

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

Members Present: Lisa Alberto, Chair
Kristi Brytowski, Vice Chair
Jennifer McKeon
Alysia Butler
Kaitlin Federico

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent
Lynne Davis, School Accountant
Chris Hodgens, Finance Committee Chair, and members of the Finance Committee

This Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and School Committee was held remotely 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 limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted and every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings as provided in the orders. For this meeting, members of the public who wished to listen or watch the meeting were invited to do so by using the information included in the agenda and every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Town of Hopedale website as soon as possible after the meeting.

Mr. Hodgens called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:01pm and welcomed the members of the School Committee. Mrs. Alberto called the School Committee meeting to order at 7:01pm.

1. Agenda Items -

- **Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 School Department Budget:** The Superintendent introduced herself and the members of the School Committee to the Finance Committee and the members of the public who were viewing the meeting. She offered a review of the school department's budget goals and the rationale for the requested budget increase which includes contractual obligations, special education mandates, general needs and improvements, restructuring the facilities director position, and building level staffing needs. The presented increase, in the amount of \$735,001, is a 5.78% increase over the FY 2022 budget. A discussion followed regarding deferred maintenance of buildings and other long term budget needs, chapter 70 allocations, and per pupil expenditures. The Superintendent invited members of the public to review the School Committee's FY 2023 Budget Book which will be posted on the Town's School Committee website the following day.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion and questions, Mrs. Alberto declared the School Committee meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: April 5, 2022