

BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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TO: John P. Phelan, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
DATE: March 10, 2021
RE: Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement – Request for Town Meeting Vote

As you are aware, we are preparing to request authorization from Town Meeting to submit for reimbursement for costs incurred for the transportation of students in foster care. Below are a summary for the school and town boards and bodies to provide information on this initiative, and draft language for a Town Meeting Warrant Article.

Draft Summary of the Initiative for School Committee, Select Board and Town Meeting:

Under the federal “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), school districts are required to provide transportation for students in foster care, in certain situations. These transportation costs are eligible for federal reimbursement (currently at 20%) through a claims process coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). In order for the School Department to submit claims for reimbursement, the district must sign a standard Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with these three state agencies. Authorization for the schools to sign the MOU requires a one-time vote of Town Meeting. By law, any reimbursement received goes to the Town as a general receipt. In Fiscal Year 2020, the School Department expended \$33,319 in the transportation of students in foster care.

Draft Language for Town Meeting Warrant Article:

To see if the Town will authorize the Belmont School Department to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) -- with Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in order to permit the School Department to submit for reimbursement of transportation expenses incurred by the School Department for transporting students in foster care.

I have attached the MOU referenced above. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachment

cc: Belmont School Committee
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator
Jon Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator
Glen Castro, Town Budget Director and Acting Town Accountant
Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services