

**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 7, 2017

South Hearing Room and School Department

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order

The Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee (ACES) meeting was called to order by Linda Kutch at 6:41 p.m. The School Committee meeting was called to order by Liza O'Reilly at 6:42 p.m.

ACES Members Present: Dave Anderson, Dan Coughlin, Linda Kutsch and Donna Smallwood

School Committee Members Present: Aylene Calnan, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo

2. Discuss School Department FY'18 proposed operating budget

ACES Chair Linda Kutch began with a statement regarding the current proposed School budget and the most recent Town Forecast (1/31/17). Schools = \$50,095,784, Town = (\$1,106,686) She then asked for comments/ideas with regard to bridging the gap.

Dan Coughlin referenced the spreadsheet he had created for the 1/21/17 meeting and proposed the following ideas for consideration:

- Increasing the FDK Tuition by the same percentage as the budget increase
- Recurring costs vs. one-time costs. The rate of increase should be based on the recurring costs.
- The possibility of creating a long-term policy of increasing the budget by a set amount along with a percentage increase for inflation (e.g. \$2M per year plus 2%). This would allow for better long-term planning

Discussion ensued with regard to those ideas, as well as others such as:

- The long-time request for the Town to include a 4% increase in the Forecast for the School budget instead of 2%. A 2% increase is not realistic given the contractual obligations.
- The possibility of looking at the School Budget portion of the Forecast in 3-year segments to make it more in line with the duration of the contracts.
- The need to include all town revenue in the Total Receipts (including such things currently excluded such as the meals tax).
- The understanding that adding personnel is a reality but that it is also the main contributor to the budget problem.

- The facts that approximately 50% of teachers in Hingham are on the Town health insurance and 48% have reached the top “step.”
- The understanding that given the fixed costs and contractual obligations there is not a lot of “wiggle room” in the School budget.
- The difficulty presented by changes in both the School Committee and the ACES that creates the need to start the discussion over from the beginning each year. Putting a process in place would make things run more smoothly.

The next ACES meeting was scheduled for February 13 at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:25 p.m. the ACES meeting adjourned and those members moved into a full Advisory Committee meeting. The School Committee meeting moved to the School Department Offices.

3. Discuss School Committee longer term planning and priorities

Chair Liza O’Reilly began the discussion about putting together a presentation that outlines, “Where we are and where do we want to go?” She suggested that the presentation not include costs with one exception; an explanation of Hingham’s per-pupil spending will help to demonstrate that we may need to spend more in order to provide the services that the townspeople are asking for. The presentation should incorporate the long-term priorities of the School Committee and also be consistent with the vision and mission outlined in the current Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan.

The Committee reviewed the priorities previously submitted by each member for commonalities and discussed how to incorporate those into the presentation. It was decided that only 3 or 4 main areas of concern should be discussed for each category (Facilities, Programs, etc.) with the others being kept on a list for further consideration. The Committee discussed the idea of having the overall presentation focus on “Sustaining, Growing and Innovating” and breaking the various priorities into those categories. Other issues that should be addressed include:

- Sustainability and budgeting impacts
- State funds – if the Foundation Commission recommendation is ever fully implemented the School Committee will need to keep a close eye on how those funds are allocated by the Town.
- The potential impact that the proposed 40B units could have on both the regular and special education population.

4. Adjourn

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Edward Schreier,

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko