

Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

Minutes

Present: Leroy Walker, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Sheila Varela, Kristan Bagley Jones, Dr. Kevin Donahue, Mary Gormley, Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Janet Sheehan, Margaret Gibbons

Meeting called to order at 7:16am

FY18 Budget

Mr. Walker stated that \$1.25 million is the current cut suggested for the FY18 budget by the Warrant Committee. There is discussion as to whether free cash from the town will support one-time costs. The town is looking at putting \$350,000 into the budget presently. Superintendent Gormley stated that she will go over the cut list at the Leadership Team today.

Discussion regarding certain positions followed. Ms. Bagley Jones voiced her concerns regarding the cut of the Wood/Auto teacher. Ms. Varela voiced her concern regarding the cut of the technology teacher (spoke of the MCAS and PARCC testing on line). Superintendent Gormley will discuss the cuts again with the principals. Mr. Walker added that there is no way of making a \$1 million cut comfortably. It will be painful and that will have to be made clear to people.

Superintendent Gormley reported that they are watching Kindergarten numbers. There is concern regarding the number of Kindergarten classes needed and space due to increasing enrollment. If an override is to occur, we have to emphasize the fact that we have so many new families moving to Milton. The group discussed the need for 2 co-taught classrooms for Grade 3.

We have to take a further look at cutting positions. If we go to \$1.25 million in cuts, it would be cutting 17 positions. Impact statements are prepared and at the next Finance Subcommittee meeting we will have a tentative cut list of \$750,000. Ms. Varela asked if the School Committee would be ready to present to the PTOs in February. Mr. Walker feels it will be likely that the cut list will be approved at the first February School Committee meeting. The weeks of February 6th and 13th would be the time for budget meetings with parents/guardians. The PTO presentations will have to be completed prior to the all-day meeting with the Warrant Committee in February. Ms. Varela requested that all budget presentations be posted on the website.

Mr. Walker reminded everyone that the meeting this evening with the Board of Selectmen is posted as a full School Committee meeting in case collaboration is needed among School Committee members. He asked that the February 1st School Committee meeting be scheduled at 6:00pm so that School Committee members can attend the Town Hall meeting at 7:30pm.

Discussion followed regarding Kindergarten enrollment. 291 students are currently registered. If there are over 339 students, we need 16 classes (at full capacity). Over 362 students would require a 17th classroom. The Subcommittee discussed the upcoming meeting of NESDEC and the School Committee to discuss projected enrollments. Members asked about long range planning for space and stated that

the School Committee will need to make a decision to inform the public if the numbers indicate a new facility is needed. Ms. Varela asked about having another company look at enrollment numbers. Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek will get an estimate for a second opinion.

Motion was made to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18am