

Public Budget Hearing FY 14 Proposed Budget and Special Article

Call to Order: Chair, Ms. Robie Grant, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Present: Chair: Ms. Robie Grant , Vice-Chair/Secretary: Ms. Molly Keegan

Members: Mr. Tom Waskiewicz, Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Ms. Humera Fasihuddin

Others: Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Dee Rex, Admin. Asst.; Kathy Boyden, Director of Student Services, Jeff Udall, Elementary Principal; Pam Bombardier, Connie Douglas, Jack Horrigan, Brenda Pelissier, Corey Feltovic, Meredith Feltus, Deirdre Jekanowski, Erin, Jekanowski, Alyssa Kristek, Brian Kristek, Jeff Kristek, Marion Kristek, Stacey Mushenski, Elaine Tudryn, Dana Whitney, Lowell Whitney

Budget and Article Overview: Superintendent Moyer and Business Manager Chris Desjardins presented the FY14 Proposed School Budget. In terms of the actual budget, this idea of reducing the inequities in technology enriched curriculum at the Elementary school, specifically, we are hoping that the School Committee will approve a special article, a separate vote from the budget for technology at the Elementary school. It will reduce the inequities of student access to technology enriched curriculum. There are only 2 Promethean Boards at the Elementary school. Formative assessments means a teacher having assessment access and knowing immediately which students got the concepts they were teaching and immediately which ones they need to work with the next day. The International Society for Technology and Education has standards for every grade including kindergarten about what students should be able to do with technology. Their standards focus on using technology to analyze, do some critical thinking and support learning. We are hoping that this will have an impact on reducing our school choice out numbers, where parents are looking for more enriched curriculum in other school districts. The Elementary School has 100 more students than Hopkins Academy. The computers at HES are .3 computers to 1 student and at HA the ratio is 1.3 computers per student. The elementary has 72 computers that are 6-10 years old. Interactive Boards there is 1 board per 6.62 students at the elementary and 1 board per 1.8 students at Hopkins Academy. Part of this is because the Hopkins Academy Board of Trustees has funded technology substantially over the years for the high school. This has created an inequity of access to students. The Technology Proposal comes to about \$150,000 and it includes equipment, wireless installation at the elementary school, some site licenses and it includes substantial professional development for the teachers. Without the professional development that happens all year, it is not going to get used. This is the Technology Article we are hoping the school committee will endorse. The level funded budget includes maintaining all programming. There are no staff reductions in this budget. People equal programs. Zero dollars were budgeted for FY13 for any salary increases. When the contracts were settled for this year, there are salary increases for this year. The 3-year contracts were just approved for a 1% increase this current year, 2% next year and 2% the following year. Donna and Chris explained the reasons for increases in the FY14 Proposed Budget. Donna asked for additional money to replace 2 outside doors at Hopkins Academy for maintaining the goal of keeping the schools physically, intellectually and emotionally safe. Donna and Chris presented the budget at a Select Board meeting and at a Finance Committee meeting. Donna stated that at the meeting both Boards were very welcoming and very supportive. They felt after subtracting the \$40,000 for the doors that the proposed budget of \$5,960,000 was more than fair given the financial status of the community.

Questions from the Public - NONE

Molly encouraged all people in Town that are registered voters to please make every effort to make it to the Town Meeting on Thursday, May 2nd. If you have lived in Hadley long enough and been to Town Meetings, the plan going into Town Meeting is not always what happens on Town Meeting Floor. It is always good to have people who are there supporting the school programs to react to any changes. One of her concerns is that the Town had to close a funding gap of approximately \$800,000 when they started the process. The schools always represent a very large line item. Some members of the Finance Committee are a little concerned as to how the Select Board had made recommendations to balance that. Molly stated that we have to be vigilant, because anything can happen right up until the night of Town Meeting.

Humera added, only 20% of Hadley's 5,000 person population has children or grandchildren in the schools. It is especially important that parents of children in the schools come out to Town Meeting. Humera strongly urges parents if you care about the kind of education that your children are getting, the curriculum and technology tools that they will be exposed to in our schools, then you need to be at the meeting and support that article.

Superintendent Moyer stated that the Technology Article is not to equip the schools with the state of the art technology. This is catch up because we have not spent money on the technology over time. From this point forward we need to budget for technology updates the same way we budget for textbooks. Molly stated that interest rates are at an all time low and municipal rates are even lower. The issue that the Select Board is facing is that the need is so great because every department that has a pent up capital need is coming to the table at the same time with the same argument. All the more reason that we need the support for the Technology Article.

Public Hearing on the FY14 Proposed Budget Adjourned at 7:05pm.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Chair: Ms. Robie Grant, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

PRESENT: Chair: Ms. Robie Grant; Vice-Chair/Secretary: Molly Keegan
Members: Mr. Tom Waskiewicz, Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Ms. Humera Fasihuddin

OTHERS: Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Dee Rex, Admin. Asst.; Kathy Boyden, Director of Student Services, Jeff Udall, Elementary Principal; Pam Bombardier, Connie Douglas, Jack Horrigan, Brenda Pelissier, Dan Butterfield, Corey Feltovic, Meredith Feltus, Deirdre Jekanowski, Erin, Jekanowski, Paul Kelley, Alyssa Kristek, Brian Kristek, Jeff Kristek, Marion Kristek, Andrew Morrison, Stacey Mushenski, Elaine Tudryn, Dana Whitney, Lowell Whitney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (Dunlavy/Waskiewicz) moved to approve the minutes of (October 22, 2012; January 30, 2013; February 25, 2013; March 6, 2013.) **Vote 5-0**

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Sign Unit A should be under Action Items.

Mike Rooney is sick so he will not present the Hopkins Program of Student until the April meeting.

Town Survey will be discussed under Information and Discussion Items.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - NONE

INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

Recognition of Tom Waskiewicz - Robie stated that for many people as long as they have lived in Hadley without Tom Waskiewicz on the School Committee. Tom has always unfailingly listened so respectfully to parents. Tom has served with 17 members, 15 of whom are still alive and well in Hadley. All of whom were very happy to sign a plaque wishing you well and thanking you for your service. Jack Horrigan stated that on behalf of the people who work in the schools that we want to extend our appreciation for all your years of service. You have been on the school committee for many years, a dedicated parent, a coach and everyone in the schools really appreciate everything you have done on our behalf, the support you have provided, the thoughtfulness that you have brought to meetings. Mr. Horrigan has heard Tom say many times how proud he is to be a graduate of Hopkins. We are proud to have a graduate like you who has gone out and done so much and continues to do so much for his community. I know that your service on the School Committee is ending, but you are working on fund raising for the Fire Department and with the Farm Museum. Tom embodies the very best of community service.

Tom stated that he has the utmost admiration, appreciation and thanks for all that you do on a daily basis to make Hadley Schools second to none. He thanked the administration for all of their leadership, vision, continuity and steady hand that you have provided through the best of times, but also through those challenging years that we have experienced. No one can be more proud of our students than Tom is. It has been an honor to serve them ultimately as they progress from grade to grade and graduate on to the military, work force or onto college. Tom thanked his colleagues, past and present, on the School Committee. No one can ever question your commitment to the Hadley Schools. It has been a privilege to work with you and I wish you the very best. Thank you.

Music and Athletic Booster Groups - The Town has purchased land to expand the athletic field at Hopkins Academy. There was a field committee, there was a design and we got a price for the design, which was about 3 times more than was expected. We had hoped to fund the development with a combination of state grants and matching grants, but the price came in at \$1.6 million. Robie spoke with a field committee member and they suggested that we reconvene that committee and talk about how they had envisioned what the priorities would be. Robie intends to do this next month. Representative John Scibak has contacted Supt. Moyer and let her know that he is interested in being as supportive as he can in getting the fields in place as we had envisioned them. He will attend the field committee meeting. Rep. Scibak indicated that he was going to be in contact with our Town Administrator and check on the status of the open space plan and make sure that it has been started. The money to do that was voted on at Town Meeting last fall. Pam Bombardier and Brenda Pelissier have served on the Music Booster Club for over 10 years. They have raised funds for Band trips and for new uniforms. Pam and Brenda have been working with David Skelly, music teacher at HA, until he gets his Music Booster Club people in place. The 1st band trip in 1998 cost about \$50,000-\$60,000. The last trip was over \$100,000. Fundraising has been great with the townspeople and parents who are very supportive and the local businesses have been very generous. David Butterfield, Paul Kelley and Andy Morrison are new members of the Athletic Booster Club. They plan on doing the usual fund raising; i.e., selling food at basketball games, selling chicken to go and holding the night soccer games in the fall. Unfortunately, this year the fall night soccer games were cancelled due to the threat of EEE. That is always a very profitable fund raiser. They welcome any and all fund raising ideas and volunteers that would like to help out.

