

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM
JOINT MEETING WITH THE WARRANT COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING ROOM
MARCH 4, 2019**

SC Members Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
 Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary
 Dr. Lisa Fiore
 Ms. Catherine Bowen
 Ms. Tara Donner
 Ms. Jill Norton
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

WC Members Present: Mr. John Alcock, Mr. Michael Crowley, Ms. Elizabeth Dionne, Mr. Roy Epstein, Ms. Jennifer Fallon, Mr. Daniel Halston, Mr. Geoffrey Lubien, Mr. Robert McLaughlin, Ms. Lynn Read, Mr. Paul Rickter. Ms. Ellen Schreiber, Ms. Laurie Slap, Mr. Jack Weis

BOS Present: Mr. Adam Dash, Mr. Thomas Caputo, Mr. Mark Paolillo

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Burgess-Cox called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:28 p.m. The meeting was a joint meeting of the School Committee, Warrant Committee, and Board of Selectman regarding the FY20 Budget.

2. **FY18 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Town Budget

Ms. Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator, provided some background information on the formulation of the budget. Ms. Garvin and the finance team worked collaboratively with Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero to develop the FY20 budget. The FY20 budget is projected to be \$129,000,000 an increase of 11.8% since FY19. This includes a 52% increase in Capital costs related to the new high school as well as work on the police station and department of public works site. The town budget has an increase of 4.4% and the school budget has an increase of 6.4%. Budget priorities include education, facilities, capital infrastructure and maintaining a 10% undesignated fund balance.

Funding sources for the FY20 budget include a \$2.6 million transfer from the Stabilization Fund and a \$2.9 million transfer from Free Cash. This budget does not fund department requests totaling \$585,000 that include staff, maintenance and capital costs.

Ms. Garvin provided a summary of revenues from the town, state aide and chapter 70 funding as well as a 5-year and 10-year revenue comparison. Ms. Garvin noted that the Town Budget for FY20 is a level service budget that exhausts the Stabilization Fund and likely calls for a FY21 operating override.

School Budget

Superintendent Phelan reviewed the School Department's zero-based budgeting process used to guide the district's strategic plan. External pressures driving the budget include growing enrollment, increases in special education costs and health insurance expenditures. Belmont continues to spend less per pupil than the state average. Belmont spends approximately \$13,656 per student and the state average is approximately \$15,956.

Superintendent Phelan reviewed spending from FY16-FY19, noting past budgets have been managed well and FY19 operations are on track to meet existing needs. In addition to overall increases in the primary cost-drivers of enrollment, special education and health insurance, an additional cost driver for FY20 is the transition to a new grade configuration.

Superintendent Phelan noted that roll-forward amounts from FY19 to FY20 result in a 3.51% increase, strategic plan cost drivers such as enrollment, text, materials, supplies, staffing and a new school result in a 1.55% increase, and external cost-drivers such as special education expenses and health insurance result in a 1.38% increase. This results in an overall increase of 6.43% from FY19 for a total budget of \$60,649,451.

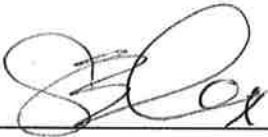
The group participated in a question and answer session for both Ms. Garvin and Superintendent Phelan related to their budget presentations.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m. on a motion offered by Dr. Fiore, seconded by Ms. Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair