

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The initial, proposed School Department FY'19 Operating Budget reflected a "level-services" approach, with attention to the reality of changing student demographics and associated necessary services, high school enrollment increases, facilities needs, and resources to meet state DESE requirements and other legislative mandates. The recommended budget will fund contractual obligations, anticipated market increases for goods and services, and projected costs for maintaining existing programs and services included in the base budget.

Among the additional requests in the proposed budget were several counseling roles that reflect the social-emotional needs of students and special education positions to accommodate student service needs at the middle and high school levels. The Advisory Committee's recommended budget will support such needs. The proposed budget will support partial funding of requests for additional high school and middle school core subject instructional positions and elementary math tutors to address achievement gaps. Other administration proposed items are not included in the FY'19 budget as it is recommended. As in the past, the School Committee and School Department have continued to advocate for school funding that allows for continued educational improvements and represents a reasonable balance between achieving the Town's long term financial objectives and maintaining important Town services while understanding the Town's tight revenue picture. We acknowledge the collaboration and leadership of the School Administration, the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Committee and its Education Liaisons and the Town Administrator.

Town Meeting is asked by the Advisory Committee to approve an appropriation of \$52,006,697 to operate the Hingham schools for next year. That is an increase of 4.51% over the FY'18 appropriation. The recommended Capital Budget for the Hingham Public Schools is \$1,023,962, including funds to maintain buildings and update infrastructure components, to meet technology needs, and to replace aging furnishings and obsolete equipment.

The Hingham Public Schools Operating Budget is net of state and federal grants and other offsets from athletic fees, building and grounds usage fees, and Kids in Action revenues in addition to full day Kindergarten tuitions. Such non-tax budget offsets reduce the gross budget costs by nearly \$4,000,000 in FY'19.

The state's FY'19 Circuit Breaker reimbursement offset at \$1,291,632 is greater than in FY'18 by \$100,000; however, that figure is less by approximately \$200,000 than the state's obligation for Circuit Breaker funding.

Full Day Kindergarten personnel costs will be offset in FY'19 by parent paid tuitions, as has been the case for the past three years. Tuition has been increased by slightly over 2% for the coming year. The state-approved, income based sliding tuition scale supports the incremental costs of expanding the previous 2 hour 35 minute program to the current full school day offering.

More detailed information about the proposed budget for FY'19 is available on the HPS website (hinghamschools.com); click on Administration and then select Business Operations from the pull down menu.

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Liza O'Reilly, Chair

Aylene Calnan, Vice Chair

Cynthia Galko, Secretary

Edward Schreier, D.D.S.

Carlos Da Silva

Kay Praschma

Michelle Ayer

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dorothy Galo, Ph.D.