Updates - Superintendent Search - There is a community survey on the Hadley District website to find out what characteristics are expected and what are the top 3 priorities you are looking for in a new Superintendent for Hadley Schools. Please fill out the survey by April 15, 2013, to get your voice heard.

Assistant Superintendent Search - We are receiving many applicants for this position. Supt. Moyer plans to have finalists by the end of April or early May.

Hopkins Principal Search - Brian Beck has been hired as the new principal at Hopkins Academy. Brian will begin his new position on July 1, 2013. Brian has a strong curriculum background which is an excellent asset.

Feedback on Process from Principal Screening Committees - The comments received from screening committee members thought that the process was well-run and organized. However, screening 52 applicants required a lot of time.

HES Technology Configuration - The technology needs were discussed for the article to be brought to Town Meeting. The MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education wants all schools to meet their goal for 1 computer for 1 student in all schools in MA. MCAS testing is going to be computerized within the next school year. The schools currently do not have the technology to meet these needs.

Helping Hearts for Hadley Schools - Humera announced that the 5K Road Race has already collected over \$10,000 for the Hadley Schools. Stacey Mushenski, Connie Douglas and all the volunteers were praised for their vision, hard work, sense of community and planning for this fund raiser. The race is on April 7th at 10:30am. This is a day long event with booths set up for information, food for sale and entertainment plus a whole lot more.

Food Service Job Descriptions - Diane Zak, cafeteria manager, updated the attached job descriptions for her staff to bring them current as to what their responsibilities are now. Supt. Moyer stated that all job descriptions are in the process of being updated over the next year. Server/Kitchen Worker HES, Kitchen Worker/Baker/Cashier/Dishwashing HA, Kitchen Worker/Vegetable Prep/Dishwashing/Clerk HES, Kitchen Worker/Salad Bar Prep/Server/Dishwashing HA, Cook/Kitchen Worker/Cashier HA, Cook/Kitchen Worker HES, Kitchen Worker/Baker/ Dishwashing/Clerk HES, Worker/Baker/Dishwashing/Clerk HES job descriptions were unanimously endorsed by the School Committee.

Action Taken by Select Board and Recommendation Made by Finance Committee for FY 14 Budget -

YTD Financial Report - As of February 28, 2013, we stand at 63.44% of the budget expended after 67% of the school year. Once the salary figures are updated due to the signing of the contracts for 3 years 2012-2015, the percentage spent will increase. The grant funds status was discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of FY14 Proposed Budget - (Keegan/Fasihuddin) made a motion to approve to adopt the FY14 Budget of \$6,735,467 as presented. VOTE: 5-0

Adoption of Special Technology Article - (Dunlavy/Waskiewicz) made a motion to approve the Special Technology Article of \$150,000. VOTE: 5-0

Awarding of Contract for Special Education Van - We only received one bid and that was from Dattco. We are not keeping the old van it will be used as a trade-in for the new van. (Keegan/Dunlavy) made a motion to award the contract for the Special Education Van to Dattco in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. VOTE: 5-0

PERSONNEL REPORT

Resignations, Retirements and Appointments - Kathy Boyden, Director of Student Services, is resigning effective 6/30/13 and Brenda Pelissier, Student Services Secretary, is resigning effective 4/05/13.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - April 22, 2013

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Hopkins Academy Music Room

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Dunlavy) Enter into executive session for the purpose of citation for pending litigation. The committee will not reconvene in Regular Session at the conclusion of the executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: In Favor: Grant, Keegan, Dunlavy, Fasihuddin, Waskiewicz

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: (Dunlavy/Fasihuddin) move to adjourn the meeting @ 8:440pm. VOTE: 5-0

Approved by School Committee: 4/22/13