

Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting
March 12, 2018
6:30 pm, Phillips Building, room 301

Minutes

- A. Call to order.
- B. Roll Call: Lindsay Mosca, John Portz, Kendra Foley (members of subcommittee)

Also present: Dr. Galdston, Mary DeLai, Theresa McGuinness, Craig Harimon, Kathleen Demarais, Eileen Hsu-Balzer, Mark Sideris, Amy Donohue, George Skuse, Lori Kabel, and members of the public.

The meeting is being recorded.

C. Discussion and Action items

- a. Later Start Time transportation plan

Mary outlined the current recommended plan in the [memorandum](#). Since this proposal would limit seats on the bus (going from 3 Hosmer busses to 2 Hosmer busses), there would be fewer seats available for those students who live within 1.5 miles of the Hosmer and receive bus service from the Hosmer to the Boys and Girls Club. Other options are being explored for the Boys and Girls Club transportation options from Hosmer. There was discussion about the recommendation from a previous meeting about eliminating the \$100 discount for students who live south of the Charles River.

There was a discussion about the language in the Transportation Policy (File EEAA) and whether the policy clearly reflects the intentions of the committee. The eligibility section of the policy will be reviewed and clarified by the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: Approve the recommendation to remove the South of the Charles transportation discount. Approved, 3-0.

Motion: Approve the recommendation to contract for three buses, using 1 bus for the Middle School that provides transportation service for 6th graders who live greater than 2.0 miles from the Middle School. Any additional seats will be prioritized, at a bus fee, for 6th, 7th and 8th graders based on distance from the Middle School, according to School Committee policy. The two buses running to and from the Hosmer School will prioritize seats based on distance from the school according to School Committee policy. Approved, 3-0.

D. Reports: Use the [PowerPoint](#) to view all reports discussed.

- a. [FY 19 Superintendent's Recommended Budget](#), Overview, and Districtwide Cost Center. Please reference the presentation for details on all reports.

i. **FY'19 Budget Overview**

Dr. Galdston went over the presentation. She explained the budget goals in context of the teaching and learning goals of the district.

Mary summarized budgetary changes and went into detail about the cost centers and how priority items were funded (either within the 5% or by reductions).

Mary also detailed the budget offsets (grants and trends in funding of grants, special revenue funds, and other budget offsets).

There was a discussion about Watertown's per pupil spending. Mary highlighted that the costs and reasons are multi-layered: some major factors are varied course offerings, commitment to small class sizes (well below state recommendations), and other factors.

ii. **District Administration**

See presentation for details. District Admin expenses will be up by a net 1.9%.

Information Technology

George Skuse presented on the Information Technology Department. He discussed the teaching and learning goals of his department, and also how the budget will support the work.

Public Buildings Department

Lori Kabel presented on FY'18 accomplishments, setting up more detailed tracking system for spending information moving forward (adding line items to budget), and other expenses. There was a discussion about hoping to partner with the town for snow removal services in the future. Many surrounding towns collaborate since school buildings are multi-use by different departments in the town.

Motion to table reports on *iii. District Curriculum* and *iv. Student Services, Districtwide* to March 20th meeting. Approved, 3-0.

E. Future meetings

3/20/18 6:30 pm This meeting will be a joint Budget & Finance and Curriculum Subcommittee meeting that covers Elementary Schools, District Curriculum and Districtwide Student Services.

3/21/18 6:30 pm This meeting will be a joint Budget & Finance and Curriculum Subcommittee meeting that covers Secondary Schools, Athletics, and Extracurricular activities.

Minutes Submitted by Lindsay Mosca