

**HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting 7:00 PM**  
**Middle School Library**  
**MINUTES**

School Committee Chair Jonathan Graziano opened the regular meeting at 7:01 PM with the following present:

Members:

Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Chair  
Ms. Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair  
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member  
Ms. Kelly Knight, Member  
Ms. Lori Nickerson, Member

Also Present:

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent  
Mr. Ralph Dumas, Director of Finance

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Public Comments:** None at this meeting

**III. Public Hearing: FY16 Budget**

Mr. Graziano opened the Public Hearing on the FY16 Budget. Dr. MacLeod noted that the majority of tonight's budget presentation is the same as presented during the December 18, 2014 School Committee meeting; the slides are available on the district website.

Dr. MacLeod noted that additional revenue sources are being pursued and cited the examples of the collaboration potential with A Children's Collaborative for Exceptional Programs and Treatment (ACCEPT) and The Education Collaborative (TEC), and providing daycare before and after school.

Dr. MacLeod explained that since the Building and Grounds Budget presentation, information about a significant increase in electric rates was received. Mr. Dumas explained that the district's electric contract ends in June and the projected increase for the 2015/2016 school year is \$100,000. Several maintenance projects will be delayed in order to offset some of the costs for electricity. The current budget recommendation includes a 5.25% increase over FY15.

Three options for reducing the district budget were reviewed by Dr. MacLeod. The School Committee asked clarifying questions; additional discussion will take place during the January 22, 2015 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Graziano opened public comments.

- Support was expressed for vocational/technical education as an alternative for students who may not wish to attend college. Concern was expressed for the 83% of the budget marked for salaries and the impact that has on other programs.
- Appropriation Committee member Pam Waxlax posed several questions. Personnel numbers were explained by Mr. Dumas and Dr. MacLeod; Mr. Graziano stated that the costs associated with the strategic initiatives will be provided to the Appropriation Committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Scordino, the School Committee voted to close the Public Hearing.

Vote: Favor: 5

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Mr. Graziano noted that before the next budget discussion takes place on January 22, budget numbers from the town should be available. The school department is required to approve a budget and submit it to the Town Manager by February 1.

#### **IV. Reports to the School Committee**

- A. High School Student Advisory Council Representative – None at this meeting
- B. Superintendent's Report
  - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held today for the opening of the ice skating rink.
  - In conjunction with a potential collaboration with ACCEPT or TEC, discussions have begun about moving the preschool program from the Middle School to the Elmwood School.
  - The presentation given to building principals detailing ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) recommendations and training was presented. (Item IV. D. was taken out of order while the video was prepared.) A video created by the Canton Police Department was shown.
- C. School Committee Chair Report
  - Parents are encouraged to follow Hopkinton Public Schools on Facebook and sign up for listserv in order to be aware of the most current information on school closings due to weather.
  - The process for policy review was discussed. By general consensus the School Committee supported sending a listserv message to the public prior to the first reading. The Policy Working Group can then consider any comments that are received. In the case of the creation of a new policy, the notice will be sent out after the first reading. The Chair will respond to questions and comments that are received.
- D. ESBC (taken out of order, during IV. B.): Mr. Graziano reported the educational program is being developed by Center School Principal Lauren Dubeau and Dr. MacLeod. A draft of the program will be available for the School Committee to review at the January 22nd meeting. The subcommittee compiled criteria to be used for site selection, and data is being gathered. The next Public Forum will be held on January 24, 2015 at the Middle School Library. Four sites and 11 combinations are under consideration and conceptual designs for each site were drafted and are available to the community. Ms. Bertschmann suggested holding a Public Forum at, or a tour of, Center School to allow the community members to see the physical building.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Revolving Accounts Balances: The Committee discussed forming a strategy for the amount to be retained or carried-over year to year in Revolving Accounts. The Committee also discussed forming a strategy for using Revolving Account monies to offset the budget. Ms. Bertschmann requested additional history of individual Revolving Account balances and amounts spent. By general consensus the School Committee supported moving this item for discussion on January 22, 2015.

#### **VI. Old Business - None at this meeting**

#### **VII. Items by Consensus:**

- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Hopkins School Student Activities Warrant #15-034 in the amount of \$5,195.00.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #15-035 in the amount of \$9,678.75.
- D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of November 6, 2014 as indicated in the agenda materials.
- E. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to accept a gift in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Spark Capital Partners LLC be placed in the High School Gift Account to be used for Robotics as indicated in the agenda materials.
- F. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$3,204.58 from the "The Sky's the Limit" fundraiser be placed in the Middle School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, the School Committee voted to approve items VII. B. - F.

Vote: Favor: 5                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 0

A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #15-033 in the amount of \$587,058.63.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, the School Committee voted to approve item VII. A.

Vote: Favor: 5                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 0

**VIII. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Favor: 5                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jonathan Graziano, Chair  
Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair