

Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2017

Minutes

Present: Leroy Walker, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Margaret Eberhardt, Sheila Varela, Mary Gormley, Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Janet Sheehan, Margaret Gibbons

Meeting called to order at 7:15am

FY18 Budget

Cut/Reduction List

Changes were made to the cut/reduction list. Wood and Auto teacher removed from list and replaced cut with 1.0 math teacher at Milton High School. Superintendent Gormley explained the reason for this change is to maintain the program and the impact on interested students. Mr. Walker agreed that a substantial number of students would have been impacted.

Dr. Craghead raised questions about electives. Superintendent Gormley explained that .2 of 3 positions at Pierce Middle School were proposed to be cut. There was discussion about the disruption to 3 teachers. Challenges include cutting untested subjects. Dr. Craghead stated her concern in the English teacher cut, and Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek replied that the English position was an elective. When asked if any of these cuts mean eliminating a program, Superintendent Gormley replied that she will check and if so would change the language on the list to show "eliminate". Further discussion followed regarding the difference of long term and regular subs and the changes from full-time to part-time positions and how that could impact class size. The group also discussed how cutting positions from full-time to part-time may result in teachers leaving the district to seek full-time employment elsewhere. These impact statements were provided by the principals. Mr. Walker noted that all cuts will be painful. He added that we have to trust the Superintendent and the Leadership Team and advocate for an override. Ms. Varela echoed that we will have to live with these cuts if we do not pass an override.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the FY18 cut/reduction list as presented in the amount of \$762,400. Motion was seconded by Dr. Craghead.

Vote: 3-0-0

Ms. Eberhardt asked about the people attached to these positions. Superintendent Gormley replied that she will be meeting with the staff Tuesday or Wednesday before this information is made public at the School Committee meeting.

PTO Budget Presentations

The group discussed what should be included on the slides for the budget presentation. Mr. Walker would like to include both the presentation and the cut/reduction list. Mr. Walker will ask Charlene Roche to survey School Committee members for dates they are available for these PTO budget presentations. Superintendent Gormley added that there will be 4 presentations and parents/guardians will be invited to attend any presentation.

Ms. Eberhardt asked if the budget had ever been presented at the senior center. Perhaps all town services should be included? Ms. Varela asked if the presentation would be done at the Warrant Committee meeting next week. Mr. Walker replied that the Warrant Committee looks like more of a discussion of the cuts and the impacts. Ms. Varela added that between now and June, the hope is to educate the citizens about the override.

Superintendent Gormley stated that they will prepare the budget presentation and the cut/reduction list with impact statements and forward the presentation to the School Committee to edit. Mr. Walker asked that feedback on the presentation be sent only to Superintendent Gormley.

The group also discussed changing the Finance Subcommittee meeting schedule to Monday mornings at 7:15am.

Motion was made to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05am