

To the Hampton Board of Education,

The Hampton Education Association supports the previously proposed 2020-2021 budget with an increase of 3.99%. To reduce it further would jeopardize our efforts toward our students' growth with social emotional learning and skill development in content area programs. Hampton students need a team of two teachers to deliver more personalized instruction.

The Hampton Education Association supports the current classroom configuration and budgeting for a .6 FTE Media/Technology teacher. This means for the 2020 - 2021 school year, there would be one pre-kindergarten teacher, one kindergarten teacher, two classroom teachers for Team A, one classroom teacher for Team B, and two classroom teachers for Team C. No further classroom teacher reduction should be made that would impact the current classroom configuration. With further reductions, the implementation of state mandated Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI) would be negatively impacted. The SRBI interventions must be delivered by a highly qualified certified teacher. Students deserve to have a developmentally appropriate, rigorous education, from early childhood through sixth grade, with a classroom teacher in their grade level.

Our current classroom configuration, two teachers per team, provides our high needs students the opportunity to readily access their teachers for the required additional support and instruction. This also allows teachers the ability to provide more direct, intensive instruction in order to help the students succeed socially, emotionally, and academically.

In closing, the Hampton Education Association does not support any further cuts to the proposed 2020 - 2021 budget. Deliver the proposed budget to maintain the current level of teacher staffing to the town's Board of Finance. Defend the increase with the reasons why the increase is necessary and stand with our school program and the students' social emotional and educational needs.