

Hingham Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
Town Hall - School Administration Conference Room  
7:00 pm  
MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Katherine Gaughen, Jennifer Doan, Michelle Ayers, Liza O'Reilly, Kerry Ni, Courtney Orwig, Dr. Galo, Liz Kurlan, Tami Keary, Nancy Mannion, Diane DeNapoli, Lisa Migliaccio, Richard McManus, Deb Carleton, Adrienne McGarr, and Ed Schreier

The Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM. Minutes from the December 13th SEPAC meeting were approved.

The financials are known to be the same at \$8997.75. To be reconciled with deduction of \$50 SNAP holiday gift card contribution and \$367.50 for teacher thank you cookies.

MAIN TOPIC of Meeting

Dr. Dorothy Galo presented the HPS FY 2019 Budget Proposal Budget - Special Education prepared by the Administration Team

- See Attached documents provided by Dr. Galo
  - Special Education December 2017 Enrollment by School
  - In-District by Primary Disability (508 students)
  - Out-of-District by Primary Disability (49 Students)
  - FY 2019 - Student Services Staffing
  - Special Education Pre-Preliminary Budget as of December 29, 2017
  - Special Education Proposed New Staffing for FY 19
  - Out-of-District Tuitions (2018-2019, projected for 51 Students)
  - Special Education Budget as % of Total School Operating (Preliminary)
  - Circuit Breaker Reimbursement - DESE Date Updates 10/02/17
  - FY 19 Budgeting - Gross vs Net Costs
  - Proposed FY 19 Budget by Category

Circuit Breaker concern this year will be that we will be reimbursed at 65% instead of the typical 75%. This issue will effect all of Massachusetts. Approximately \$200K is the difference. Dr. Galo has asked for support by signing a Circuit Breaker Letter and submitting to legislature. A sample letter will be forwarded to Jennifer Doan for distribution to the SEPAC members.

- Sample letter is attached

### Follow-up discussion and questions:

1. Katherine Gaughen asked about providing a needs based budget, using the IEP's to justify the SPED budget.
  - Dr. Galo, spoke on how administration used to provide this information in the past and it didn't matter. The Selectmen and Advisory Board only think of equity and overall numbers.
  - Revenue "Box" needs to be explored and see how we can increase this number
  - Does SEPAC have to play an external role to advocate for services from an aggregate assessment across IEPs
2. Diane DeNapoli spoke of prioritizing "needs" not "wants" and the law to provide services. Asked Dr. Galo to take some time to discuss the SPED needs while presenting to Advisory Board.
3. Michelle Ayers spoke regarding the need to get the towns people to put more money in to the revenue box.
4. Katherine Gaughen asked whether or not there are any provisions in the budget regarding the continuation of funding for the Special Education Improvement Taskforce? External evaluations could be decided on within the task force and where will the funding come from?

### UPCOMING DATES

- January 11th - School Committee working session on Special Education Budget
- January 18th - Work planning meeting 11am at Town Hall
- January 31st - All Town Forum hosted by PTO Presidents
- February 1st - SNAP/Dr. Murphy/Hingham Cares/HPD Presentation on Special Needs population drug use and prevention - Hingham Public Library, Whiton Room
- February 6th - School Department presents to joint Selectman and Advisory Board
- February 8th - Dr. Englander will present on Bullying and child development at the High School - Town Wide
- March 22nd - Larry Epstein will present on challenging behaviors in child hosted by SEPAC - location tbd
- March 28th - SNAP Pizzapoolza

### COLLABORATIVE WORKPLAN

- See work plan document attached for updates

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm