

**Belmont Finance Subcommittee/School Committee/Warrant Committee Education
Subcommittee Joint Meeting
May 7, 2020
Remote Meeting**

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. FY21 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Phelan provided a list of 14 budget reductions in more detailed form as requested by the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee at the last Finance Subcommittee meeting. The reductions totaled \$929,000. They included reductions in curriculum materials, supplies, custodial overtime, substitutes and High School and Middle School teaching positions. The Committee members discussed the potential impacts to course offerings and student needs by reducing these budget areas, as well as the particular costs associated with a continued response to COVID-19. Superintendent Phelan stated the School Department reserves the right to adjust the budget reductions later in the summer once more is known about potential funding from the state

3. FY20 Q3 Budget Update

The School Department had plans to hire additional nurses and a social worker for the high school before the shutdown. That is still an important priority given the circumstances related to COVID-19. There will be a need for nurses to respond to whatever plans are put in place regarding tracking the health of students when school re-opens and to support a unique student-transition in returning to school.

A meeting which will include all educators will take place on May 8, to discuss school re-opening plans for fall and what will be required. Funds have already been

used to purchase wipes, sanitizers and machines to clean schools. The committee members discussed budgetary implications of the potential forms of operation in the fall. It is hoped the Foundation for Belmont Education may be able to help but their funding is down as well.

4. Out-of District Funding Plan Update

Superintendent Phelan has been meeting with Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services regarding the possible need for out-of-district placements once students return to school.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by



Kate Bowen, Secretary