

Belmont School Committee Minutes Work Session Minutes
Finance Subcommittee
November 17, 2015
Conference Room of the School Administration Building

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

2. FY 16 Q1 Budget Update

Laurie Slap reported that she sent the Q1 Budget report to the Warrant Committee, Education Subcommittee and the Warrant Committee Chair offering them an opportunity for questions. None had been posed as of the day of the meeting. It was noted that a report with the same Q1 Budget documents will be presented to the Warrant Committee on November 18, 2015.

3. FY17 Budget Discussion

The FY17 Budget Discussion addressed special education costs, the variables associated with state funding and the possibility of the Committee considering special education costs that were unanticipated for FY16 that could now be considered going forward as the students will likely remain in Belmont for FY17. There was also a discussion on other budget deficits and the need for additional funding for expenses such as modular units.

4. SPED Stabilization Fund Strategy

The group had an extensive discussion on special education expenses and how the School Committee should consider such funding going forward. Superintendent Phelan noted that the stabilization fund should likely be utilized for unanticipated costs as the Committee should be able to consider current costs in projecting for the future.

5. Facilities Budget Review

As discussed at prior meetings, the facilities needs of the Department have grown. There was an extensive discussion on transportation issues faced by the Department due to unanticipated busing needs resulting from increased and/or delayed enrollment. It was also noted that at least eleven additional spaces will likely be needed for the 2016-2017 school year and would likely be provided through modular units. The use of modular units could provide three classroom spaces at the high school and six at the middle school. Superintendent Phelan noted that the costs associated with the installation of modular units include

utility set-up, furniture and technology.

6. Athletic Building Committee

Superintendent Phelan presented a copy of a memorandum from the Athletic Building Committee requesting support and funding for a press box at the top of the home field bleachers at Harris Field. The memorandum states that the press box and required handicap access would cost approximately \$200,000 and \$40,000 is available from the original appropriation. The Committee is considering capital funding to be approved by Annual Town Meeting which would allow a press box to be in place by September 2016.

7. Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion and a minor amendments, upon a motion by Susan Burgess-Cox, seconded by Tom Caputo, the minutes were approved as amended.

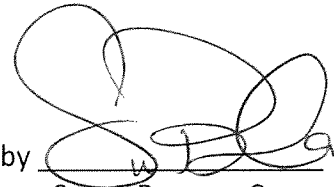
8. Next Meeting

The next meeting for the School Committee/Finance Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2015 at 7:30 AM in the SAB conference room.

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Tom Caputo, seconded by Susan Burgess-Cox, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Burgess-Cox', written over a horizontal line.

Susan Burgess-Cox