

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
125 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035 5:30 pm
June 9, 2020**

6:00 PM – Regular Meeting Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85151270588>

Meeting ID: 851 5127 0588

Present: Klesch, Phifer, Brugger, Percy. **Absent:** Fasihuddin, Desjardins

1. Call to Order

Klesch called for a motion to open the meeting at 6:00 pm. Phifer made the motion, Brugger seconded and the vote was 4-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

In response to inquiry from Klesch, McKenzie confirmed that there were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Presentations/Discussion Items

FY21 Budget and Staffing Plan

Klesch introduced the topic of the FY21 budget. She addressed the current financial situation due to COVID, adding that there are many unknowns for the Fall, and it appears that the budgets would be extremely tight for FY 21. Klesch also spoke of the staffing for grade 6, explaining that the student population for the incoming 6th grade did not warrant the additional third teacher that was put in place in previous years to meet the needs of that class.

McKenzie spoke to the reduction of 1 FTE teacher. She explained how the reduction in staff would work per the Unit A contract and that seniority does not factor in for teachers without Professional Teaching Status. McKenzie said that the Town was going into FY21 with a 1.5 million dollar deficit. She stated that the Town has always been extremely generous in their funding to the schools, with funding above what is required. At the recent Tri Board meeting, it was decided that the additional local revenue of 1.69% to the schools be voted on by Town Meeting.

McKenzie spoke of the unknown staffing needs to comply with prescriptive guidelines for school re-opening but said at this time, the schools have to demonstrate fiscal responsibility in response to the Town's generosity. McKenzie said there is the option of retaining 100% of staff but School Choice Funds would have to be used to do so.

6:30 Fasihuddin joins meeting

McKenzie informed the Committee they will need to vote on the FY 21 budget in the amount \$8,795,122, from the \$8,642,788 previously approved by the committee.

Klesch asked for input from committee members. Phifer asked McKenzie to explain what School Choice is for the benefit of the public. McKenzie provided that information, including School Choice Policy and what type of programs the money is reserved for, such as funding of grants and special education tuitions. Brugger asked if she had any information about the effect of COVID on School Choice.

McKenzie responded that it is an unknown. Fasihuddin asked about School Choice population. McKenzie said there was an increase in School Choice in both incoming and outgoing students. She said that information was available in the budget document. Klesch mentioned the School Choice marketing campaign and new programs available at HA. Fasihuddin said that she thought HPS was trending upwards in School Choice. McKenzie acknowledged that parental concern about student health and new state guidelines may impact enrollment in FY 21. In response to a question from Phifer, McKenzie said that HPS student population was approximately 20% School Choice.

McKenzie recapped what the School Committee specifically needed to vote on. Phifer asked about the job description for a position that was in the packet. McKenzie said that the Committee would need to vote to accept the job description. McKenzie said that the leadership team and members of Unit A had met and decided that based on the unknown needs for the next school year, they would propose a One Year Permanent District Wide Substitute as a Unit A position. Klesch and Fasihuddin said they thought it was a creative and flexible solution to meet the needs in an uncertain environment. Klesch asked for a motion to amend the FY21 budget with the updated local contribution of \$7,370,801, authorizing the use of School Choice funds in the amount of \$854,334 in order to retain current FTEs. Fasihuddin so moved. Phifer seconded and the vote was 5-0-0. Klesch then asked for a motion to accept the job description for a District-Wide Permanent Substitute teacher for one year. Fasihuddin so moved. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

4. Public Comment Period

Klesch acknowledged the public that had joined the meeting and thanked them for their input and expressing their views and experiences. School committee members expressed their personal positive thoughts about the schools. Fasihuddin spoke of the importance of diversity and inclusion in the schools. Brugger said it is important that the community voices are shared with the Committee. Dowd thanked everyone who attended the meeting and said their commitment and support was outstanding. Phifer shouted out to McKenzie for her presentation and reminded people to go to the June 20th town meeting and vote. Jason Burns, HEA president thanked the committee for their reconsideration of this issue. Nevins Smith reminded the public of the logistics of the Town Meeting in regards to health guidelines. Lynn Morelli thanked everyone for finding the best resolution to this issue.

McKenzie said that she would keep everyone informed regarding new DESE guidelines and the next meeting would discuss how to implement the guidelines with input from all stakeholders.

5. Action Items

- a. Approval of FY21 Budget – Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-5
- b. Approval of Job Description for District-Wide Substitute- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.

6. Next Regular Meeting Date

- a. _____ June 2020

7. Adjournment

At approximately 7:00 p.m., Klesch asked for a motion to adjourn. Phifer so moved. Percy seconded and the vote to adjourn carried 5-0-0.