed FY24 budget included:

- A comment that while the level services budget would keep things as they are, a hope that there could be an increase beyond that to ensure the schools can provide needed services
- Comments from HEA Co-president Jacqueline Beaupre on behalf of staff educators recommending an override amount that fully funds all student needs and attracts and retains staff
- Comments from former Select Board member Mary Power encouraging that the public is given the opportunity to understand the tax impact of what is being asked of them with an override request
- A comment stressing the importance of the role of school counselors and in supporting a budget that protects these positions
- Comments in favor of an override, noting that the pandemic has caused learning loss and therefore encouraging that the district keep the resources that were put in place to help with that loss

- A comment in favor of the override with a concern about property values decreasing if it does not pass
- Comments from former School Committee member Liza O'Reilly who spoke in favor of an override to maintain the level services budget, and encouraged the community to participate in the town meeting and vote at the town election
- Comments encouraging people to think about the effects the proposed cuts could have on the future of the students

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn the public hearing at 7:10 PM

Approval of minutes:

Secretary Jen Benham requested to table the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting to the next meeting.

Questions and Comments

none

Superintendent's Report

- **Superintendent Formative Evaluation**
Dr. Adams included in the Committee's packet DESE information regarding evaluating Superintendents. She gave a presentation that included 2022-2023 Formative Artifacts detailing the transition plan, goals and benchmarks, as well as next steps.
- **District and School Report Cards**
Dr. Adams noted that included in the Committee's meeting packet was a District Report Card, as well as individual school report cards. She explained that in the coming weeks, parents and families will be receiving this information.

Student Communication

Student Advisory Committee representative Nathan Tesler stated that the Student Advisory Committee has a meeting this week and they will be discussing ways to get students engaged in the budget process. He reported that Unity Week took place the previous week and it began with a successful open mic night, but that they will be working on ways to increase participation in the future in the other events. He also congratulated student Liam McBride for becoming the first 1000 point scorer in boys Hingham basketball.

Unfinished Business

FY24 Proposed Budget

The Committee discussed the proposed budgets and agreed to wait to act until after the joint meeting with the Advisory Committee.

Transportation Fees

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained her memo to the Committee detailing the proposal to increase fees to ensure we are covering costs such as bus driver personnel costs, fuel and vehicle wear and tear.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the increase in transportation fees for other groups and organizations

New Business

Strategic Plan

Dr. Adams gave the second in the series of presentations to update the Committee on progress relating to the goals set in the Strategic Plan.

Hingham High School Program of Studies

High School Principal Rick Swanson presented to the Committee with an addendum to the recently approved Program of Studies to include an additional course in the English department, as well as a language change regarding credits as they relate to Physical Education.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the Hingham High School Program of Studies for the 2023-2024 school year, as amended.

Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting

none

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed


- Matt Cosman reported that the East School Council is meeting tomorrow.
- Alyson Anderson reported that the Hingham Arts Alliance has a meeting tonight and is having a party on March 13th.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee met during the previous week. He reported that the Hingham Education Foundation has a board meeting this week, as well as SEPAC, and that the search committee for new Executive Director of Student Services will be kicking off soon.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee met last week to prepare for Unit A negotiations on Wednesday. She also reported that the Hingham Middle School Council met on January 30th.
- Jen Benham reported that the South School PTO has a meeting March 2nd.
- Nes Correnti reported that there are financial warrants in the packet. She also reported that the Finance Committee held a facilities tour last week and thanked facilities director Katie Hartman. She stated that the Foster School Council met on January 30th and that the Sustainable Budget Task Force has an upcoming office hours session with Select Board member Liz Klein to answer questions about the budget on February 15th and March 1st via Zoom.
- Michelle Ayer reported that she held office hours last month and answered questions about the budget process. April 12th community groups are coming together to co-host a mental health forum at town hall at 7PM.



On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham



- It was **voted** to adjourn at 8:37 PM



Respectfully Submitted By: Jen Benham



Documents Included:



	Budget Hearing
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	02.13.2023 Agenda.pdf 
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	Item 5.1 DESE Evaluating Superintendents.pdf 
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	Item 5.1 FY23 MAdams Formative Artifacts .pdf 
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	Item 5.1 MAdams Formative Evaluation SY22-23 Artifacts .pdf 
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	Item 5.2 District Report Cards.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 East School Report Card 22.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 Foster School Report Card 22.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 Hingham High School Report Card 22-23.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 Hingham Middle School Report Card 22.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 Plymouth River Report Card 22.pdf 
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	Item 5.2 South School Report Card 22.pdf 
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	Item 7.2 Transportation Fees.pdf 
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	Item 8.1 Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan Overview Update #2.pdf 
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	Item 8.1 Strategic Plan Update #2 FY23.pdf 
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	Item 8.2 Addendum to POS Memo 2023-2024.pdf 
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	Item 9 Warrant #S010323.pdf 
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	Item 9 Warrant #S011023.pdf 
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	Item 9 Warrant #S011723.pdf 
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	Item 9 Warrant #S012423.pdf 
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	Item 9 Warrant #S122722.pdf 
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Documents Included:

