

School Committee Finance Subcommittee

Thursday, January 22, 2019

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

4th Floor Conference, Town Hall

Finance Subcommittee members present: Susan Wolf Ditkoff (Chairman), Jennifer Monopoli, David A. Pearlman, and Barbara Scotto.

Other School Committee members present: David Pollak.

Staff present: Andrew Bott, Mary Ellen Dunn, and Robin Coyne.

1) Approve Meeting Minutes

On a motion of Ms. Scotto and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 Finance Subcommittee meeting.

2) Superintendent's FY 2020 Budget

The Subcommittee discussed the structure of the proposed Superintendent's FY 2020 Budget. Ms. Dunn identified what still needs to be done to complete the document, e.g., inclusion of School Committee's FY 2020 Budget Development Guidelines, the Instructional Services Section, and Grants and Revolving Funds.

The Subcommittee discussed the proposed plan to reorganize the budget to show building based budgets and department based budgets. Members questioned whether this format might be confusing and appear to double count items. Members discussed alternative formats, such as providing program budget summaries, perhaps in an appendix, with clear explanations.

The Subcommittee discussed alternatives for showing funds allocated for estimated cost of living adjustments (would be subject to collective bargaining). Mr. Bott and Ms. Dunn will discuss this and will report back to the Subcommittee.

Subcommittee members offered the following suggestions: include concise budget summaries for Brookline High School subprograms, perhaps in an appendix, rather than separating out the budgets in this document; use a formula to estimate overhead costs by school; clarify the level of School Committee control for budget transfers; and make sure there isn't any double counting.

Members reiterated requests made at the January 15, 2019 Finance Subcommittee meeting, including a chart that shows the breakdown of the Town/School Budget allocations for the past ten years, and that shows the fixed cost items, and a chart showing Free Cash totals and sources over the years.

The Subcommittee reviewed next steps. School Committee members will be asked 1) to email any substantive budget-related questions to Ms. Ditkoff, Mr. Bott, and Ms. Dunn by January 30, 2019, 5:00 PM and 2) to deliver in hard copy any specific comments, (e.g., typos, items needing clarification), to the Administration and Finance

Administrative Assistant Suzanne McCormick-deBoer no later than February 1, 2019, 5:00 PM. Mr. Bott will present the Superintendent's Preliminary FY 2020 Budget on January 31, 2019. The summary budget document will be posted by February 8, 2019. The Public Hearing will be well publicized and will take place February 14, 2019. The final Budget Book sent to the printer by March 15, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.