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DATE: July 20, 2023
TIME: 9:19 AM

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
May 9, 2023 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Conference Room #4**

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Bill Anderson, Anne Helgen, Paul Rickter, Laurie Slap, Matt Taylor, Jack Weis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Discussion of FY 24 School Department Budget

The meeting began with a discussion of the May 2nd School Committee meeting during which the School Committee discussed various proposed savings/reallocations in the FY 24 Draft 2 School Department budget in order to minimize a number of proposed budget cuts.

The group also discussed the proposed \$600,000 additional contribution into the town's SPED reserve to bolster the cushion available to cover unexpected additional out-of-district tuition expenses in FY 24 and beyond.

The group acknowledged and discussed the fact that the proposed savings and reallocations in the School Department budget will inevitably require the department to produce a Draft 3 budget. That, in turn, will require the Ed Subcommittee to amend our chapter of the Warrant Committee report to make sure that the numbers (dollars and FTEs) in our report align with and match the numbers that will be voted on by Town Meeting and the numbers that will be shown in the department's budget numbers. Jack will reach out to Tony DiCologero to ask him to get us the revised budget numbers as soon as possible, ideally by Thursday, May 11th or Friday, May 12th, so that we can revise our chapter of the report in time to have the full Warrant Committee vote on the report on May 17th and distribute the final report to the Town Clerk by the May 18th due date.

In addition to the foregoing, Jack will also reach out to Geoff Lubien to confirm that the \$600,000 contribution to the SPED reserve has to flow through the School Department FY 24 budget. This, too, will have an impact on the numbers presented and discussed in our report.

Discussion of FY 24 Warrant Committee Budget Report

The group agreed that there was a significant amount of work remaining to be done before the Ed Subcommittee chapter on the FY 24 School Department would be in final form. The group agreed that the next steps would consist of the following:

- Given the limitations of Open Meeting law, we will not be able to meet as a full subcommittee to jointly edit the chapter. Paul, Matt, and Jack agreed to serve as an editing subgroup to make the final edits to the report. They agreed to meet on Saturday morning (May 13th) to discuss the report.
- By the end of the day Saturday, May 13th, individual subcommittee members will send Jack their edits to the report, incorporating any revisions necessitated by the FTE and dollar changes in the forthcoming Draft 3 budget. In addition, subcommittee members were also asked to send Jack their thoughts on three topics that the group agreed should be included

in the report – specifically: 1) Budget Risks in FY 24; 2) Outlook for FY 25; and, 3) Recommendations

- Jack will send a final draft of the report, as compiled by the editing subgroup, to the School Committee and School Department administration by Sunday, May 14th.
- We will schedule a joint meeting of the Ed Subcommittee and the School Committee for Monday evening, May 15th to get their feedback on the Ed Subcommittee chapter on the FY 24 School Department budget.
- The editing subgroup will make any final changes to the report by Tuesday, May 16th and will send the final draft to Geoff Lubien for distribution to the full Warrant Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.