

Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247

February 17, 2022

Special Budget Session Minutes
[Zoom Recording](#)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

Present: Rose Bisson, Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, Ann Gruenberg, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Diane Gagnon.

Staff and Others Present: Superintendent Frank Olah; Principal Sam Roberson; Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux; Recording Secretary Dayna Arriola.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff: no comment.

3. Budget Presentation and Discussion

A draft version of the proposed FY2022-2023 budget and *Projected Grants and Other Funding* was distributed to board members. Dr. Olah explained that the budget is impacted by a 15.5% hike in health insurance and the price of heating oil. He is coordinating with EastConn to join a consortium which would allow the school to purchase 10,000 gallons of oil at a rate of 2.80 per gallon. The school's current rate is 3.20, and 7,500 gallons of heating oil have been consumed thus far this year. Dr. Olah stated that, although the school used 16,000 gallons last year, the HVAC system, due to Covid regulations, was in constant use, a condition the school is not anticipating for next year. Additionally, the school must pay a penalty for unused oil. Chairman Bisson noted that the school's new mini-split system should save costs as it uses electricity.

Dr. Olah explained that there are savings in the elimination of two paraprofessionals whose educational services will not be required next year. While non-union personnel are budgeted for a 3.5% cost-of-living increment, which includes the paraprofessionals' step increases, the administration is not budgeted for raises next year. Dr. Olah will provide the paraprofessional step schedule for review at the next meeting. Russ Moffitt also asked the administration to calculate the estimated cost of the filtration system if it is used less next year.

Members praised the administration and Finance Committee for producing a budget which increased by only \$31,152, or 1.54%. To the question of the Minimum Budget Requirement, Sally Lehoux reported that the amount is not yet known, however it was acknowledged that the Board of Finance could hold the budget to last year's amount. Though Ms. Lehoux stated that last year's budget exceeded the MBR, Mark Becker noted that the Board of Finance's cuts resulted in the reduction of positions and one bus. Dave Halbach asked where the cuts could come from if the budget was reduced. Juan Arriola suggested that the substitute line could be decreased as the amount this year was impacted by Covid. To Mark Becker's question on the Education Cost Sharing grant, Dr. Olah stated that there will be no change to the ECS grant until 2024.

4. Audience for Citizens and Staff: no comment.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Russ Moffitt, seconded by Dave Halbach, to adjourn the meeting at 8pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Arriola

This is a draft version of the Minutes until approved by the Board of Finance.