

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FY 2021 BUDGET

Whereas, the Belmont Public Schools represent a critical community service, addressing the educational needs of over 4,700 children and their families; and

Whereas, meeting growing enrollment with additional hiring to maintain the quality of educational outcomes for Belmont's children has been a cornerstone commitment of the School Committee and the Belmont community for several years; and

Whereas, the level of resources available for the fiscal year 2021 budget prevent the Belmont Public Schools from maintaining levels of service and presents a risk to the educational outcomes of our community's children; and

Whereas, re-opening the Belmont schools in the fall of 2020 under continuing Coronavirus pandemic conditions poses considerable financial challenges for which available budget resources may not be sufficient,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Belmont School Committee expresses its hope and commitment for the continued collaboration of the Select Board, the Town Administrator, the Superintendent, and the School Committee to identify the resources needed to address continued enrollment growth and the re-opening of Belmont schools in the fall under continuing COVID-19 pandemic conditions, both of which remain a deep concern for the School Committee.

Alternate Ending #1:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Belmont School Committee has voted the fiscal year 2021 budget for the Belmont Public Schools contingent on the expectation that the Town of Belmont will make available to the Belmont Public Schools in fiscal year 2021 any and all Chapter 70 school aid received for the fiscal year to assist with growing enrollment and continuing challenges associated with re-opening Belmont schools in the fall under continuing COVID-19 pandemic conditions, both of which remain a deep concern for the School Committee.

Alternate Ending #2:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Belmont School Committee has voted the fiscal year 2021 budget for the Belmont Public Schools contingent on the expectation that the Town of Belmont will make available to the Belmont Public Schools in fiscal year 2021 no less than \$336,000 of Chapter 70 school aid received for fiscal year 2021 of such sums as may be in excess of amounts estimated by the Town Administrator, as of today, to assist with growing enrollment and continuing challenges of re-opening Belmont schools in the fall under continuing COVID-19 pandemic conditions, both of which remain a deep concern for the School Committee.

EXPLANATION:

The first version of the resolution expresses a concern about the sufficiency of the resources in the FY 2021 budget and expresses a hope and a commitment to continue working with the Select

Board, the Town Administrator, and the Superintendent to identify resources to meet the enrollment and coronavirus challenges of the schools.

Alternate Ending #1 indicates that the School Committee has voted approval of the FY 2021 budget contingent on any and all eventual Chapter 70 state aid for FY 2021 being made available by the Town to the schools.

Alternate Ending #2 indicates that the School Committee has voted approval of the FY 2021 budget contingent on at least \$336,000 (enough to hire 4 middle school teachers) of any extra Chapter 70 state aid for FY 2021 (more than estimated by the Town Administrator today) being made available by the Town to the schools.