

2017 MAR -9 PM 2:30

Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Minutes for Tuesday February 28, 2107 7:30 am
(meeting held jointly with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee)
School Administration Building Conference Room

Members Attending: Jim Gammill (JG), Michael Libenson (ML), Laurie Slap (LS)

School Committee Finance Subcommittee Members Attending: John Phelan, Lisa Fiore, Susan Burgess-Cox, Tom Caputo, Murat Bicer, Anthony DiCologero

Member Absent: Roy Epstein, Anne Helgen

1. JG convened the Education Subcommittee at 7:31 am to participate with the SC Finance Subcommittee in its regularly scheduled bi-weekly meeting, chaired by Superintendent Phelan.
2. Mr. DiCologero distributed FY17 Q2 financial updates. He said that updated projections for special education out of district services has resulted in plans to charge \$100,000 more to the circuit breaker grant account in FY17. With this update, the current general fund year end balance projection is for a surplus of \$69,280.

In response to a question about LABBB credits, Superintendent Phelan said that there will be a LABBB board meeting this week and more information will be available then. His current estimate of the LABBB credit is about \$100,000.
3. Mr. DiCologero distributed to the WC Education Subcommittee the FY18 draft 2 budget. Mr. DiCologero guided the attendees through the budget.
4. The attendees discussed two topics that will require Town Meeting action in 2017, the approval of the FY18 General Fund budget and action on a request, still under development, regarding the acquisition of additional modular classrooms. The latter is likely to be the subject of a Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2017.

The discussion about the FY18 General Fund budget focused on the extent to which the circuit breaker grants projected to be received in FY18 could and should be used to fund special education out of district tuition costs in FY18. Members of the Education Subcommittee noted that the amount of the FY18 circuit breaker grants used in FY18 could be larger than implied by the draft 2 budget, and that a larger use of circuit breaker funds would allow the Town to reduce the FY18 draw from free cash and/or general stabilization fund required to balance the FY18 budget. Mr. Gammill suggested that the next step may be for SC Chair Fiore and Board of Selectmen Chair Paolillo to discuss the issue.

5. JG adjourned the Education Subcommittee at 9:09 am.