

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee**  
**April 22, 2021 7:30 PM**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

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**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 9, 2022  
TIME: 9:27 AM

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Members in Attendance**

Liz Goss, Anne Helgen, Geoff Lubien, Paul Rickter, Jack Weis

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The draft minutes for the joint meeting with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee on March 23, 2021, and the meetings of the Education Subcommittee alone on March 25, 2021, March 29, 2021, and April 8, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

### **Discussion of FY 22 School Department Budget and Warrant Committee Report**

The group began with a discussion of the additional questions that we had on the FY 22 School Department budget. The group discussed:

- A general question on a full-time FTE and a part-time position that were both hired in February 2020 immediately before the schools were shut down due to the COVID pandemic.
- Some program-specific questions regarding Grades K-12 special education, the food service program, regular day transportation, and the allowance for contractual salary increases for union and non-union personnel.
- A general question regarding the recent enrollment survey results.

Jack agreed to compile the questions into an e-mail and will send that e-mail to Tony DiCologero as agreed to at the April 13<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the Finance Subcommittee.

The group then discussed the first draft of the Education Subcommittee's chapter of the Warrant Committee report. Given the fact that the School Department has not finalized the revised line-item budget, the draft report includes a placeholder for the specific budget numbers. However, we were able to sketch out the key budgetary highlights. We were also able to develop the key points regarding enrollment, FTEs, special education, the impact of COVID on operations and the budget. As the budget numbers are finalized, we will refine these sections of the chapter.

The group then discussed some key take-aways on the School Department budget that may merit inclusion in an executive summary to the full Warrant Committee report. In addition to a summary comment about the year-over-year change in the budget numbers, those key take-aways included the impact of changing enrollment, the impact of the COVID pandemic, and the School Department and School Committee's decision to transition to full-day kindergarten. Jack will summarize that discussion and forward those thoughts to Laurie Slap, who is drafting the executive summary to the overall report.

Lastly, the group discussed the schedule for finalizing our chapter of the Warrant Committee report. The key steps are as follows:

- By the end of the day on Monday, April 26th, we will each have taken another pass through our individual sections and will send an updated draft of those sections to Jack. He will compile all of the individual revised sections into a single report and will send out a second draft of the report, ideally on Tuesday, April 27th.
- We will meet again next Thursday, April 29th to review and discuss the second draft.
- By Sunday, May 2nd, everyone will get Jack any final edits of their sections.
- We will meet on Tuesday, May 4th to make one final review of the document.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.