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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 20, 2024  
TIME: 3:05 PM

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee  
November 20, 2023 7:30 PM  
Town Hall, Conference Room 1**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Members in Attendance**

Bill Anderson, Sue Croy, Anne Helgen, Paul Rickter, Matt Taylor, Jack Weis

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM.

### **Discussion of Initial Draft of FY 25 School Department Budget**

In advance of the meeting scheduled for the next morning (November 21<sup>st</sup>) with the School Department Finance Subcommittee, the Ed Subcommittee met to discuss the initial draft of the FY 25 School Department budget as presented to the School Committee on November 14<sup>th</sup> and to formulate questions and discussion topics for the next day's meeting.

Topics and/or questions that were raised to discuss the next morning included:

- Confirming that non-recurring costs were taken out of the FY 25 roll-forward budget.
- Understanding how level service is defined in creating the level service budget.
- Having the School Department explain the increase in budgeted transportation costs.
- Confirming that the projected out-of-district (OOD) tuition expenses begin with the projected FY 24 actual tuitions (and, in particular, exclude the \$682,000 of savings attributable to the Ken Kramer memo from May 2023).
- Understanding whether there are still unfilled positions in FY 24 and whether any such unfilled positions will be filled.
- Understanding whether the budget includes projected staff exchange / turnover savings.
- Understanding where the additional \$400,000 that Will Brownsberger and Dave Rodgers supposedly have procured for the town are reflected in the budget. Will those funds be expended in FY 24, and if so, on what expenses? Or, will they be expended in FY 25 and, if so, where are they reflected in the preliminary budget?

### **Public Comment**

A sizeable contingent of teachers and educators attended the meeting. We opened the meeting and invited them to speak. The comments tended to cluster along two main themes.

Specifically:

- Inviting members of the Ed Subcommittee to visit classrooms so that we can get a better appreciation for the day-to-day dynamics and the challenges that teachers face.
- A discussion of special education (SPED) services and the challenges and concerns that the teachers and school system face around that topic.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.