

Name of Committee: Town-School Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Time: 4:00 PM

Meeting Location: Town Hall, Select Board Conference Room

Members Present:

Bernard Greene, Select Board Chair	x	Mel Kleckner, Town Administrator	x
Ben Franco, Select Board		Ben Lummis, School Superintendent	x
Julie Schreiner-Oldham School Committee Chair	x	Mike Sandman, Advisory Committee	x
Susan Wolf Ditkoff, School Committee	x	Cliff Brown, Advisory Committee	

Staff Present: Mary Ellen Normen, Deputy School Superintendent; Melissa Goff, Deputy Town Administrator; Jeana Franconi, Finance Director; Justin Casanova-Davis, Assistant Town Administrator

Topic: **Approval of minutes of 2/8/2019**

Approved as amended.

Topic: **FY2021 Budget Update and Presentation of Revenue Allocation Sheet**
a. Review of Three-Year Override Plan

Town Administrator, Mel Kleckner, Melissa Goff, Superintendent, Ben Lummis and Mary Ellen Normen are working on making the Town /School partnership sheet simpler to understand. This year they are using the existing formula and format.

Deputy Town Administrator Melissa Goff provided an overview of the budget and allocation. The Governor’s education formula would help, but not as much as what had been expected from the Student Opportunity Act. Ms. Goff reviewed the revised Town/School sheet, which has been streamlined. She discussed the large increase in the refuse budget.

Ms. Normen discussed the school choice and charter schools impact. Ms. Normen reviewed the utilities related to the Clark Road property and 111 Cypress Street, an increase has been realized. The Director of Municipal Buildings, Charlie Simmons is requesting \$627k to support HVAC staff and maintenance contract increases necessary for the schools; the School Committee will consider the request.

Ms. Goff reviewed further adjustments to the Town/School sheet to better articulate the numbers, highlighting that revenue is being raised by marijuana, parking and refuse fees.

Mike Sandman noted that they need to understand the school’s allocations of the numbers, and what is the purpose of this meeting if those numbers can’t change. It was noted that the timing of this meeting makes it difficult to propose any changes.

Select Board Chair, Bernard Greene added that more than one meeting is required to review the forecast. There are questions on the schools needs and how it factors into the Town/School partnership; what are those assumptions? Also, it is unclear what budgetary cuts have been made on the school side. Where is the capability to ask for more funding from the Town? It was mentioned that the Town has received criticism for municipal support in the past. Mr. Greene recommended that he, Town Administrator Kleckner, Mr. Sandman, Advisory Committee, and Susan Wolf-Ditkoff, School Committee, take on the task to set up these meetings more frequently.

Topic: Update on Capital Projects

Updates and timelines were provided on the following projects.

a) High School

Ms. Ditkoff provided an update on the High School project. Noting that the High School project is split between the main campus and the Old Lincoln School.

- Timeframe – is on the same timeline as the MBTA and that has impacted the cost.
- The town is working with the MBTA to reduce those costs. The Town Administrator met with the Lt. Governor and MassDot to address the diversions.
- Overall bids are 10-18% higher than anticipated.

b) Driscoll School

Ms. Ditkoff provided an update on the Driscoll School project. The Driscoll School will be a fossil free school with an aggressive timeline.

- Play space is an issue during construction
- The right Project Management is not in place at this time.
- Still working on defining the project roles

c) Pierce School (MSBA)

Superintendent Lummis provided a brief update on the Pierce School project. Stating that the final enrollment letter from the MSBA is anticipated in April and decisions would be made on the next steps to move on to the feasibility stage

Topic: Update on Newbury College process and timeline

- \$14.8m debt exclusion in May
- Long-term strategic acquisition with no defined plan
- Evaluating uses with resources for the building department
- Training and meeting use
- Acquisition should take place this fall if all approvals go through

Topic: Update on Brookline Fiscal Advisory Committee (BFAC)

The overall BFAC report was released and the Select Board will start to review the recommendations after the Audit Committee meeting. Conduct further review of their recommendations relating to the School Department for members of this committee.

- Review AAA rating
- Decision making process
- Resources

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.