

**HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, December 11, 2014**  
**Executive Session 6:00 PM**  
**Special Meeting/Budget 7:00 PM**  
**Middle School Library**  
**MINUTES**

School Committee Member Jean Bertschmann opened the regular meeting at 6:02 PM with the following present:

Members:

Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Chair (late arrival, 6:11 pm)  
Ms. Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair (absent)  
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member  
Ms. Kelly Knight, Member  
Ms. Lori Nickerson, Member

Also Present:

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

**I. Executive Session**

On a motion made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to enter into an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. A roll call vote was taken:

Jonathan Graziano, Chair	- absent
Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair	- absent
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Lori Nickerson, Member	- yes

The School Committee discussed strategy with respect to collective bargaining and deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto.

On a motion made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to go out of Executive Session at 6:45 PM. A roll call vote was taken:

Jonathan Graziano, Chair	- yes
Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair	- absent
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Lori Nickerson, Member	- yes

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Old Business**

- A. School Committee Policy: Finance Policy Revolving Accounts *JJD*: Mr. Graziano stated that this is the second reading of the policy. The Working Group reviewed the policy based on School Committee discussion during the first reading. School Committee members asked clarifying questions and suggested additional changes. Further discussion on the international student tuition account will be held at a future School Committee meeting. By general consensus the School Committee supported deeper discussion of the Revolving Accounts overall, especially around the strategy and guidelines for retaining and/or spending balances. This discussion will take place during a School Committee meeting in January, prior to the third reading of the policy.
- B. School Committee Policy: Transportation Policy *EEA* Amendment: The changes suggested by the School Committee during the previous reading were included in this draft. By general consensus the School Committee supported sending out a listserv message to let the community know that the policy has been amended and will be posted for public comment. The process for policy approval was discussed with general consensus support for sending out a listserv message when the policy is posted and ready for public comment.

- C. School Committee Policy: Public's Right to Know *KDB*: No changes to the policy were suggested by the School Committee; a notification via listserv will be sent out to alert the public that the policy is posted on the website and available for comment.

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

**V. Items by Consensus:**

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #15-028 in the amount of \$333,378.70.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #15-029 in the amount of \$50,940.71.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Hopkins Student Activities Warrant #15-030 in the amount of \$2,340.00

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, the School Committee voted to approve items V. A – C.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

**VI. Budget**

- A. Budget Overview: Mr. Graziano reviewed the process to date; department budget presentations have been completed and questions from the School Committee were submitted to the Superintendent. A public presentation of the Superintendent's proposed budget will be given next week, December 18, 2014. The Appropriation Committee will attend the meeting and there will be a time for questions from both the Appropriation Committee and School Committee members.

Dr. MacLeod noted that the process used for the creation of the FY16 proposed budget is substantially different than that used in the past. Dr. MacLeod reviewed the adjustments made since the original budget presentations were given to the School Committee. A number of the original requests were re-evaluated and a determination was made that some of those requests could wait until the following year without negatively impacting the programs. Mr. Dumas reviewed the changes which result in a 3.64% increase in fixed costs and 2.08% increase in discretionary spending and which combine for a total of a 5.72% increase in the proposed FY16 budget.

School Committee members asked clarifying questions. Dr. MacLeod noted that additional Chapter 70 funds will be received by the Town of Hopkinton because Full Day Kindergarten is now available. The FY16 proposed budget supports the projected increase in enrollment. School Committee members expressed discomfort with the 5.72% increase in this budget over the FY15 budget; at this point in the budget process budget numbers from the Town are not available. The increase in enrollment and increase in need for Special Education services are two areas that contribute to the need for an increase in the FY16 budget. The Administration agreed to review the budget once more to determine if there are any additional requests that could be put on hold for this budget cycle.

**VII. Adjournment**

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

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jonathan Graziano, Chair  
Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair