

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

Members Present: Lori Hampsch, Chair
Alysia Butler, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Craig Adams
Jennifer McKeon

Also Present: Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Donna Hennessy, Memorial School Assistant Principal
Timothy Johnson, Jr.-Sr. High School Assistant Principal
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Director

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law, GL chapter 30A, section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hopedale School Committee was conducted via remote participation. The Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 6:01 pm under these provisions with a quorum present. She invited members of the public to monitor the meeting by using the information provided on the Town's School Committee website and announced that the meeting was being recorded. A video of the meeting will be available on the Town website. Members of the public were encouraged to email comments or questions to schoolcommittee@hopedaleschools.org. The Chair added that there would be no opportunity for live public comment as this was an informal budget workshop.

The Chair and Superintendent presented a review of the budget process to date and noted the challenges inherent in this year's process. The proposed budget has continued to evolve as guidance is received from Town officials and as savings and efficiencies are considered. The currently presented Fiscal Year 2021 budget, in the amount of \$12,386,120, reflects a 2% reduction (\$252,778) below the Fiscal Year 2020 budget and is based on the most recent recommendation from Town officials. Reductions, in addition to those already incorporated into the budget, include removing two scheduled professional development days from the staff calendar and cutting the monetary equivalent of 4.6 teaching positions which could be handled through attrition.

A discussion followed regarding the potential loss of positions, the absence of critical staff training, the uncertainty of anticipated state and local funding, the scheduling of the annual public hearing for June 9th and potential assistance from municipal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds for COVID-related expenses.

By consensus, the Committee determined that the \$12,386,120 proposed budget is the minimum acceptable budget to maintain the integrity of the school's programs and services for FY 2021.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mr. Adams, the Committee unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: June 9, 2020