

Town of Brookline Advisory Committee Minutes

Sean Lynn-Jones, Chair

Date: April 2, 2019

Present: Carla Benka, Ben Birnbaum, John Doggett, Harry Friedman, Janet Gelbart, David-Marc Goldstein, Neil Gordon, Susan Granoff, Amy Hummel, Alisa G. Jonas, Janice S. Kahn, Steve Kanes, Bobbie Knable, Carol Levin, David Lescohier, Pamela Lodish, Sean Lynn-Jones, Michael Sandman, Lee L. Selwyn, Charles Swartz, John VanScoyoc

Absent: Cliff Brown, Carol Caro, Dennis Doughty, Kelly Hardebeck, Mariah Nobrega, Kim Smith, Claire Stampfer, Stanley L. Spiegel, Christine Westphal

Also attending: Mary Ellen Dunn, Deputy Superintendent for Administration & Finance, School Committee Chair David Pollack, and Superintendent Andrew Bott.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Announcements: The Advisory Committee wishes member Kim Smith well and a speedy recovery.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Review and possibly vote on FY20 Operating Budget – School Department

Michael Sandman offered an overview of the subcommittee's preliminary deliberations on the School Department FY 20 budget, details of which can be found in the subcommittee's preliminary report.

The subcommittee's discussion and report focused on three main areas

- 1) Managerial accounting nuts and bolts
- 2) Efficient delivery of programs
- 3) Out-of-district tuition for special education; large number of small things will need to be changed to close the deficit.

Mary Ellen Dunn offered a presentation showing the development of the School Operating Budget. The presentation is available [here](#).

REDUCTIONS/CHALLENGES

Increase in pension liabilities and Solid Waste Disposal fees negatively impacted the School's Revenue portion.

Revenue from revolving funds and other sources are no longer allowed to be considered.

Unanticipated increases in mandated expenses such as out of district tuition for special education.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Q: Additions to staff – 36.23 FTEs added from '17-'18 then 36.88 from '19-'20 – where have FTEs been added? A: Mary Ellen will get more detail on this.

Q: What kind of staff do you need to get the chart of accounts aligned and corrected? A: A six-month sabbatical would be great to do this fix! But seriously, it does require someone with knowledge – we should be following the Commonwealth of Mass uniform accounting system. School Department has an additional requirement under the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education. May attempt to make some fixes with current staffing and structure. Then we can show for example ELE should be spending money by building as well as by the program so we can see students served, etc. Go to the School Budget 101 primer on the school website.

Q: What is the number you are using for the projected High School enrollment for the next 5 years? A: 429 is the total system-wide. By 2024 range of low 7449 to 7823 high, by 2028 range of low 6972 to 7375 high.

Q: 200 student increase from 2018 to 2019 (a plug number); 200 is a projection for 2019 to 2020. How much is elementary and how much is high school? A: 13 students K-8 so presume balance is high school.

Q: Cafeteria issue – does the cost of food service cover the total cost of a meal? A: No average cost is \$3.75 (labor, product, equipment) – we will present a lunch price increase to school committee next week and vote something in May and a pricing structure. Reduced lunch is set by the State (\$.45), free lunch is free and we received Federal Subsidy and amount based on either reduced or free. Revenue hasn't met expenditures in a number years so it is in deficit. While you may have less participation and therefore lower costs for purchasing ingredients, we have fixed labor. it would take a while to reduce labor. This is a union situation so we are reviewing the whole structure of the food service program in light of information we obtained last summer.

Q: What is the impact of debts owed (unpaid meals) to food service? A: We have been chipping away at amounts owed and past due for food service. Partner with Town debt collector to take this to a new level post memos and letters requesting payment.

COMMENT It appears that the revenue reduction has been in our failure to offer what students are willing to buy.

Superintendent Bott noted that there are so many competing demands, what students want to eat, what parents want students to eat. Some parents excited about quinoa bowl but only sold 6 district-wide and there is a lot to work through with food service. Many ala carte foods don't comply with our wellness policy. We do have an RFP out for other food service provider and are considering bringing a director of food service back in house.

Q: On 7,000 students what is the breakdown? A: 6-7% of the population is free and reduced.

