

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
February 24, 2022 7:30 PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: June 21, 2022
TIME: 9:15 AM

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Anne Helgen, Paul Rickter, Laurie Slap, Jack Weis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

Discussion of FY 23 School Department Budget and Warrant Committee Report

The group began with a very high-level discussion about the role of the Ed Subcommittee / Warrant Committee. There was a consensus that our role is to both critique the budget and to make recommendations before the budget numbers were set in stone. In addition, there was an agreement that, ideally, the budget should have a multi-year focus.

The group then discussed some very broad themes to address in this year's budget analysis, such as non-recurring expenses and revenues, out-of-district tuitions, and a 2-3-year plan.

The group agreed that we would try to analyze the budget and formulate questions with an eye towards these general topics:

- The impact of COVID and FY 21 remote learning on student and department needs.
- The impact of one-time COVID-relief funds on the department's budget and operations.
- The confluence of the above two forces on FTEs, in FY 22, FY 23, and, perhaps, FY 24.
- OOD tuitions and the utilization of state and federal sources of revenue and reserve funds.
- Enrollment trends, both in general and among special populations of students like SPED and ELL.

In advance of our upcoming joint meeting with the Finance Subcommittee, we will meet again on March 1st to further flesh out the major themes and to formulate our big-picture (not, line-by-line) questions on the FY 23 budget to pose at the joint meeting.

The group discussed a rough calendar about the steps that need to be taken between now and getting a draft of our chapter of the Warrant Committee report to Geoff Lubien around April 15th. A tentative rough schedule is as follows:

- March 1st – Ed Subcommittee meets to discuss big-picture topics and questions, and to outline our report sections and assign sections to subcommittee members.
- March 8th – Meet with the Finance Subcommittee to discuss our big-picture questions.
- March 10th – Ed Subcommittee meets to discuss our detailed, program-by-program questions on the budget.
- March 15th – Send our detailed questions to the School Committee and School Department.
- March 22nd – Meet with the Finance Subcommittee to discuss our detailed questions.
- April 8th – Ed Subcommittee members submit their first draft of their report sections.
- April 12th – Ed Subcommittee meets to discuss the first drafts of the report sections.
- April 15th – Send consolidated first draft of report to Geoff Lubien.

Approval of Minutes

The group reviewed and approved nine sets of minutes from 2021 – specifically, for the meetings April 13, 2021, April 22, 2021, April 27, 2021, April 29, 2021, morning of May 6, 2021, evening of May 6, 2021, April 13, 2021, May 25, 2021, and June 8, 2021.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.