

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

Members Present: Alysia Butler, Chair
Lori Hampsch, Vice Chair
Lisa Alberto
Jennifer McKeon
Kristi Brytowski

Also Present: Karen M. Crebase, Superintendent
Derek Atherton, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal
Karen Cosgrove, Pupil Personnel Services Director
Brian Miller, Memorial School Principal
Kristen Poisson, Bright Beginnings Center Principal

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 and August 7, 2020 orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this Budget Workshop of the Hopedale School Committee was conducted via remote participation. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm under these provisions with a quorum present. The meeting was recorded and streamed live. A video of the meeting will be available on the Town website.

This meeting was an informal workshop for the members to review and discuss the proposed FY2022 school budget as recommended by the Superintendent and Budget Sub-committee.

Mrs. Hampsch provided an update on recent Finance Committee and Select Board meetings noting that the Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled for May 22, 2021; the Town is facing a current deficit in its FY2021 budget; and the Finance Committee has asked departments to submit budgets of 1% over their FY2021 appropriations.

The Superintendent presented an updated FY2022 school budget in the amount of \$12,706,522. This restores the 2% cut in the FY2021 appropriation and includes an additional 0.54% increase for FY2022. The reduction from the draft FY2022 budget dated February 10, 2021 is due to new attrition information, ESSER II and III federal funding, and circuit breaker funds.

The Chair opened discussion on the proposed budget. Members discussed the budget process to date, the cuts made in FY2021, the reliance on school choice funds to cover general operating costs, and the future ramifications of reductions when federal assistance ends. The members acknowledged that reliance on funds outside the Town budget will hinder future budget planning. By consensus, members supported the restoration of the FY2021 cuts, the limited increase for FY2022, and presenting the proposed budget without further reductions.

Adjourn to Executive Session- The Chair announced the need for an executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Hopedale Education Association since an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the Committee. Upon a motion by Mrs. Hampsch and seconded by Mrs. Alberto, the members voted by roll call vote to enter executive session for the stated purpose as follows: Mrs. Alberto-yes; Mrs. Brytowski- yes; Mrs. McKeon-yes; Mrs. Hampsch-yes and Mrs. Butler-yes. The Committee would not be reconvening in public session and the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: May 4, 2021