

Minutes of the Hingham Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee

March 17, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom

Chair Dave Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He read the following statement:

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending 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.

ACES members present: Dave Anderson, Andrew McElaney, Evan Sheehan, Eryn Kelley, George Danis

School Members present: Kerry Ni, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jen Benham

HPS Admin present: Paul Austin, John Ferris

Dave Anderson, Chair of ACES, provided a framework to talk about ACES impressions of student achievement data presented by Dr. LaBillois, and how the data will inform ACES decision making regarding the recovery budget as it pertains to the number of proposed FTEs and how to pay for it.

Evan Sheehan credited the school administration for giving a succinct picture of the regression and describing the needs of the schools.

Eryn Kelley mentioned that she believes the statistical analysis is helpful and that the recovery budget contains reasonable requests. She asked how we address the regression in a financially prudent and responsible way.

George Danis added that he received positive confirmation that DIBELS scores are predictive, and he believes the historical data helps to understand the variances in special needs. He asked when the needs of the recovery budget will go away, and what are the needs from pre-covid that won't go away.

Andrew McElaney questioned the discrepancy in high MCAS, SAT, and AP scores in Hingham as documented by DESE in comparison to the achievement gaps in Dr. LaBillois' presentation and asked how they translate into the need for more special ed teachers. Dr. LaBillois responded that the presentation provided trends within the last four years which documented achievement gaps within special ed and children with disabilities (subgroups with Hingham population). Furthermore, Hingham's subgroups do not perform as well as our benchmark communities. There is also an

achievement gap from previous years for neurotypical students as a result of COVID. We must resolve historic problems and the COVID related problems.

E. Sheehan pointed out that many parents supplement their students' education, and this handicaps students whose families don't have the economic means; D. Anderson shared a few slides from Dr. LaBillois presentation. He asked about the timeline for recovery.

Liza O'Reilly advised that some of the partial FTEs at the High School do not necessarily mean that we are hiring another person; they could be making a part-time teacher into a full-time teacher. So we are not actually asking for 34 more people. Total new hires is less than 34.

Questions and comments from the public were addressed.

ACES scheduled a meeting for March 22, 2021 at 7:00 to vote on the proposed school budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
David Anderson