COMMENT We probably spend more money trying to collect the lunch money than the actual amount we collect.

Q: Do you have a policy – healthy or what they will eat? A: We follow USDA guidelines as well as Massachusetts State regulations which limits food options. There is also an advisory group to the School Committee that focuses on food services – tasting panels, other research, etc.

Q: Fiscal 2020 Budget Challenges – what are the legal services (\$11,389)? A: Relative to collective bargaining.

Q: Special Ed – 27% increase out of district tuition – if we only fulfilled our legal obligation would there be a significant difference? Is there a standard other towns use? Are we a magnet for Special Ed? A: Least restrictive environment is the law, number of move ins to that cost amount is about 5-6 students. \$80,000 a year to \$250-\$275 per student depending on placement sans transportation cost (not reimbursed). This has to do with our proximity to various resources that greater Boston has to offer for kids with complex medical and educational needs. We are projecting 3 or 4 tuitions on top of this so trying to account for potential move- ins. Meeting our obligation under the law and doing what other towns are doing. First \$50,000 is our requirement then from that amount to full cost of tuition there is a percentage reimbursed - which varies.

Superintendent Bott noted that while there is desirability to move in for certain services but we get other move ins because we are so close to Boston services and area hospitals. We would see comparable numbers in Newton, Needham, Lexington. The Carter School in Boston serves kids we couldn't serve in Brookline.

Q: What percentage of our school budget is spent on special education and how does it compare to other districts? A: Perhaps 30% staff, expenses, tuitions, etc. School staff will bring figures from other local peer communities.

Proportionate Share – students who attend private school ...

COMMENT Budget Development Principles – value to the tax payer, fiscal responsibility and even if it isn't going to change your budgets and how you operate, feel it needs to be part of the conversation within the process. Encourage you to modify and make that change.

COMMENT Regarding the Chart of Accounts, testing new programs absent of an accurate chart of accounts – what are the resources you will need to get this implemented sooner or later since it will benefit you in the long run.

COMMENT I have observed this process over time and this has developed into a much richer and potentially more useful document for planning and budgeting.

COMMENT Mary Ellen has been doing a great deal of work in supporting principles and developing financial literacy, fostering transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Q: What are the prospects of improving the working situation of the paraprofessionals? A: Part of collective bargaining and the school wants to make progress with paraprofessional

compensation. We have formed a partnership with HR director to support paraprofessionals with a pathway to licensure.

2. Review and possibly vote on School Department FY20 CIP requests

Carla Benka offered an overview of the Capital subcommittee's deliberations on the School Department FY20 CIP requests, details of the 6 items which can be found in the subcommittee report and outlined below.

55. SCHOOL FURNITURE

Outdated and worn school furniture in all schools is replaced on an annual basis. When an individual school is completely renovated or expanded, most or all of the furniture gets replaced as part of the project. Under such circumstances, furniture that is still in good condition is allocated to other buildings, as appropriate. Furniture/furnishings for science and art rooms as well as gymnasiums are often significantly more expensive than traditional classroom furniture. Some furniture becomes obsolete before wearing out.

The Capital Subcommittee recommends \$110,000 (Property Tax / Free Cash)

68. SCHOOL REHAB/UPGRADE

This is an on-going school-wide program for the repair and upgrade of school facilities in between major renovation projects. Items funded under this program include large-scale painting programs, new flooring, ceilings, window treatments and bathroom/toilet upgrades.

Given the amount of funding needed for such work (there was a backlog of approximately \$15.7 million two years ago); a decision was made in 2017 to establish a "mini CIP" program to relieve pressure on the operating budget of the School Department.

In FY 19, \$230,000 was appropriated, with a significant portion of the funds to be spent on painting, shades, and flooring at the Heath School and the Lynch Center. The remaining funds were to be directed to Baker (gym pads, painting, new flooring in the hallways and on the stairs); Driscoll (gym pads); Lawrence (removal of old wallpaper and painting); New Lincoln (new window screens, removal of wallpaper, painting, gym pads, new flooring); and Pierce (new sink in the Art room, and carpeting in various areas).

