

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2020

Present: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Chair
Ms. Catherine Bowen, Secretary
Ms. Amy Checkoway
Mr. Michael Crowley
Ms. Tara Donner
Ms. Evelyn Gomez
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
Mr. Michael McAllister, Director of Human Capital

Chair Andrea Prestwich left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

2. FY21 Positions and Funding Sources

The School Committee discussed the creation of two separate budgets. One budget would be with an override vote and the second would be without.

Discussed prioritizing positions with hope a budget can be put forward before Thanksgiving. May be too much too much flux taking place with positions in hybrid, remote, etc. It is not clear what school will look like next year. There is a possibility there may still be issues with COVID next year, which will affect which learning model will take place. The district will learn a lot this year on how technology is used and instruction is delivered. Adjustments may need to be made next year.

The district hired three technology integration specialists using money from the 225 Fund. There is an additional position listed for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. There has also been discussion on the need for additional positions at the administrative level related to community engagement.

The community will face hard choices with the absence of an override. Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator suggested a possible Community Forum to hear what the community feels is important. School Committee members expressed interest in hearing more about the instructional vision and what implications it might have for the budget. Additional staff may be needed to support class sizes. Capital needs also need to be taken into consideration in terms of safety and maintenance. It might be necessary to assume the district will be in some form of hybrid next year but will not have the additional resources from the government we currently have.

The district is fortunate to have come to an agreement with teachers that will allow elementary students to live stream into their classrooms. It will save the district from hiring 12 educators.

Superintendent Phelan suggested determining some of the School Committee assumptions, along with feedback from the Leadership Council. This would enable the district to structure something for the public.

Director of Finance, Business and Operations Tony DiCologero, updated the Committee on positions and funding sources. The positions that are moving forward are COVID related and only added for one year. Some were charged to the initial Cares Act Grant and the 225 Grant. Positions have been added to make up services for Special Education. An additional .4 nurse and 1.0 nurse have been requested. A couple of Professional Aide positions have been request for support in Phase I Preschool. There are concerns with the district's staffing ability in the event that teacher's take leave. The number of emails with requests has increased since last week.

The School Committee discussed when to meet with the Warrant Committee Subcommittee on Education. They also discusses which topics to cover.

3. FY21 Bus Fees – Initial Discussion

Did not discuss.

4. FTF2 Discussion

4. Minutes

August 25, 2020
September 2, 2020
September 8, 2020
September 15, 2020
September 15, 2020
September 21, 2020
September 22, 2020

The School Committee did not vote on the minutes.

5. Adjourn

*On a motion offered Michael Crowley and seconded by Amy Checkoway, the School Committee **VOTED** unanimously on a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by 
Catherine Bowen, Secretary