

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JOINT BUDGET WORK SESSION WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

January 21, 2017

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Liza O'Reilly at 8:41 a.m.

Members Present: Carlos Da Silva, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma, Ed Schreier

Advisory Committee: Linda Kutsch, Donna Smallwood, Dan Coughlin, David Anderson, Lucy Hancock, Jim Taylor

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, John Ferris, and Elizabeth Kurlan

2. Plan for the Morning's Activities and review of Handouts.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly welcomed the group and facilitated a round of introductions.

ACES Chair Linda Kutsch thanked the School Committee and the School Administration for preparation of the materials for the meeting. She further thanked the School Committee for the level services budget that was developed and clarified that the intent of the meeting was not to deliberate but to seek clarification on the budget proposal. Given the financial reality of the town, Ms. Kutsch noted that there is more work to do and stated her intent to work collaboratively as the process continues. The overall goal is to continue the high quality of education, and the main budget issue continues to be personnel increases.

Advisory Committee Chair Jim Taylor informed the Committee that at the present time the Town of Hingham is looking at a 2.4 million dollar deficit, which incorporates the school district's initial budget proposal. Mr. Taylor provided the Committee with a document outlining all new requests submitted to the Town by all other Town Departments. Discussion ensued relative to the request for a Grant Writer who may be in a position to support the School Department, as well as all other Town Departments. Discussion ensued relative to other new items requested by the Town.

Dr. Galo reviewed the budget materials that were included in the packet. Presentation slides of all School Committee Budget Working Sessions were distributed.

3. Working Session (unpacking the proposed FY'18 School Budget; Reviewing Additional Financial Data).

Dr. Galo began by reviewing the proposed School Department budget proposal in the areas of general education, special education, and vocational education. The current proposal represents a 5.60% increase over the FY '17 operating budget. There will be additional reductions that will be factored in and will be presented to the School Committee at their January 26, 2017 Budget Work Session. Dr. Galo then reviewed the Hingham Public Schools Preliminary Proposed FY '18 Budget and the both included and excluded requests made. Questions and answers ensued for each item listed, with rationale for decision making provided. Dr. Galo then reviewed the FY '18 Budget gross vs. net costs, and Mr. Ferris provided a review of the district's enterprise and revolving accounts. Mr. Ferris went on to review the estimated costs of contracts, salary breakdown of teacher salaries by grade and step, annual base salaries for teachers, and the percent of increase between lanes for teacher salaries. Dr. Galo provided an estimate of what would need to be cut if the Schools were provided with a level funded budget for FY18 (approximately 58 FTE).

Mr. Taylor requested a copy of the latest HPS enrollment chart.

4. **Questions and Answers.** Both ACES and the School Committee discussed the materials presented and Dan Coughlin distributed a five-year historical summary of the School Department's budget Analysis. Percentage increases in the Special Education part of the document were left blank, unintentionally. Mr. Coughlin will review and redistribute to both groups. Cynthia Galko requested copies of the other town department capital requests.
5. **Review of Timeline and Proposed Next Steps.** Both groups reviewed the calendar and timelines of activities that will unfold over the course of the next few months. Liza O'Reilly noted that there is a proposed meeting with the Capital Outlay Committee tentatively scheduled for February 1, 2017. The School Committee is scheduled for the fourth Budget Work Session on January 26, 2017, which will include an updated proposal and new total increase over the FY '17 operating budget. January 30, 2017 will be a regular meeting of the School committee. The Joint presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board is scheduled for February 2, 2017. The School Committee's Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for February 13, 2017, and the School Committee is scheduled to vote on the FY '18 operating budget proposal on February 27, 2017. Jim Taylor noted that the Advisory Committee vote on the SC budget is currently scheduled for February 28, 2017 (assuming the Board of Selectmen have voted by then) but that it is more likely that the Advisory Committee vote will take place on March 7, 2017.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that there have been some outside requests for consideration of an additional teacher at Foster School and for an independent evaluation of the Special Education program. On January 30 Assistant Superintendent Jamie LaBillois will present a review of the high-needs subgroup MCAS scores.

6. **Adjournment** On a motion by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was:

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 11:57p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Cynthia Galko