

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
8:00pm
Remote Meeting via Zoom Webinar Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Chair Dave Anderson at which time he read the following statement 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.

Mr. Anderson opened the meeting by presenting an overview of the most recent Town forecast and certain findings of the Sustainable Budget Task Force.

He noted that the latest Town forecast for total appropriations in FY23 of \$138mm. The budget included in the **v1.3** Forecast included no additional requests and is balanced; there is no deficit. But balance is achieved using \$3.7mm in one-time funds, including \$1.48mm of FB, which can be thought of as the town's savings account. The forecast includes NO new additional requests. It represents a "Level services" budget. Any additions to this forecast budget will require more fund balance usage; increasing the \$1.48mm already proposed.

Town Forecast v1.3 (3-7-22): Total Appropriation	\$ 138,110,256
Forecast Deficit	\$0
Non-recurring funds (Federal and FB) included in 3-7-22 Forecast **	3,737,509
Adjusted 3/7/22 Deficit excluding all non-recurring funds	(\$3,737,509)
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Included in 3-7-22 Forecast:	
Municipal additional requests	None
Education additional requests	None
Total	
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** Non-recurring funds	
ARPA (Direct/State)	\$ 1,383,115
ARPA (Plymouth County)	473,502
ESSER	400,000
"Excess" Unassigned Fund Balance	1,480,892
Total	\$ 3,737,509

Mr. Anderson then commented on the forecast balanced FY 2023 budget in the context of the Town's latest 5-year forecast. FY 2023 is balanced with the use of \$3.7mm in one-time funds but, in the out years, the uses exceed the sources from FY 2024 on which is clearly not sustainable for the Town.

S:\Finance\FY23 Balanced.xlsx]5yr Forecast
FORECAST V 1.3 03/07/22

FIVE-YEAR PRELIMINARY FORECAST

	ACTUAL FY2021	ESTIMATE FY2022	FORECAST FY2023	FORECAST FY2024	FORECAST FY2025	FORECAST FY2026	FORECAST FY2027
Total Sources	131,856,971	138,225,020	140,248,695	139,269,190	142,768,427	146,386,009	150,112,630
Total Uses	124,390,977	138,409,361	140,248,695	145,072,328	148,759,849	152,751,950	156,968,068
EXCESS (Shortfall)	7,465,994	(184,342)	(0)	(5,803,138)	(5,991,422)	(6,365,941)	(6,855,438)

Mr. Anderson then summarized the Budget Scenarios set forth in the [Hingham Sustainable Budget Task Force Final Report dated 1/31/22](#).

Mr. Anderson concluded his overview with a presentation of the proposed Education budget. As of 3/9/22, the School Committee approved Education budget for FY 2023 was as follows:

School Committee Approved FY 2023 Budget	\$ 62,677,112	
Approved FY 2022 Net Budget without ESSER offset	61,792,059	
Increase FY 22 to FY 23	\$ 885,053	1.43%

	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2022 Approved	YoY Change
Overall Budget	\$ 62,677,112	\$ 61,792,059	
Excl. OOD Sped Tuition	(1,342,850)	(2,669,685)	(1,326,835) 50%
Net Budget	\$ 61,334,262	\$ 59,122,374	
YoY Change	\$ 2,211,888		
% chg	3.741%		

The second set of numbers above show the requested budget increase excluding changes in a largely un-controllable line item related to "OOD" or Out of District Placements. These are out of district tuitions that Hingham Public Schools must absorb in its budget to provide critical services to certain Hingham students that are delivered outside the district.

The \$885k increase shown at the top includes additional requests as follows.

Office	Description	FTE	Cost
District	Fine Arts Director	1	120,240.00
Central Office	Payroll and Benefits Manager	1	95,000.00
Central Office	Data Analysis Lead	1	80,000.00
Elementary	School adjustment Counselor - East	1	74,553.00
Elementary	School adjustment Counselor - Foster	1	74,553.00
Elementary	School adjustment Counselor - PRS	1	74,553.00
Elementary	School adjustment Counselor - South	1	74,553.00
Central Office	HR Clerical Support	1	40,963.00
High School	Student Service Admin Assistant	1	31,951.00
District	Assessment Tools Teaching		50,000.00
District	Two new Van Drivers	2	49,633.00
District	Subs		32,000.00
District	2 New SPED Vans (lease or buy)		26,284.00
District	Assessment tools PD		18,000.00
District	Late Bus for High School		8,326.00
TOTAL		11.0	850,609.00
	Van drivers	(2.0)	
	Adjusted FTEs in New Requests	9.0	

A discussion ensued with the ACES members about the Education budget request for FY 2023, the latest town forecast, and the use of one-time funding to close gaps in both the FY 2022 and proposed FY 2023 budget. Acknowledging that only the Select Board can put an operating override before the Town for its consideration and that the Select Board had opted not to do so for the April 2022 Annual Town Meeting, ACES and the Advisory Committee considered the FY 2023 Education budget requests without the possibility of an FY 2023 operating override.

ACES members debated the need for certain new resources as requested by the School Committee and school administration in the context of an FY 2023 budget that was already out-of-balance necessitating the use of one-time funds to balance it.

After a thorough discussion, including input from residents attending the meeting and from certain members of the School Committee, ACES decided against recommending an FY 2023 Education budget that would add new recurring expenses (FTEs). Consequently, ACES voted unanimously to recommend to the full Advisory Committee an Education budget for FY 2023 in the amount of **\$61,826,503.00**, which, based upon the School Department budget presentations, represented a level services budget with no new additional requests.

On a motion by George Danis and seconded by Nancy MacDonald it was **voted**: To adjourn at **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