As of now, the backlog has been reduced to approximately \$15.3 million, and preliminary plans for FY 20 include new flooring for several classrooms at the Baker School; new flooring for the principal's office at the Heath School; painting, carpeting and new stair treads at the Lawrence School; the replacement of 24 whiteboards system-wide; installation of gym pads at New Lincoln; and carpet replacement at the Pierce School. Final confirmation of the proposed work is needed by the School Department.

Some of the funds to address the work will come from the balance of FY 18 funds in the School Department's Rental Revolving Fund that was returned to Free Cash and certified by the State. These funds will be made available for School Rehab Projects on July 1, 2019.

The Capital Subcommittee recommends \$198,000 (Property Tax / Free Cash)

70. DRISCOLL SCHOOL

Since 2005, the public schools have experienced a growth in enrollment that has led to the need to expand educational facilities at both the K-8 and high school levels. Over fifty classrooms have already been added by building 23 new classrooms (Coolidge Corner School, Lawrence, Heath, and Runkle), renting space in privately-owned buildings for Pierce's 7th and 8th grade program and for BEEP, adding two modular classrooms (Baker), and creating 31 new classrooms from existing common spaces such as libraries and by splitting rooms within the eight K-8 schools.

While class sizes have, with few exceptions, stayed within School Committee guidelines, the increase in enrollment has put pressure on common or core spaces such as gyms, cafeterias, libraries, and even hallways. Inadequate nurses' offices, outdated science classrooms, and lack of small meeting rooms and small classrooms in seven of the eight K-8 schools have also been identified as deficiencies. The projected decline of over 190 students in K-8 enrollment between FY 19 and FY 24 may help to improve system capacity over time, but the intent to address the current situation in the K-8 schools by building new capacity now has been supported by Town Meeting, most recently with its December 2018 votes to demolish the existing Baldwin School and replace it with a "2+++" model and to demolish the existing Driscoll School and replace it with a 4-section school.

The renovation and possible expansion of the Pierce School has also been proposed as a mechanism to deal with existing enrollment numbers. A Statement of Interest was filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority in early April 2018 and eight months later the Town was invited to enter the Eligibility phase of the project.

To answer the question of how expanding Driscoll helps with the overcrowding situation in the other schools, the following information has been provided on the School Department's website:

1. **Adding capacity at Driscoll has a positive impact on overcrowding at Lawrence.**

- Driscoll shares a buffer zone with Coolidge Corner. By expanding capacity at Driscoll, Coolidge Corner students can shift there.
- Because Coolidge Corner and Lawrence share a buffer zone, the seats opened up at Coolidge Corner provide relief for overcrowding at Lawrence.

Baldwin and Driscoll benefit Pierce.

- Driscoll shares a buffer zone with Pierce. By expanding capacity at Driscoll, Pierce students can shift there.
- Music classes could return from the Teen Center and be taught at Pierce *Note: planned renovation will fully address all the remaining issues*

Baldwin and Driscoll help BEEP

- Combined, the Baldwin and Driscoll would add five new classrooms for BEEP.
- These new classrooms could either reduce the number of BEEP classes in rental spaces, or they could be used to increase the enrollment for BEEP.

Source:

<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/cms/lib/MA01907509/Centricity/Domain/722/Baldwin%20and%20Driscoll%20-20Addressing%20Overcrowding%20and%20Substandard%20spaces.pdf>

At the end of last year, Town Meeting approved \$1.5 million to further develop the “Modified Star Design” for the new Driscoll School building. This particular design was selected by the Driscoll Building Committee and approved by the School Committee because of its limited physical impact on the neighborhood (siting the building closer to Washington Street and away from Westbourne Terrace); its potential greater energy efficiency coupled with lower long-term operating costs; an increased ease of traffic flow; and its greater internal flexibility for educational programming. At the same time, Town Meeting supported an amendment to make the new building fossil fuel free.

According to the architect’s most recent estimates, construction costs for the new Driscoll School total \$87.2 million. Total project costs total \$108.8 million. Of that amount, structured parking is estimated at \$3.4 million (\$2.8 million for construction plus an additional \$.6 million); the play area is estimated at \$2.5 million (\$2.0 million for construction plus an additional \$.5 million); and the fossil free “allowance” is estimated at \$6.5 million (\$5.0 million for construction plus an additional \$1.5 million).

