

## **School Committee Finance Subcommittee**

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Finance Subcommittee members present: Ms. Stram (Chairman), Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, and Mr. Pollak.

Other School Committee members present: Ms. Ditkoff, Ms. Scotto, and Ms. Stone.

Staff present: Ms. Dunn, Mr. D’Onofrio, and Ms. Coyne.

Others present: Advisory Committee member Mike Sandman (by phone).

### **1) Approve Minutes of the May 16, 2016 Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

On a motion of Mr. Chang and seconded by Mr. Pollak, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 Finance Subcommittee meeting.

### **2) Proposed Vote on FY 2016 Budget Transfers**

Mr. D’Onofrio presented the proposed FY 2016 Budget Transfers (Attachment A).

Transfers, primarily from reserve accounts, total \$1,294,918. Legal services were higher than typical. The Subcommittee discussed when we use in-house and outside counsel.

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Mr. Chang, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend that the School Committee approve the proposed FY 2016 Budget Transfers, as shown in Attachment A.

### **3) Initial Discussion of Planning for Next Fiscal Year; Policy Review Agenda, Budget Calendar**

Ms. Stram referred to the FY 2017 School Committee Budget Development Guidelines and Priorities (Attachment B). The Finance Subcommittee will be asked to vote on proposed FY 2018 Guidelines at the first meeting in September. The Subcommittee discussed the framing of the guidelines. Discussion focused on Educational Equity and the other Core Values. The Guidelines should reference the Student Achievement Report and that it challenged our assumptions on how well we are doing on meeting our Strategic Plan Goals and note that in this next budget, we want to take a hard look at how resources are being allocated to address this dramatic challenge. This is not to draw away from other challenges, but this one stood out. We need to consider the gaps at the top, not just the bottom. The budget narratives will describe how the programs address Educational Equity and our other Core Values. We could show the dollar amount of targeted investments to reduce the achievement gap, e.g., African American and Latino Scholars, but it would be difficult to pull out the dollar amount from more general programs and initiatives. Which programs are evidence-based and do we know if they are working? We need to look at structural barriers to equity, e.g., participation in field trips. The Guidelines should acknowledge the challenge and note that we continue to look for ways to address it.

The Guidelines should also request multi-year operation and capital budgets that tie together and note that this is year three of the three-year override budget.

A proposed FY 2018 Budget Calendar will be circulated and will be voted in September. The goal is to release the Superintendent's recommended budget at the beginning of January.

**4) Discussion and Proposed Vote of 2016-2017 School Year Tuition for Non-resident Students Attending the Public Schools of Brookline**

Ms. Dunn referred to her June 13, 2016 memo regarding 2016-2017 Tuition Rates for Non-resident Students – International (F1 and J1) (Attachment C). The rates are based on the FY 2015 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education published per pupil rate, plus a CPI adjustment. We have added an English Language Learner (ELL) impact for every student requiring ELL services and a notation that there are additional costs to attend schools above the tuition amount, e.g., athletics and field trips.

On a motion of Mr. Pollak and seconded by Ms. Charlupski, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend that the School Committee approve the 2016-2017 School Year tuition for non-resident students attending the Public Schools of Brookline, as shown in Attachment C.

**5) Updates on House and Senate Budgets**

Ms. Dunn referred to the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Preview of Education Items in the FY 2017 Budget Conference Committee (Attachment D). Discussion focused on the Kindergarten Expansion Grants (\$2 million reduction in the Senate Budget). If the grant is reduced, the administration may look at alternative models for service delivery. The Capital Improvements Subcommittee will be looking at early education capital planning.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.