

## MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

January 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
Remote Meeting via Zoom Webinar Meeting

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Dave Anderson at which time he adopted the following statement from School Committee Chair Ni, regarding remote meetings:

*CHAIR COMMENT: This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.*

Member of Advisory Committee (ACES) participating remotely: Dave Anderson, Nancy MacDonald, Alan MacDonald, Even Sheehan, and George Danis.

Members participating remotely: Chair Kerry Ni, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Nes Correnti, Liza O'Reilly (joined the meeting at 7:30), Carlos DaSilva, Jen Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Central Office Members participating remotely: Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas, Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, and Director of Human Resources Susan D'Amato

Visitors: There was no sign in as this was a remote meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee budget meeting held on January 13, 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye Tim Dempsey – aye Kerry Ni – aye

### 3. Review the FY'23 Operating Budget proposal and provide an update if any

Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris reviewed corrections made to the proposed Operating Budget for FY '23 from previous week's budget presentation.

- Media and Communications position was removed from the FY'23 budget as it was included in prior year's budget and hired during the current year. Total new initiatives would be \$850k.

#### **4. Hear an update from the Student Service Department on FY 2022 initiatives and preliminary budget road map for future years**

Executive Director of Student Services, Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, gave a presentation of FY 2023 initiatives and preliminary budget road map for future years.

The presentation included:

- The historical context of the program
- The conceptual framework of Special Education – Legal and Medical
- Working through a Transdisciplinary model and Transdisciplinary Teaming approach
- Special Education enrollment from 2016-2022, both in-district active IEPs and out-of-district students.
- Special Education percentage by school
- Special Education evaluations, initial evaluations, and reevaluations – a significant increase from 2019 and 2020
- Special Education eligibility, Special Education and 504 Enrollment, Percentage of Students with Impairments – all showing a significant increase from 2019 and 2020
- 2022 Initiatives
- Roadmap for 2022-2025
- Professional Development
- Universal Design for Learning
- Tiered Systems of Support
- Specialized Reading
  - Goalbook
  - Safety Care

o Staffing

- 1.0 Special Education Teacher: HMS
- 1.0 SLP (RISE)
- 1.0 Secondary Academic Evaluator
- 2.0 Secondary Team Chair/504 Coordinator

o Equity

- Full Time Secondary Inclusion Facilitators
- Restorative Practices
- Courageous Conversations ▪ University Partnerships

o Programming

- Continued analysis of effective programming ▪ Transdisciplinary Teaming
- Updated Procedural Manual

The School Committee and Advisory Committee members asked questions and provided feedback on the Special Education presentation. Noted the following:

- Number of evaluations / assessments increased significantly. Requires number of hours for each student when evaluation is being done. General Education teachers also impacted as they need to provide information relating to eligibility.
- Number of students who are exhibiting anxiety has increased
- Consistent trends in surrounding towns / benchmark towns
- Space for programming is limited

5. Review the budget proposals with discussion of the following Special Education functions
6. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris reviewed the budget proposals with for Special Education Functions 2100B, 2300B, 2350B, 2400B, 2700B, 2800B
7. Discuss allocating funds from the Athletic revolving account to the renovation of a town dock for the use of the Hingham High School sailing team and to act as appropriate

Liza O'Reilly shared with the Committee that a dock used by the sailing team was destroyed during the major storm in the fall. Materials were donated by Hingham Lumber and the booster group to rebuild the dock. There is still a financial need of \$8000. Sailing Coach Joe Griffin was on the call. He stated the dock would be a build in a new location. It would allow the Sailing team to launch earlier in the season if it was built on the inner Harbor.

Michelle Ayer asked about the balance left in the Athletic Revolving balance. John Ferris stated there is \$535k. HPS did not use Athletic Revolving funds last year due to state and federal COVID monies received during the year. Looking to keep Athletic Revolving balance at \$200k to help fund the turf replacement.

Nes Correnti asked about insurance for dock. Mr. Griffin noted the boats are insured by the school. John Ferris will discuss insurance needs with insurance company.

The Committee discussed the allocation of funds from the Athletic revolving account to the repairs of a town dock for the use of the Hingham High School sailing team.

• On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Nes Correnti and then amended by Michelle Ayer It was **voted by the School Committee**: To allocate up to \$8,000.00 for the restoration of the Town Dock subject to adequate and appropriate insurance.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye Tim Dempsey – aye Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

7. Allow time for the committee members to discuss the overall budget and talk about future timeline

Kerry Ni shared a statement at the start of the meeting, indicating a budget is a policy document, what we fund is what we value. She also shared that the pandemic is not over and students are still recovering from the learning loss.

Liza O'Reilly stated she would like to see the Town forecast information so that we can make decisions based on that. Also, she noted she would like to have a discussion on student fees.

Michelle Ayer reiterated that a budget is a policy and a value statement. The Town values its schools, staff, students and families. She noted that it is been challenging times for all parties.

Effects of Covid will be lingering. Hoping to fund all the needs to help support students and families during this difficult time.

Jen Benham noted the learning loss has not been fully addressed. Students still need the services to recover.

Timeline: The Sustainable Budget Task Force will present results of its work on February 1, 2022. The Committee will hold Public Hearing on February 7, 2022. Joint meeting with the Select Board and Advisory Committee will be February 8, 2022.

**8. Other items not reasonably known 48 hours in advance** none

- Former Superintendent Dorothy Galo was on the call and asked about the potential for an override request in the future. Also noted there were 400 students who left the district and asked the Committee and Administration to understand where the students went.

**9. Adjournment**

On a motion by George Danis and seconded by Nancy MacDonald

It was **voted**: To adjourn at 9:19 PM

Dave Anderson – AYE

Al MacDonald – AYE

Evan Sheehan -AYE

George Danis -AYE

Nancy MacDonald - AYE

Respectfully Submitted By: David Anderson

Minutes Approved 4/14/22