

**Belmont School Committee Work Session Minutes
Joint Meeting School Committee &
Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
April 16, 2020
Remote Meeting**

SC Members Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary
Ms. Catherine Bowen
Ms. Amy Checkoway
Mr. Michael Crowley
Ms. Tara Donner
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. John Phelan, School Superintendent
Mr. Michael McAllister

WC Members Present: Mr. Jack Weis, Ms. Anne Helgen, Mr. Geoffrey Lubien, Mr. Paul Rickter, Ms. Chris Doyle, Ms. Laurie Slap,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

2. Potential Impact of COVID-19 on FY20 and FY21 Budgets

The district currently placed a freeze on hiring and purchases for FY20. While there will be some vacancies due to non-renewal, resignations or retirement the district is not posting any openings until there are better projections for FY21.

Remote learning has not had an impact on the budget at this time, operation costs are likely to be the same despite the current closure.

There was a discussion about the possibility of reimbursing families for fees related to sports, extracurricular activities, busses, Kindergarten and Pre-K. Also, the district has collected some fees for summer programming which may not occur. The administration was still looking into the impact of such reimbursements and may recommend that the School Committee vote to reimburse families for a portion of funds paid for time that they were not in school. At this time there is still the projection that school will re-open on May 4th so it might be too early to take such action.

Mr. DiCologero presented a spreadsheet projecting the impact of the current closure on revolving funds as non-payment, refunding families and a decrease in expenses will all impact these accounts. The impact would likely involve an aggregate balance of approximately \$860,839 less than what was originally projected. While the overall balances for each account are projected as positive, the overall loss would likely impact FY21. The group had an extensive discussion regarding the impact of the current closure and possible closure extension on these accounts.

Superintendent Phelan noted that he and Amy attended a meeting of the EDCO Collaborative Board where they discussed a projected deficit that may result in EDCO asking towns to contribute funds to help close the FY20 gap. The deficit is related to enrollment challenges, loss of grants, and management challenges. The School Committee agreed to schedule an Executive Session for Thursday, April 23, 2020 to discuss this further.

Mr. DiCologero noted that there were some possible issues regarding bussing contracts as they relate to current closure. As this involves contractual issues, it will be discussed further in Executive Session.

For FY21, there are no definitive numbers for the true gap. The Financial Task Force met recently and discussed a potential loss of \$4 million from state and local funding for FY21. Additional meetings will be scheduled to discuss necessary changes to the draft FY21 budget.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee on Thursday, April 23, 2020 after the Executive Session.

3. Meeting Minutes

Time did not allow for the approval of minutes.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by



Andrea Prestwich, Secretary