

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**  
**APPROVED**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Janet Krzyzaniak, Don Houston, Ken Traum, Richard Houston, Deborah Norris, Amy Bogart, Ginni Haines, Mark Zankel, John Wuellenweber, and Matt Cairns.

**PUBLIC ATTENDEE**

Matt Belanger, School Board alternate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Janet Krzyzaniak, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm, at the Hopkinton Town Hall. The agenda was adjusted to accommodate the timing needed to discuss some of the items.

**MATT CAIRNS, SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

Matt conveyed the impressions and reactions of the School Board to the content of the June 7, 2017, Budget Committee minutes and to Janet's discussion with him.

*Matt Cairns responses, on July 12, 2017, to questions from the Sub-Committee.*

**The Budget Committee seeks information on the costs related to providing Special Education in Hopkinton School District. During the 2016/17 budget development process, legitimate questions were raised by Hopkinton residents regarding the costs of the town's current approach. Without making or suggesting any judgment around the District's approach to Special Ed, the Budget Committee is seeking baseline data to deepen our understanding around the costs of our current program. In this set of questions, we use the phrase "special education" broadly, intending to include all students that have been identified as having complex educational needs/disorders and who are receiving special services.**

**1.What percent of Hopkinton students are currently receiving some form of special education?**

*Using 2016/17 (PreK-12) numbers, out of the 935 students, 173 students on a special ed program of some sort, that's approximately 18.5%. For the upcoming school year, 18.6% of the students are identified.*

**2. How does that compare to the NH statewide average?**

*Using 2013 numbers from a Federal Data Website, 14.6% of NH students are on an IEP. Nationally 12.9% were on an IEP.*

**3. What is the overall cost of providing special education in Hopkinton?**

*They will work on finding those figures.*

**4. Which budget lines in the school budget incorporate the costs of special education?**

*These numbers are hard to identify by line items. They will try to get some of the numbers that they can identify specifically as special ed.*

**5. What is the average cost-per-student of providing special education support in Hopkinton?**

*The cost for educating a student, per year, in Hopkinton is \$14,883 for elementary level and \$16,945 for secondary level. It's hard to break out the Special Education costs out of those figures.*

**6. How much of that cost is raised locally, and how much comes from federal or state funding?**

*Revenue received from the state or federal funding include: \$223,250 from Medicaid School Reimbursement; Special Education Adequacy \$2,000 per student for the 2018 school year for a special ed student with an IEP; CAT Aid reimbursement of \$83,700 for FY2016; IDEA Grant money received for 2016 was \$256,450; and pre-school special education money from the state was \$5,347.*

**7. How does the average per-pupil cost of special education compare to the average cost/ student of the rest of the student body? (note: we are trying to understand the incremental cost of providing special ed)**

*See responses to questions 3 and 5.*

**8. Are we providing more special education services than are required by state and federal law? If so, can you articulate how Hopkinton goes above and beyond?**

*We give the appropriate services and education for that student, at that particular time.*

**9. Recognizing that the costs of special needs students are rising much more quickly than regular education costs, what options could the town consider for reducing the costs of providing needed services and support to Special Ed students?**

*The answer to this would be great to know, the cost is driven by need and the law.*

**In addition, Matt Cairns wanted to share information on where are students coming from?**

*John Wuellenweber made a comment that advised the School Board not to share any identifiable information regarding students in special education.*

John Wuellenweber made a comment that advised the School Board not to share any identifiable information regarding students in special education.

Concern was shared about the content of the minutes being taken and posted. Discussion took place about what should be and should not be included in the minutes.

Rich Houston commented that there is a need, from the community, to understand why so much money is being spent on special education. Discussion followed about how best to approach this need.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2017, DRAFT MINUTES**

Amy Bogart motioned to accept the June 7, 2017, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes, as written.

Ken Traum seconded the motion, recognizing that discussion would follow. Discussion followed about what should be amended in the minutes. Amy and Ken withdrew their motion and second. Matt

Cairns made a motion for Budget Committee to delay approval of the draft minutes from June 7, 2017, so that Mark Zankel can redraft the Other Business portion of the minutes, consistent with his concern and the suggestions made at the meeting today, for discussion at the next meeting. Don Houston seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and all approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Don Houston motioned to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Matt Cairns seconded. A vote was taken and all approved to adjourn. The next meeting will be on August 9, 2017, at 5:30 pm, at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Clay