

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Chair, John Bento and Diana Campbell

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Pauline Silva and George Simmons

Chairman O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to approve the minutes to the February 12 and April 9, 2012 Budget Meetings; John Bento seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

FY 12 Budget

Pauline reported the FY 12 budget is in a good position due mostly to

under-projected revenues from Medicaid and over-projected utilities expenditures because of the mild winter. Pauline's ultimate goal is to provide a "smoothing" of the next five years through frugal budgeting. For FY 13 Pauline budgeted a 4-5% increase over FY 11, instead of FY 12.

John Saviano asked if our legislators were able to impact funding from the state. Pauline explained our legislators did a great job retrieving our regional bonus at 2% for FY 12 and for FY 13 as well. There currently is legislation to freeze the bonus at 2% but Pauline is hearing it is unlikely because of districts in distress. John appreciates Pauline's conservatism.

FY 13 Budget

Pauline reports a balanced budget with the 2.25% increase from the two towns. Because of the high deductible health plan, health insurance rates are coming in at 1.7% rather than the 5% projected. Delta Dental came in at a 5.3% decrease, rather than the anticipated 5% increase, due to the sharp decrease in 50/50 co-share procedures.

Because of these decreases, the additional cuts necessary to balance the budget will be \$60,000 over the \$510,000 that would have been necessary if our budget request was fully funded.

After discussion it was agreed that a budget report articulating the sources of savings, namely, 1) reduced cost of health insurance, 2)

reduced cost of dental and 3) retirements, will be included in Pauline's May report to the School Committee. Bill will ask that the report be pulled from the consent vote for separate discussion. The budget will be voted on at the June business meeting.

Signage on Facilities

The Kickemuit parents group was expected at this meeting; in their absence the Subcommittee had a global discussion on signage and also discussed this particular request. John Bento said the Warren Town Council approved the Parents' Group's request to place a sign on the exterior of the building. Bill felt Tara wrongly gave the Council the impression the School Committee was in favor of the sign and its placement. Marj recalls Andrew saying the Towns have the right to make decisions on the exterior of buildings because they own the buildings; however, maintenance of a sign should be a consideration. John Saviano disagrees with Marj because the District has a net net net lease on buildings for \$1 per year, so we are responsible for everything from the sidewalk in. Regardless of who has the right of authority, all agreed it is legitimate for the District to be clear and agreeable to what will be installed. Our maintenance staff will do the installation.

Since no one from the Parents' Group was present, the Subcommittee set the following parameters for the sign:

1) Temporary (in years to come, there will be new groups of parents

and students and new principals whose management styles should not be hindered)

2) Maintenance free

3) Aesthetically pleasing

4) Subcommittee reviews the specs

George will convey this information to the Parents' Group on Thursday and they will be invited to attend the May 14 Budget Facilities Focus meeting.

It was agreed that the Policy Subcommittee should be asked to research through Andrew Henneous the type of latitude the District may have to develop a policy for the future.

Adjournment

MOTION: At 7:15 PM Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn. John Bento seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

/ca