

2017 NOV 17 AM 9:04

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Meeting, Oct. 23, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Room 4

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance

Chris Doyle, Jim Gammill, Anne Helgen, Mike Libenson, Laurie Slap, Jack Weis
(Note: C. Doyle arrived at 8pm)

Call to Order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Review of School Department FY17 Closeout

Members Helgen, Weis and Slap gave an update about the review of the FY17 financial report presented at the joint Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee (WCESC)/ School Committee Finance Subcommittee (SCFSC) meeting on October 17. [Members Gammill, Libenson, and Doyle were not able to attend the Oct. 17 meeting.]

Members also requested that as has been the practice for many years, the School Department provide an excel spreadsheet with full details of the FY17 budget v. actual to the WCESC. Ms. Slap said she would make this request.

Review of School Department SPED/Circuit Breaker Projections

Discussion focused on the increased balance in the circuit breaker account at the end of FY17, and SD projections that indicate this balance would drop to \$0 by FY20. Consensus was that this was a conservative projection. Some observed that SPED OOD tuition expenses are often hard to project accurately, and some sort of reserve balance is prudent. Discussion ensued as to the merits and risks of the new SPED reserve account established by Town Meeting last spring, the older SPED reserve account (currently with a \$0 balance), the WC reserve fund, and the use of the circuit breaker account to manage volatility for SPED OOD tuition expenses.

The group decided it would be helpful to hold another joint meeting with the SCFSC to discuss this matter further.

Ideas for Potential Education Subcommittee Projects for FY18

Ideas raised included a deeper analysis of enrollment trends and their impact on the School Department's operating budget in the next 3-5 years.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.