Also included in the bottom line are allocations for Legal Fees (\$100,000); Security (\$100,000); and Moving Expenses (\$90,000). The Subcommittee was informed that these expenses are considered standard. The construction of the new school will utilize the Owner’s Project Manager model, which is budgeted at \$3 million. Contingency is budgeted at \$6.2 million.

When asked at the subcommittee hearing whether the Town could build a K-8 school for less money without sacrificing quality of education, School representatives pointed out that structured teacher parking, Town Meeting’s fossil fuel free requirement, “really cool” outdoor play space, and performance space all added to the total cost of the project. The architect’s list of “cost drivers” include the Boston Metro Area Cost Index (identified as approximately 20% higher than less developed areas of the State); structured parking, fossil fuel free systems, the Pre-K program, which requires additional square feet per student and increased staff to student ratio, and Brookline’s K-8 standard Multipurpose Room which adds additional square footage and double height. Further discussion about the need for performance space led to the statement that this type of space has been requested by the community, including at least one non-profit organization, and that all Brookline school buildings are designed to house facilities for community use.

By a vote of 2-0-4, the Capital Subcommittee recommends \$108,800,000 for further design and construction of the Driscoll School.

72. 9TH SCHOOL AT BALDWIN

Since 2005, the public schools have experienced a growth in enrollment that has led to the need to expand educational facilities at both the K-8 and high school levels. Over fifty classrooms have already been added by building 23 new classrooms (Coolidge Corner School, Lawrence, Heath, and Runkle), renting space in privately-owned buildings for Pierce's 7th and 8th grade program and for BEEP, adding two modular classrooms (Baker), and creating 31 new classrooms from existing common spaces such as libraries and by splitting rooms within the eight K-8 schools.

While class sizes have, with few exceptions, stayed within School Committee guidelines, the increase in enrollment has put pressure on common or core spaces such as gyms, cafeterias, libraries, and even hallways. Inadequate nurses' offices, outdated science classrooms, and lack of small meeting rooms and small classrooms in seven of the eight K-8 schools have also been identified as deficiencies. The projected decline of over 190 students in K-8 enrollment between FY 19 and FY 24 may help to improve system capacity over time, but the intent to address the current situation in the K-8 schools by building new capacity now has been supported by Town Meeting with its December 2018 votes to demolish the existing Baldwin School and replace it with a "2+++" model and to demolish the existing Driscoll School and replace it with a 4-section school.

The renovation and possible expansion of the Pierce School has also been proposed as a mechanism to deal with existing enrollment numbers. A Statement of Interest was filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority in early April 2018 and in December 2018 the Town was invited to enter the Eligibility phase of the project.

To answer to the question of how building Baldwin helps with the overcrowding situation in the other schools, the following information is provided on the School Department's website:

Adding capacity at Baldwin can provide overcrowding relief at Baker, Heath, Lincoln, and/or Runkle.

- Building Baldwin will reduce Baker to a 4 section school; removing between 2 to 4 classes of K-8 students.
- Heath and Lincoln students who live in the Baker/Heath/Lincoln buffer zone could move to Baldwin, reducing over enrollment at Lincoln and maintaining capacity at Heath.
- Building Baldwin could alleviate overcrowding at Runkle through a two-step process:
 1. Baldwin takes on some Heath students who already drive or ride the bus to Heath.
 2. Runkle students who now walk to school could then move to Heath and continue to walk to school.

Building capacity at Baldwin for the RISE special education program helps Runkle.

- Moving 30 students from Runkle's RISE program to Baldwin makes space available for small classrooms for special education and math or literacy interventions.

Adding a Native Language Support Program at Baldwin directly relieves at least one of the North Brookline Schools that has a Native Language Support Program (NLSP).

- Lincoln, Lawrence, Pierce, and Driscoll, Coolidge Corner School all have district-wide Native Language Support Programs for students whose first language is not English. The Native Language Support Program at Baldwin would help address the overcrowding at least one of these schools.
- For example, 45 of the 100 students in Lawrence’s Japanese program, 45 of the 96 students in the Pierce’s Chinese program, the 50 student in Lincoln’s Japanese program, **OR** half of the 78 students in Baker’s Korean program could move to Baldwin.

