

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH
WARRANT COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
APRIL 6, 2022

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 13, 2022
TIME: 2:32 PM

Present: Ms. Kate Bowen
Mr. Mike Crowley, FSC Chair
Ms. Meghan Moriarty
Ms Janice Darias, Assist Superintendent
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Absent: Mr. Jamal Saeh

1. Call to Order at 8:03 am by Mike Crowley

2. FY23 Budget Discussion

Superintendent John Phelan presented proposed changes to the FY23 School Budget, starting from Draft 1 of the budget which has been reviewed with the WC at previous joint meetings. The proposed changes reduce the budget by \$2-2.5 M and have not yet been voted by the School Committee. If the proposed reductions are made, the Draft 2 budget will be less \$2,672,566, which is a 0.84% increase over the FY22 budget.

Jack Weiss of the WC thanked the Schools for looking at staff exchange, which has been a point made by the WC in previous years.

The committees engaged in a discussion over the impact of cutting the proposed 6.2 FTE additions. These adds total \$507,400. Superintendent Phelan noted that the LABBB Collaborative has been short of staff resulting in Belmont serving students in the district, hence the heightened need for additional Behavioral Specialists. Math Specialists are needed to continue academic recovery post COVID. Janice Darias noted that math specialists have been needed for some time and are common in other districts. For comparison, BPS has had ELA/Reading Specialists in the district for years, which is likely why they are not seeing so many students fall below grade level in those subjects compared with math. She noted there is no net savings to the district by hiring these specialists; they would not be hired with the goal of reducing OOD placements.

Jack Weiss acknowledged the work done by Tony to respond to WC questions in writing. He inquired about three responses that Tony provided as "TBD". Tony will delve into the details and provide responses to the WC after this meeting.

Laurie Slapp of the WC requested a list of FTEs required for the opening of the new MS/HS in FY24. Superintendent Phelan acknowledged that a list does not yet exist but many of the

positions are already in the district. There will be needs in FY24/25 when the federal funds go away.

Laurie followed up with a question about Medicaid reimbursement. John explained Medicaid has increased year after year and gets incorporated into the Town, not School budget.


Next steps: Tony will update the budget book after the School Committee meeting on Friday when the SC will vote on the 6.2 FTEs. John will ready the slides for the presentation on Monday April 11th. The WC draft 1 report is due April 15th.

Public Comment:

Lisa Pargoli - Suggested using peer tutoring to help save money and bring students up to grade level.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:22 AM

Respectfully Submitted by:


Meghan Moriarty, Secretary