

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM
JOINT MEETING WITH THE WARRANT COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING ROOM
MARCH 1, 2018**

SC Members Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
 Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 Mr. Murat Bicer
 Ms. Kate Bowen
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

SC Members Absent: Ms. Andrea Prestwich

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:16 p.m. The meeting was a joint meeting of the School Committee, Warrant Committee, and Board of Selectman regarding the FY19 Budget.

2. **FY18 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

School Budget

Superintendent Phelan presented a draft version of the FY19 budget. He stressed how helpful it has been to have the funding from the override that was voted in FY16. This funding increase allowed the school department to hire 20 FTE teaching positions between FY16 and FY18, and provided funds for Student Services, Out-of-District tuitions and Special Education Transportation.

Superintendent Phelan noted that the primary cost drivers for the budget are increased student enrollment, health insurance premiums which are expected to increase by 11% for FY19, and Special Education costs which are expected to increase 7% . Some unknown variables include: further increases in student enrollment and increases or decreases in State and Federal Grants.

Superintendent Phelan provided some financial highlights related to staff and contractual increases, health insurance, special education tuitions, etc. When the FY19 general fund roll-forward amounts are taken into consideration, there is a 3.7% increase in the FY19 budget from the FY18 budget.

Strategic Plan-based Cost Drivers which include 9.0 additional FTEs will add an additional 1.6% increase over the FY18 budget for a total of \$828,366. External Cost Drivers which include health insurance rates increases, (11%) special education tuition increases (7%), special education transportation increases (7%), and special education contractual services increases (7%) for a total of \$2,042,336. The total FY19 School Department General Fund Budget is \$56,985,592.

Superintendent Phelan reminded everyone the FY19 budget presentation along with the executive summary will be available on the Belmont Public Schools website tomorrow.

Town Budget

Ms. Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator, provided some background information on the formulation of the budget. Ms. Garvin and the budget team worked collaboratively with Superintendent Phelan. The budget process includes looking ahead to the FY19 and FY20 budgets. The FY19 budget is \$116,000,000. This involves an increase in of 5.6% overall. Ms. Garvin reviewed expenditures, debt service and revenues. Ms. Garvin noted a total increase of 11.8% in state aid and chapter 70 funds. Ms. Garvin provided a revenue summary and comparisons of revenues and expenditures showing both increasing with expenditures surpassing revenues.

Ms. Garvin noted available FY19 revenue sources with a total of additional revenue of \$5,123,652. Ms. Garvin showed a 5-year revenue comparison and a 10-year revenue comparison and then presented a two-year financial plan for FY19 and FY20 showing a balanced level service budget for the town for each year using the stabilization funds over the course of those two years.


Ms. Garvin noted strategies moving forward to include financial planning with policies and long-term forecasts, having the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee looking forward to the FY20 budget, applying for grants to offset operating needs, regionalization opportunities and upcoming contract negotiations.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:31 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Mr. Bicer, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary