

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Joint Meeting with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee
May 25, 2021 8:00 AM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: March 9, 2022
TIME: 9:24 AM

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

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

School Committee: Kate Bowen, Amy Checkoway, Mike Crowley, Meg Moriarty, Andrea Prestwich, Jamal Saeh

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

Other Attendees: Roy Epstein

Call to Order

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

FY 21 Budget Closeout Discussion

- Tony walked the group through the most recent three-year out-of-district tuition funding plan. The total tuition expense in the most recent (April) numbers is about \$418,000 higher than the previous (February) forecast. Moreover, using the higher FY 21 numbers increases the five-year (FY 17 – FY 21) compounded growth rate from 5.0% to 5.83%.
- There was lots of discussion on the methodology and assumptions in the three-year model, in order to try to understand how a positive projected balance in the February 2021 model changed to a negative balance in April 2021.
- The discussion then pivoted to the need for the Finance Subcommittee to provide guidance to the School Department administration on how to balance funding out-of-district tuitions from the general fund versus utilizing SPED reserves and other sources of funds. The Finance Subcommittee will provide guidance and recommend a vote of the School Committee at the Finance Subcommittee meeting next week.

Federal Funds Discussion

- John shared an update on COVID relief funds. He indicated that he is working with Patrice Garvin and the Financial Task Force on a strategy for using the ESSER and ARP funds in FY 21 and for FY 22 expenses.
- There was a discussion regarding how the School Committee and School Department might want to rethink the so-called COVID parking lot expenses and the priority of funding those costs.
- John noted that the town received a grant application from the State for additional funds over and above ESSER II and III to address social and emotional learning needs in summer school.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.