Source:

<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/cms/lib/MA01907509/Centricity/Domain/722/Baldwin%20and%20Driscoll%20-%20Addressing%20Overcrowding%20and%20Substandard%20spaces.pdf>

At the end of last year, Town Meeting approved \$1.5 million to pursue further development of the “Solar Harvest” design for the new school. Selected by the Baldwin Building Committee and approved by the School Committee, “Solar Harvest” optimizes the opportunity to use rooftop photovoltaic panels to generate electricity.

Also in December Town Meeting approved an amendment to make the Baldwin School fossil fuel free and authorized the Select Board to acquire three town homes on Oak Street for \$4.7 million to provide for additional parking and/or greater flexibility for the siting/design of the building.

According to the architect’s most recent estimates, construction costs for the new Baldwin School total \$66.9 million. Total project cost totals \$82.9 million. Of that amount, structured parking is estimated at \$3.4 million (\$2.8 million for construction plus an additional \$.6 million); the play area is estimated at \$2.5 million (\$2.0 million for construction plus an additional \$.5 million); and the fossil free “allowance” is estimated at \$3.1 million (\$2.5 million for construction plus an additional \$.6 million).

Also included in the bottom line are allocations for Legal Fees (\$100,000); Security (\$100,000); and Moving Expenses (\$50,000). As with the Driscoll project, the Subcommittee was informed that these expenses are considered standard. Also like Driscoll, the construction of the new Baldwin school will utilize the Owner’s Project Manager model, which is budgeted at \$2.3 million. Contingency is budgeted at \$4.4 million.

The architect’s list of “cost drivers” included the Boston Metro Area Cost Index (identified as approximately 20% higher than less developed areas of the State); structured parking, fossil fuel free systems, the Pre-K and RISE programs, both of which require additional square feet per student and increased staff-to-student ratio, the “Small School Premium”, neighborhood improvements (sidewalks, crossing signals, etc.), soil conditions (i.e. ledge) and Brookline’s K-8 standard Multipurpose Room which adds additional square footage and double height.

Regarding redistricting plans to populate the new school, both School staff and School Committee members stated at the public hearing that redistricting was a multi-year process and that redistricting information would not be available in the near future. School

Committee members also stated that there was no “Plan B”, should the debt exclusion override question fail to be approved in May.

Open Questions

Transportation plans: According to statements made at the hearing, discussions with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (which has jurisdiction over the Horace James Traffic Circle and West Roxbury Parkway) and with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (which has jurisdiction over Route 9) are going well.

It was subsequently determined that proposed changes to Horace James Circle are not part of the Baldwin project and as of now, have neither a timetable nor an identified funding source. Giles Ham, traffic consultant for the Baldwin School project reported that he had met with the State Department of Transportation in mid-March. In a March 25th email to Ray Masek, Mr. Giles wrote “The state is in support of pedestrian enhancements to Route 9 but they need more detail during the design phase. Number of (sic) student crossings and where. We will be conducting warrant analysis for pedestrian signals as well as consideration for RRFB or Hawk signal.”

Lawsuits: According to Town Counsel’s Office, Discovery is underway in the lawsuits and the hearing(s) on the Plaintiffs’ motions for injunctive relief was scheduled for March 27th at Norfolk Superior Court.

National Park Service determination of conversion: No further communication has been received since January 30, 2019.

By a vote of 6-0-0, the Subcommittee tabled further discussion and a vote on the Baldwin School project until after the Override vote on May 6th.

73. PIERCE SCHOOL

According to School Department data, K-8 student enrollment at the Pierce School has grown from 546 students in FY ‘06 to the current enrollment of 865 students. Spaces in privately owned buildings are currently being leased and used for classrooms and physical education. The two buildings that comprise the school date from 1854 and 1974, and despite the millions of CIP funds that have been spent to upgrade and maintain the buildings and adjacent playground, both buildings are in need of major renovation, if not actual replacement.

