

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee**  
**Joint Meeting with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee**  
**May 6, 2021 8:00 AM**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 9, 2022  
TIME: 9:28 AM

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Members in Attendance**

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee:** Liz Goss, Anne Helgen, Geoff Lubien, Paul Rickter, Jack Weis, Laurie Slap

**School Committee:** Amy Checkoway, Mike Crowley, Meg Moriarty, Jamal Saeh

**School Department Administration:** Superintendent John Phelan, Finance Director Tony DiCologero

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM.

### **FY 21 Q3 Report**

We began the meeting with a discussion of the various sources of COVID relief funds.

- Per John, the department is going to carry over the \$400,000 in ESSER II funds to FY 22. If we had wanted to use those funds in FY 21, we would have had to apply to do so by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The decision was made to carry these funds into FY 22 because of the uncertainty as to what the COVID-related expenses might be in FY 22. The application to use the ESSER II funds in FY 22 is due June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The ESSER III funds total approximately \$1,000,000. The application for using the ESSER III funds just came out yesterday and, it too, is due June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- At this point, what the actual FY 22 COVID expenses will be is obviously unknown. They may well be in excess of \$1.4 million.
- To date, the School Department has spent approximately \$690,000 out of the General Fund for COVID-related expenses. John stated that the department would gladly charge any FY 21 COVID expenses to any additional Federal sources of funding in order to increase the amount of budget turnbacks to the Town.
- The discussion then shifted to the SPED out-of-district reserves. The large variance in the Q3 general fund numbers really represents a timing issue. The department hasn't made any decision as to whether and how much to use the general fund budget versus federal and state sources of funding to cover the FY 21 out-of-district tuitions. For now, therefore, Tony doesn't have anywhere else to show those expenses other than in the general fund line item. The School Department administration will come back to the School Committee for approval of the final FY 21 funding plan.

### **FY 22 Budget**

- John walked through a summary of the various budget reduction options that were discussed on May 4<sup>th</sup> with the School Committee. The proposed reductions include the elimination of 10 of the 11 projected new positions, retaining only the district-wide equity position. The proposed reductions also include the elimination of four existing teaching positions, two kindergarten teachers, a first-grade teacher, and a fourth-grade teacher. The budget also assumes that the Phys Ed director position will be converted to 0.5 FTE. Other

reductions include \$270,000 in expenses shifted from the general fund to the revolving funds, a \$105,000 reduction in supplies and travel, and a \$250,000 reduction in the allowance for projected contractual salary increases.

- Recognizing the Ed Subcommittee's deadline for generating our chapter of the Warrant Committee report, Tony said that he would provide the Ed Subcommittee with a simultaneous copy of the three-page budget summary when he provides it to the Finance Subcommittee.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.