

**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 20, 2018 8:30AM
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Advisory Committee Members Bob Curley, Lucy Hancock, George Danis, David Anderson, Dan Coughlin, Nicole Raphaelson and Donna Smallwood, Board of Selectmen Chairperson Mary Power.

2. Plan for the Meeting and Review Handouts.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly facilitated introductions and reviewed the agenda for the day, noting that the Committee has heard the school department's proposals, but has not deliberated on them. She then reviewed the handouts, including the 5-Year Financial Vision, the most recent Town Forecast, the preliminary School Department budget proposal, and the revolving accounts summary.

Dan Coughlin provided some perspective on the handouts provided by the Education Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee, including the ADCOM Preliminary Budget Analysis and the 5-year historic summary, updated through 1/8/2018.

Board of Selectmen Chairperson Mary Power noted several recent announcements by the GIC that could impact the Town budget.

3. Working Session.

a. Presentation of School Committee 5-Year Financial Vision

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly provided context to the Committee's 5-Year Financial Vision and explained that the purpose of the document is to share information with community about achievements, challenges, opportunities, and state mandates, and to help illustrate why school department costs may be higher than other departments. She then reviewed the key components of the HPS 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. Ms. O'Reilly reviewed the district's organization, staffing numbers, student enrollment, facilities, and historical review of the approved budgets. She then reviewed the structure of the financial vision, noting sections to reflect those initiatives to sustain, those to continue to develop, those that represent opportunities to explore and innovate in relation to those initiatives that are in place, in progress, on deck, or in the foreseeable future.

Ms. O'Reilly then reviewed the handout developed to visually represent these items and discussed several key issues under each quadrant of the grid.

Ms. O'Reilly then reviewed some other items that the Committee will be watching closely, namely: a new DESE Commissioner, MCAS 2.0 (on-device MCAS testing), Curriculum Frameworks (DLCS, Science and Technology, ELA, Math, Social Studies (under review)), the 2015 Foundation Budget Review Commission, slow revenue growth impacts on Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker funding, state aid, DPH mandates (opioid in-person surveys and Freedom of Information Act requests), and some potential 2018 ballot questions, including: graduated income tax, paid leave plan, and minimum wage increases.

Discussion then ensued relative to the presentation the realities of operating budgets, and capital projects, as well as community perspectives relative to per-pupil funding.

b. Presentation of Proposed FY'19 School Budget

Dr. Galo presented an overview of the FY19 preliminary budget requests. Dr. Galo explained that this is a proposed budget, as the School Committee has not voted and adopted this budget and that there will likely be some cuts before the final School Committee vote. Dr. Galo began by reviewing the FY19 Budget Comments and Challenges: Special Education, State Aide and Federal Aid, Retirements and LOAs, Overall Staffing, Collective Bargaining, Overall Enrollment, Other Cost Growth Areas including mandates and professional development.

Dr. Galo then presented overview of Kindergarten enrollment, K-12 enrollment (FY05 – FY18), review of HMS and HHS enrollment changes FY09 – FY18, Review of K-12 projections for September 2018 (how we project enrollment), Review of budget requests for FY19

Dr. Galo then reviewed Special Education enrollment (K-12: 10.98%) and then reviewed the FY19 student services staffing (current and then new requests). Review of Proposed Special Education requests: teachers (secondary 3.0), related services (HHS adjustment counselors, HMS 2nd adjustments counselor or additional guidance counselor, building stipends for liaison leaders), as well as those items added in Summer 2017 (IDEA funded): Foster SPED .5 and East SPED .5, and a review of OOD tuitions (projected at 51 students)

Dr. Galo then reviewed the Special Education Budget as a % of total school operating budget for FY01 – FY19 and the amount of circuit breaker reimbursements. Dr. Galo then reviewed the Circuit Breaker Reimbursement and the difference between 72% and 75% reimbursement rates. The Circuit Breaker reimbursement process was explained, as well as the current underfunding issue (lower reimbursement given increase in state revenues).

Board of Selectmen Chairperson Mary Power noted Governor Baker announced two things (1) state aid is going up commensurate with revenue (3.5%) and (2) Chapter 70 was going to up by \$118 million (2.5%). Forecast group meeting will take place on January 28, 2018 and, by then, hope to have a first look at the state budget.

Dr. Galo then reviewed the FY19 budget, looking specifically at gross vs. net costs and discussed the aging infrastructure and equipment.

c. Review of Additional Financial Data. None

d. Review of HS Gym Windows and Roof warrant article. None

4. Questions and Answers

Dan Coughlin asked about fees, specifically athletics and full-day kindergarten. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly explained that athletics is part of the core program and discussion of fee increases has been tabled until such time as a comprehensive review can be made. She further noted the need for further philosophical discussion of funding full-day Kindergarten.

Discussion ensued relative to staffing requests, the possibility of shared services across town departments, the district's collective bargaining agreements, academic achievement results, and special education staffing requests.

5. Review of Timeline and Proposed Next Steps

Dan Coughlin reported that the ACES subcommittee needs to absorb these discussions and will discuss further. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that a Warrant Article relative to the HHS gym windows was submitted.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko

Documents Included in Meeting Packet

School Enterprise and Revolving Accounts
AdCom Preliminary Budget Requests
Regular and Special Education Gross and Net Spending Budgets
HPS 5 Year Financial Vision Chart and PowerPoint
Five Year Forecast
State Aid Analysis
Hingham Public Schools – Budgets PowerPoint