On April 3, 2018 the Select Board authorized the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), seeking to partner with the MSBA on the renovation and possible expansion of the Pierce School. Included in the SOI were the following objectives, all of which are MSBA priorities: 1) Elimination of Severe Overcrowding; 2) Prevention of Severe Overcrowding due to Increased School Enrollments; 3) Replacement, Renovation or Modernization of School Facility Systems; and 4) Replacement of or Addition to Obsolete Buildings. The April 2018 SOI anticipated a FY 22 projected population of 958 students (the equivalent of a five section school). Whether that number needs adjustment based on the revised enrollment projections issued by the School Department in November 2018 has not been determined. The Capital Subcommittee was informed by School Committee members that the MSBA

would use its own enrollment projections to guide decisions relative to the size of the renovated/expanded school.

On December 12, 2018 the Pierce School was invited into the MSBA's 270-day Eligibility Period, during which time preliminary requirements are to be completed. These requirements are intended to "determine the District's financial and community readiness to enter the MSBA Capital Pipeline" and include the formation of a School Building Committee, completion of an Educational Profile Questionnaire, certification of a design enrollment for the proposed project, and confirmation of community authorization and funding to proceed. According to the MSBA website, the "design enrollment" is critical to "position the district to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations." A baseline projected enrollment, generated by the MSBA "using a data-driven methodology, will be shared, reviewed, and discussed with the District and ultimately used to develop the total square foot of the proposed project as informed by the MSBA's space guidelines and the district's educational program." (https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/building/prerequisites/enrollment_methodology).

The current request for Feasibility/Schematic Design funds for Pierce is \$2 million, a percentage of which may be reimbursed to the Town by the MSBA. The scope of the Pierce Project is currently not well defined; consequently Town Hall staff has based the \$2 million figure on costs associated with the High School project and percentages recommended on the MSBA website. Assuming a \$200 million project, the cost of the feasibility/schematic design phase would be \$1,420,000 and the cost of the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) would be \$420,000. Rounded up, those numbers total \$2 million, and are considered to be a "best guess" at this point in time.

The Capital Subcommittee recommends \$2 million (General Fund Bond).

74. CLASSROOM CAPACITY

Student enrollment growth has required the expansion of three K-8 schools, the construction of an almost entirely new school, the purchase of modular classrooms, leasing space in privately owned buildings, and the renovation and expansion of the High School.

The FY 20 Classroom Capacity request covers the leases for spaces in privately owned buildings, including Temple Emeth and Temple Ohabei Shalom (BEEP classrooms), 62 Harvard (Pierce School classrooms), 24 Webster Place (School Department offices), the Brookline Teen Center (Pierce School physical education space).

Because lease negotiations were underway at the time of the Capital subcommittee's hearing, no breakdown of the total amount of the CIP request is available.

Regarding space for BEEP offices and classrooms, plans for locating both at 127 Harvard Street are no longer viable. The Newbury College site, should the Town acquire it, is a possible option, although School Committee members have only indicated interest, not commitment.

By a 4-2 vote, the Capital Subcommittee recommends \$1,450,000 (Property Tax / Free Cash)

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Q: School Rehab Upgrade – how much would go in Pierce School, given that Pierce may be substantially renovated in the next few years. A: Building Department is good at assessing what absolutely needs to be done. Carpet squares (vs. entirely new carpeting) are being used in the most cost effective way and many different patterns of carpet.

Q: Driscoll shares a buffer zone with Coolidge Corner School and two other buffers to Runkle and another. How many students displaced will be able to return to Runkle? A: Andrew Bott will bring a map showing density next week.

Any concerns about the Driscoll given the subcommittee abstentions?

Concerns about costs: is the School department's job to provide performance space to the community, as has been mentioned with the multi-purpose/performance space proposed for Driscoll? Other schools cost less, aren't necessarily "pretty" or jaw dropping, but education is still taking place inside these spaces and kids are energized and joyful to learn. (Boston Preparatory Charter School in Hyde Park; 6-12, built for \$48m (later corrected to \$40m), including cost of purchasing the land. Concern was raised that the architect that doesn't get the message about our sensitivity to cost.

COMMENT Redistricting plan – why in reference to the possibility of Newbury has it been suggested that is a disadvantage to have a 9th school closer to Runkle and Heath (but would be closer for the purposes of moving so many kids around); what is the advantage of Baldwin as an alternative to Newbury?

