

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REMOTE MEETING**  
**February 8, 2022**

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: February 28, 2022  
TIME: 9:44 AM

Present: Mr. Michael Crowley, FSC Chair  
Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Secretary  
Mr. Jamal Saeh (left meeting at 9:01 am)  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. Call to Order 8:04 am by Mike Crowley
2. FY23 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Phelan asked to have this off cycle finance meeting in order to get feedback on slides prior to the next School Committee meeting and budget presentation. He presented Draft 5.0. He has been meeting with Principals to create a Google sheet ahead of the March presentation to the FSC on impacts of the federally funded positions.

During a review of previous presentation slides, the Superintendent pointed out that the budget was reduced by \$150,000 in revolving accounts for FY23 which was based on the Warrant Committee's request.

There is evidence that Principals are thinking about needs across schools when grades get reconfigured with the opening of the new MS. Currently, they anticipate 4 FTEs (a team) at the new MS and an additional 4 FTEs at the HS in response to anticipated enrollment increases.

Superintendent Phelan addressed the FY23 ask for 6.2 additional FTEs which he has been consistent with during the last few budget presentations. This puts the budget over the Financial Task Force 2 model by about \$2,000. He noted that the rollover amount is below the threshold set by the FTF2 and reminded the FSC that not every FTE carries the same value. For example, a Unit D FTE does not carry as great a cost as a Unit A FTE. The 21.40 federally funded FTEs that were hired as 2 year positions for academic and mental health recovery will be cut after FY23 and will not appear in the FY24 budget. Overall, district FTEs in FY22 equaled 556.65. The ask for FY23 is 549.75 which includes the 6.2 FTEs being asked for.

Public Comment:

*Roy Epstein* - Does not agree with the 4.0% versus 4.12% rollover differential. This is a difference in the budget of \$50-60K.

Member Saeh suggested the District asterisk the 4.12% to be transparent that it is over the FTF2 model.

Tony clarified that the 4.12% is not just salaries, it is the increase to the entire FY23 budget.

*Roy Epstein* - Requested the SPED ODD forecasting model.

Tony asked Roy to share his analysis. Roy responded that he does not have one.

*Anne Helgen* - Asked whether the new 6.2 FTEs could be funded using the 13.1 positions that will not carry forward (reallocate the salaries).

Superintendent Phelan explained some of the 536.7 FTEs were on leave or left the district and were replaced by lower salaried individuals. FY23 is budgeted on salaries of individuals in FY22 so it is not an even exchange/reallocation.

*Anne Helgen1* - Asked for data that shows contracting out for SPED positions is more costly than hiring FTEs.

Superintendent Phelan noted it is more complicated than just cost analysis. These positions are not just about academic recovery for general education students who are not making a benchmark, they are for students who may come off IEPs over time and for students on IEPs with disabilities who may not. This is a big picture request that is needed in this district and exists in others. The ELE DW position is a placeholder based on what happens with the ELE enrollment.

*Anne Helgen2* - Wondered where the layoffs were reflected in the FY22 budget because adding 35 people is considered, by her, to be a lot. Anne will send her numbers to Tony and John and they will work through the FY21-22 layoffs in the budget.

*Bill Anderson* - Requested Waterfall charts showing the FTE add/subtractions year by year alongside the dollar amount.

Mike Crowley seconded Bill's request.

*Anne Helgen3* - Has not seen the FTF2 model.

Jamal suggests the district link to the FTF2 model when making any reference to it. Anne will contact the WC Chair and ask him to share a link with the schools for posting to the website.

Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone for the questions and acknowledged he and Tony will meet with Patrice Garvin later in the day.

### 3. FY22 Update

Superintendent Phelan showed an example from the Google sheets the Principals are working to complete for the March presentation on how federally funded positions were used in FY22 and the impacts.

Public Comment:

*Lisa Pargoli* - Asked what percentage of the budget is spent on non-core academic services.

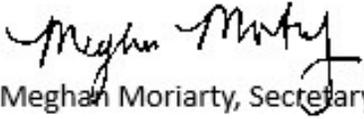
*Anne Helgen4* - Asked whether a reduction in contractual services can be used to fund the 2 behavioral specialists.

4. Minutes

Mr. Crowley decided to hold off on approving minutes because Jamal Saeh had left the meeting.

5. Member Crowley Adjourned the FSC at 9:28 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Meghan Moriarty, Secretary