

**Hopedale School Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
Thursday, June 25, 2020  
Annual Public Hearing**

Members Present:     Lori Hampsch, Chair  
                          Alysia Butler, Vice Chair  
                          Lisa Alberto  
                          Jennifer McKeon  
                          Kristi Brytowski (member-elect)

Also Present:         Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent  
                          Lynne Davis, School Accountant  
                          Sam Hockenbury, Finance Committee Chair

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 4:03 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 website and announced that the meeting was being recorded and streaming live. 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](mailto:schoolcommittee@hopedaleschools.org).

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the duly advertised and posted annual public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021 school budget. The Chair explained that the Committee's goal is to present a budget to the residents that recognizes the limited resources of the Town while maintaining services by seeking grant funding, applying for extraordinary special education relief from the state, and finding efficiencies.

The Superintendent presented a brief historical review of the budget process to date and summarized versions of the budget that have been presented to the Finance Committee, along with the services reduced in each. The most recent version, as recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen at their recent meeting on June 22nd, reflects a budget amount of \$12,728,000 which would restore teaching positions and professional development days. The Chair offered an alternate budget in the amount of \$12,638,898 which would restore most positions. A discussion followed regarding the uncertainty of the needs for reopening school and the importance of maintaining the quality of education. The Finance Committee Chair shared that the higher budget amount would avoid severe cuts to services, allow the schools to meet mandated expenses, help to protect property values, and preserve the quality of life.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Alberto which was seconded by Mrs. McKeon, the Committee unanimously voted by roll call to approve a school budget for Fiscal Year 2021 in the amount of \$12,728,000. The Finance Committee Chair noted that his Committee's recently recommended town budget will require the approval of a \$1.3 million override and that lack of support for the override would require a 5% cut in all department budgets with some services being terminated.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Butler which was seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the public hearing at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary  
APPROVED: July 7, 2020