

School Committee Policy Review Subcommittee  
Monday, March 29, 2021  
5:00 PM - 6:45 PM  
Remote via Zoom

Policy Review Subcommittee members present: David Pearlman (Chair), Dimitry Anselme, Andreas Liu, and Jennifer Monopoli.  
School Staff present: Mary Ellen Normen and Robin Coyne.  
Others present: Naomi Sweitzer, Michael Toffel, Lisa Cunningham, Jesse Gray, and David Lescohier.

Mr. Pearlman called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**1) Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Dr. Liu and seconded by Mr. Anselme, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Policy Review Subcommittee meeting.

**2) Discussion of whether the School Committee should hold a Public Hearing and take a Position on 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

The Subcommittee reviewed 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and discussed whether to recommend that the School Committee hold a public hearing and opine on certain articles.

Petitioner Naomi Sweitzer summarized Warrant Article 33: Amend the Town's General Bylaws to require public notification of the Town's eligibility for certain emergency, disaster or stimulus funds and public hearings on the use of such funds (Sweitzer, et al). Ms. Sweitzer discussed how Article 33 relates to the School Department and noted that that there may be changes to the language.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Mr. Anselme, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 33.

Petitioner Michael Toffel summarized Warrant Article 22: Amend Article 3.21 of the Town's General Bylaws to require the posting of agenda packets on the Town's website (Toffel et. al). Mr. Toffel discussed how Article 22 relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Ms. Monopoli and seconded by Dr. Liu, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 22.

Petitioner Michael Toffel summarized Warrant Article 36: Resolution to establish a Moderator's Committee to report on and address the Brookline Fiscal Advisory Committee's February 2020 Report recommendations (Toffel, et.al). Mr. Toffel discussed how Article 36 relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Mr. Anselme and seconded by Dr. Liu, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 36.

Petitioners Lisa Cunningham and Jesse Gray summarized Warrant Article 26: Amend the Town's Zoning Bylaws to incentivize Fossil Fuel Free (FFF) infrastructure in new construction and significant rehabilitation of buildings by special permit (Cunningham et. al). Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Gray discussed how Article 26 relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Ms. Monopoli and seconded by Dr. Liu, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 26.

Petitioner David Lescohier summarized Warrant Article 32: Amend the Town's General Bylaws to establish a Community Preservation Committee (Select Board). Mr. Lescohier discussed how Article 32 relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 32.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 7: Retroactive Application of Bond Premium for the Driscoll School (Select Board) relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Dr. Liu and seconded by Mr. Pearlman, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 7.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 9: Annual (FY 2022) Budget Appropriations Article (Advisory Committee) relates to the School Department. Ms. Normen explained the Budget timeline.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 9.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 10: FY 2022 Budget Amendment. (Brown) relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 10.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 40: Resolution to provide additional funding and explore future partnerships with the Brookline Interactive Group ("BIG")

and establish a committee to reexamine current and future grant of location and cable benefits to the Town (Saltzman, et al) relates to the School Department.

On a motion of Ms. Monopoli and seconded by Mr. Anselme, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 40.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 5: Approval of unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year (Select Board) relates to the School Department. Ms. Normen suggested that this be used as an opportunity to highlight the fact that the School Department does not have any unpaid bills.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 5.

The Subcommittee discussed how Warrant Article 29: Amend Article 8.10 of the Town's General Bylaws to permit the use of sidewalks and outdoor premises for year-round outdoor restaurant seating (Planning and Community Development Department) relates to the School Department. Ms. Normen will check on whether the School Department received any revenue from use of school space for outdoor dining.

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman and seconded by Ms. Monopoli, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to recommend that the full School Committee consider holding a public hearing and opining on Warrant Article 29.

The Subcommittee discussed, but did not recommend referral of the following Warrant Articles: Warrant Article 20: Amend the Town's Zoning Bylaws to conform to amended state regulations pertaining to the licensing and regulation of Marijuana Couriers and Delivery Operators (Planning and Community Development Department); Warrant Article 31: Petition for a special act pertaining to speed regulations on the Town's public ways (Transportation Board); Warrant Article 34: Resolution pertaining to the adoption of a voluntary Payment in Addition to Tax ("PIATT") Program (Harris et. al); and Warrant Article 37: Resolution pertaining to the declaration of a Climate Emergency and adoption of a Climate Crisis Action Plan (Norton, et al)

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.