

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

Members Present: Craig Adams, Chair
Grace Pool, Vice Chair
Lori Hampsch
Lisa Alberto
Kristen Poisson

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Meg Aston, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Susan Mulready, Bright Beginnings Center Director

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Media Center at the Junior-Senior High School, located at 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present. The meeting was turned over to the Superintendent for a review of the FY 19 proposed budget.

FY '19 Budget Workshop – Referring to the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Book, the Superintendent reviewed the proposed revolving account budgets for food services, transportation, extended day programs, preschool, athletics, and school choice. Ms. Crebase noted positive balances in the food service and preschool accounts and recognized Food Services Director Cheryl Bober and Director Susan Mulready for the success of their programs. New expenses in each account were highlighted, including the installation of air conditioning in the elementary cafeteria and additional storage in the extended day account; the inclusion of a part-time director in the preschool account; and additional teaching positions in the school choice account.

A discussion followed regarding the proposed expenditures and related program improvements. The infrastructure expenses in the extended day account would permit the summer program to be scheduled at the Memorial School. The part-time BBC director would eventually replace the current stipendiary position to better meet the needs of the growing preschool program. The high school computer science teacher would support the new grant-funded computer science pathway. Finally, the additional elementary classroom teacher was presented as one option considered by the administration to address the reduction of a position several years ago. Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously approved the elementary classroom teaching position and the high school computer science teacher. The revolving account budgets were approved as presented by consensus.

With regard to the operating budget, Ms. Crebase reported that the proposed \$12,503,408 total reflects an increase of 4.98% over last year's appropriated budget. The projected increase, in the amount of \$592,634, is attributable to contractual obligations, program improvements, special education costs, and other increased general fund expenses. Ms. Crebase reported that the Town has requested an increase of no more than \$360,000, i.e. 3%, for the school budget. A discussion followed regarding the potential of removing proposed programmatic improvements from the budget, the inability to use school choice funds to absorb the Town's request due to their use supplementing the operating budget, and whether the amount of the requested decrease is definitive. The members, by consensus, agreed not to reflect any reductions in the proposed budget at this time.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. Poisson, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: April 3, 2018