COMMENT Description of parking and play space of Driscoll – get a comparison of what is the parking structure of Baldwin vs Driscoll and to what extent is a cost driver and how will the play space of Baldwin compare as a cost driver and should both schools have really cool play spaces.

COMMENT Driscoll will be designed using Parks and Recreation protocol. It is both for school and for public use – but given the strength of the Parks and Open Space design review process, will use a hybrid variation of that process.

COMMENT Structured parking of both projects needs to be revisited. Question of floor to ceiling height to be usable for another purpose and would add to the cost (excavation).

COMMENT Bundling and unbundling – put both together and add Devotion, Pierce and all others north of \$650 Million. Table both of these projects tonight and ask Melissa to give us information – financial picture about the impact of this debt to our tax rate, taking on this debt at one time. Then we can have a discussion with eyes open about whatever we bring to Town Meeting.

Agree would like to see the entire Capital requirements for all of the School Buildings and understand ramifications. Believe this is a reasonable request for the Advisory Committee.

Also show the recent ones – the high school, what we have added in the recent past, Coolidge – all of it.

COMMENT Melissa's forecasts would not occur until fiscal 20-21. Then dependent upon when you take on the borrowing for each project. There would / could be a cost escalation depending on scheduling.

There has been an approximate \$1 million addition to the Baldwin budget for traffic smoothing - pedestrian crosswalks, traffic light at Woodland Road, sidewalks. We have the traffic consultant analysis of how long things will take at each intersection. School would start at 7:45 a.m. Traffic begins to back up about 7 minutes before 8 a.m.

Is this amount of money (\$1m) sufficient to accomplish all that is needed?

Hammond Street will go from 4 to 2 lanes which will impact traffic. Something called a road diet – other major arteries like Harvard where this has been done – smooth out flow of traffic on that stretch.

Q: What are the costs of the “road diet?” A: We haven't seen an estimate of this. Estimate that Horace James Circle will cost more than road diet. No new studies have been done on effectiveness of road diets and it would be a separate thing and a separate cost.

Concerns raised / reiterated about items not belonging in the CIP, such as the cost of renting private space, but rather in the operating budget. This has been raised previously and countered previously.

Not something for this committee to deal with but is the purview of the auditor and auditing committee.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action on appropriating \$110,000 for the School Department FY 20 CIP requests for School Furniture (Item 55) and \$198,000 for School Rehab/Upgrades (Item 68).

By a **VOTE** of 20 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommends appropriating \$110,000 for School Furniture (Item 55) and \$198,000 for School Rehab/Upgrades (Item 68).

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action on appropriating \$108,800,000 for the School Department FY 20 CIP request for further design and construction of the Driscoll School (Item 70).

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to table the Driscoll School (Item 70). By a **VOTE** of 12 in favor, 7 opposed and 1 abstention, the Advisory Committee recommends tabling Driscoll School (Item 70)

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to table the Baldwin School CIP item 72. By a **VOTE** 13 in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommends tabling Baldwin (Item 72)

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action on appropriating \$2 million for the School Department FY 20 CIP request for Pierce School (Item 73) (General Fund Bond)

By a **VOTE** of 19 in favor, none opposed and 1 abstention, the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on appropriating \$2 million for the School Department FY 20 CIP request for Pierce School (Item 73) (General Fund Bond)

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action appropriating \$1,450,000 for the School Department FY 20 CIP request for Classroom Capacity (Item 74)

By a **VOTE** of 20 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action for the School Department FY 20 CIP request appropriating \$1,450,000 of for the Classroom Capacity (Item 74).

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to request an opinion of the Town's Auditor on what belongs in Capital and Operating budgets including but not limited to whether classroom capacity and "mini-CIP" items should be in the CIP or Operating Budget.

By a **VOTE** of 20 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommends requesting the opinion of the Town's Auditor as outlined above.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to adjourn; there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Documents Distributed at Meeting

- Schools Subcommittee Report on FY 20 Operating Budget – School Department
- Capital Subcommittee Report on FY 20 CIP requests – School Department
- FY 2020 Budget Overview Presentation April 2, 2019