

# HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Special Meeting 7:00 PM

Middle School Library

## MINUTES

School Committee Chair Ellen Scordino opened the regular meeting at 7:07 PM with the following present:

Members:

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

Also Present:

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

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **II. Special Meeting/Budget Presentations:**

- A. Center School Budget Presentation – Center School Principal Lauren Dubeau presented the FY17 Budget for Center School and explained that the budget is based on priorities and essential needs. Projected enrollment, class size, and the number of classrooms were reported. A literacy coach, which will be shared with Elmwood School, an intensive special education support position for students transitioning from preschool to Center School to meet student needs, and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to support teachers and students are personnel requests included in the budget. Ms. Dubeau reviewed the expense portion of the budget which includes support for ELA instruction.

Board of Selectmen Brian Herr and School Committee members asked clarifying questions. The progress in student growth of the co-teaching model was shared by Mrs. Dubeau.

- B. Elmwood School Budget Presentation – Interim Elmwood School Principal Anne Carver presented the FY17 Budget for Elmwood School. Enrollment projections, class size and the number of classrooms were reviewed. Based on enrollment projections and the move-ins that occurred this year, one additional classroom position is requested. A .5 Learning Specialist, a shared literacy coach, and an increase from .6 to .8 for the Administrative Assistant are additional requests included in the personnel section of the budget. The expense portion of the budget was reviewed.

Appropriation Committee member Mike Manning joined the table. School Committee members and Mr. Herr asked clarifying questions. Mrs. Carver presented the positive facets of the co-teaching model experienced by teachers and students. Ms. Nickerson requested that information on the different types of classrooms, co-teaching, job sharing and looping, be provided to parents at the start of the school year. Mr. Graziano requested further information on the increase for the Administrative Assistant in this budget without a reduction in the additional clerical hours approved in the FY16 Budget and included in the FY17 Budget. Ms. Scordino requested information on the rate of student progress in regular classrooms.

- C. Hopkins School Budget Presentation – Hopkins School Principal Tim Kearnan presented the FY17 Budget for Hopkins School. The budget supports the Strategic Plan Initiatives begun in FY16. Enrollment projections, number of classrooms, and class sizes were shared. A request to add an

Adjustment Counselor is included in this budget. Mr. Kearnan reviewed the expense portion of the budget.

School Committee members, Mr. Herr, and Mr. Manning asked clarifying questions. Mr. Kearnan provided data on the co-teaching model, combined with additional specialized instruction techniques and materials which have increased student growth. This year the declining trend in student achievement was reversed.

- D. Special Education Budget Presentation – Director of Student Services Dr. Karen Zaleski presented the FY17 Budget and reviewed the changes to the personnel portion of the budget which included additions and reductions. Expenses were reviewed by Dr. Zaleski.

School Committee members, Mr. Herr, and Mr. Manning asked clarifying questions. Mr. Herr suggested providing more information on the structure and requirements for special education students.

### III. Old Business:

- A. **Prioritize Capital Requests:** (taken out of order, after IV.)

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to prioritize the Capital Requests prior to the next Capital Improvements Committee meeting.

**Discussion:** Mr. Rogers joined the meeting. The pros and cons of prioritizing the Capital Request List were discussed. The bus parking lot, the scoreboard, and the turf field may have potential to be joint articles based on their use by various groups within the town. Mr. Graziano noted that it is early in the capital request process and as more information becomes available, it will impact the discussion. Ms. Bertschmann suggested dividing the list into categories.

Motion: Move to approve the revised preliminary Capital Improvement Request List for FY17 was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

### IV. Public Comment (taken out of order, after II. D.)

- In response to a query from a community member, Mr. Herr suggested starting with the basic facts about Special Education and expanding the information from that point. Dr. MacLeod noted that a Public Forum could be a good way to share information on the SpEd program.

### V. Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Scordino, Chair  
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair