

Belmont School Committee Minutes
Finance Subcommittee
March 8, 2016
Conference Room of the School Administration Building

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance

Also Present: Ms. Anne Helgen, Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Mr. Roy Epstein, Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meetings of January 19, January 26, February 2, February 9, February 12, and March 4, 2016 were all approved.

3. FY17 Budget

Mr. DiCologero presented the draft budget lines for Special Education Services. Since actual expenditures in FY16 are expected to be over-budget, the FY17 budget includes a \$700,000 infusion to the FY16 budgeted out-of-district tuition amount before a 7% increase as anticipated in the Financial Task Force budget. The group discussed the challenge of budgeting for this line given that service needs can be complex and costly and hard to predict, especially since any new students coming to the district with high needs can potentially lead to large increases in expenditures. Members agreed that replenishing the SPED stabilization fund to be used as a safety net could prevent the crowding-out of regular education supplies and services, and it is important to raise this topic with the Warrant Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Superintendent Phelan explained that the current space crunch prevents the expansion of in-district programs, and outlined some ideas for improving the coordination of services over the next several years.

Mr. DiCologero also reviewed the preliminary set of questions from the Warrant Committee's Education Subcommittee regarding the FY17 SPED budget, and explained that he would be working on responses over coming weeks.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by 
Laurie Slap