

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 8, 2016
Special Meeting 7:00 PM
High School Library
MINUTES

Call to Order in Open Session

School Committee Chair Lori Nickerson opened the regular meeting at 7:03 PM with the following present:

Members:

Ms. Lori Nickerson, Chair
Ms. Kelly Knight, Vice Chair
Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Member
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member
Ms. Nancy Cavanaugh, Member

Also Present:

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

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Reports

A. Budget Recap – Dr. MacLeod

Mr. Ghosh explained the need for a new position to aid with professional development and with teacher assessments, along with overall support for the Technology Department. With this position, the need for outside contractors for professional development will decrease.

The Connolly bus company recently acknowledged that busses are violating the weight restrictions for 2 bridges on South and North Mill. This requires rerouting of 8 busses to avoid those bridges. A bus will be added in January to get students to and from school in a timely manner and a letter will be sent to parents involved.

In response to the School Committee's request during a previous meeting, Mr. Dumas reviewed the history of Circuit Breaker funding over the last 7 to 8 years.

B. Budget Reports

a. Principals

1. Center School – Mrs. Dubeau and Dr. Zaleski began the presentation by explaining the uniqueness of the preschool as part of HPS. The preschool must use a rolling admission process which means that once a child who qualifies for Special Education turns 3 years old, the responsibility for education falls to the district. Fifty percent of enrollment in the preschool is designated for Special Education. Staffing for the preschool is, and has been, a challenge. An outside consultant was retained to provide ideas for restructuring the program to begin to be proactive instead of re-active. The requests for additional personnel for FY17, some of which will roll into FY18, were reviewed. Mr. Dumas explained the costs and funding sources associated with the request for this year. The preschool budget is included in the Special Education budget; however, these requests were not included in last week's Special Education budget presentation as they had not yet been identified. Ms. Nickerson explained that the Committee will not officially address the needs for FY17 until next week.

School Committee members and Mr. Herr asked clarifying questions.

Mrs. Dubeau reported that class sizes in both first and kindergarten grades will be 23 per class in FY18. No new personnel are requested in this budget. In anticipation of the move to the new building, supplies will be depleted over the year. A cost projection for additional personnel positions and expenses that will be needed after the new school opens was requested by the School Committee.

The most recent increase in enrollment projections will be discussed with the ESBC, the MSBA, and the community. It is unclear for how long the new school building will be able to accommodate enrollment based on the historical increases in students and enrollment projections. School Committee members asked clarifying questions.

2. Elmwood School – Principal Anne Carver introduced new Assistant Principal Aidan McCann. Based on enrollment projections for FY18, class sizes in 2nd and 3rd grades will be 21.5 to 21.9. No new personnel positions are requested; expenses include increased supplies for science textbooks and materials. Celebrations at Elmwood included best overall scores in the past four years, increases in percentage of students scoring Advanced and Proficient in math and ELA, and title 1 students advances in writing. School Committee members asked clarifying questions and offered comments.

3. Hopkins School – Principal Vanessa Bilello introduced Assistant Principal Julie Babson. Based on enrollment projections, one additional section is requested for FY18. An increase of 0.1 in the General Music Teacher position is also included in this budget. An increase in expenses is due to the need for consumables to meet the new science standards. School Committee members and Mr. Herr asked clarifying questions and offered comments.

Dr. Cavanaugh reviewed the progress made over the last three years at Hopkins School to increase the percentage of students at the Advanced and Proficient levels in both math and ELA.

4. Middle School – Mr. Keller noted that a decrease of 72 students is projected for the Middle School next year. The reductions and increases in personnel and expenses were reviewed. The number of students achieving the Advanced level has increased in both math and ELA. HMS is ranked in the 97% percentile when compared to other middle schools in the Commonwealth. School Committee members, Mr. Manning, and Mr. Herr asked clarifying questions.

5. High School & Athletics – Mr. Bishop reviewed the increases and decreases in personnel and expenses. The percentages of students scoring Advanced or Proficient have increased in both math and ELA. Mr. Bishop noted that moving to the SML model has contributed to this improvement. Special Education has also shown improvement. School Committee members and Mr. Herr asked clarifying questions.

The FY18 Athletic Budget was reviewed by Mr. Bishop. Increases are proposed in Contracted Services for the use of the Fruit Street turf fields for field hockey, in Professional Services for coaches' state mandated certifications and association membership dues, and in Supplies to purchase new uniforms on a new uniform replacement cycle. School Committee members, Mr. Manning, Mr. Herr, and Mr. Khumalo asked clarifying questions.

In preparation for the Superintendent's FY18 Budget, Dr. MacLeod requested suggestions and comments from the School Committee. Requests included: having the Preschool budget in the same format as the other schools; and providing a breakdown of the ins and outs of personnel. Comments included: weekly updates on changes were very helpful; and highlighting the improvements in student

achievement resulting from investments that have been made over the past several years was very appreciated and important.

III. Public Comments: None at this meeting

IV. Items by Consensus:

Recommended Motion: move to approve the Items by Consensus as outlined below,

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #17-036 in the amount of \$58,771.75.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Elmwood School Student Activities Warrant #17-037 in the amount of \$3,465.00.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to accept the gift in the amount of \$155.00 from Sager Sports to be deposited in the Hopkins School Gift Account.
- D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to accept the gift in the amount \$277.49 from Scholastic, Inc. to be deposited into the Hopkins School Gift Account.

Motion made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Mr. Graziano.

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


X. Adjournment

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Nickerson, Chair
Kelly Knight, Vice Chair

