

Minutes – Wayland School Committee attending Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

The Wayland School Committee attended the Finance Subcommittee Meeting held on Friday, February 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the School Committee room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present:

Barb Fletcher, Finance Subcommittee
Donna Bouchard
Susan Bottan, Business Administrator

Also:

Members of the School Committee
Ellen Grieco
Jeanne Downs

Also:

Carol Martin
Finance Committee and Finance Committee Liaison to the School Committee

The School Committee meeting was convened at 11:10 a.m. and recorded by WayCam.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public for the School Committee:

There were no public comments for the School Committee.

2. Financial Matters:

(a) Review and Approve FY16 Budget Message, Budget Booklet, and Budget Hearing Presentation, including Communication related to Budget Hearing:

Ellen distributed the Budget Message she drafted. The School Committee discussed the process by which comments would be provided.

3. Comments & Written Statements from the Public for the Finance Subcommittee:

Anette Lewis noted that she will make public comment when the Subcommittee addresses agenda topic 2(c).

Kent George noted that he still has lots of questions pertaining to the school budget and the Budget Book, which shows an increase of \$890,000 in personnel costs vs. the Personnel Budget, which shows an increase of \$1,288,000 in personnel costs. He noted that the numbers do not reconcile.

Kent also noted that a list of new employees includes some employees who were previously listed as having left the district. Another issue includes a negative reserve.

2. Financial Matters:

(a) Review and Approve FY16 Budget Message, Budget Booklet, and Budget Hearing Presentation, including Communication related to Budget Hearing (continued):

The Committee continued its discussion about the process for gathering comments, possibly scheduling another meeting to review the Budget Message, the Budget Booklet and the Powerpoint presentation. Ellen walked the Committee through the draft budget message, which follows the process the School Committee followed to develop the budget, including a statement supporting the Superintendent's recommendations and also being responsive to the comments received from residents. The Committee also discussed the use of the Finance Committee's reserve funds in the event of unforeseen costs.

Barb then distributed a draft of the Powerpoint presentation. The Committee discussed the development of the budget booklet and the work over the summer to make improvements and align with other budget reports. Barb walked the Committee through the Powerpoint presentation and asked for input on the new information included in the presentation, such as sources and uses, benefit information and peer comparison. Barb also mentioned she will provide the Committee with a draft communication for the upcoming Budget Hearing.

Susan noted that Roger Hatch at MA DESE would update data in Wayland's End-of-the-Year (EOY) report, based on amendments filed by Susan Bottan after reviewing Melanson & Heath's audit of the information.

Ellen left the meeting at 11:40AM.

(b) Review any Comments Received from School Committee Members regarding the Proposed Assessment of the Food Service Program by Edvocate:

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposal from Edvocate and discussed ideas related to how the firm would be able to communicate with the public to gain feedback during their review of the Food Services Program. It was discussed that one evening meeting be held for anyone interested in attending and providing feedback. Susan Bottan will move forward with the purchase order for the Edvocate contract and provide Edvocate with all requested information, including financial and personnel. Donna requested that Edvocate also be given a copy of the Food Services restatement report from The Abrahams Group, conducted in 2011. Malcolm requested that the quality of the food be included in the review.

Jeanne left the meeting at 11:50AM.

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Fletcher

Corresponding Documents

1. Agenda
2. Draft Budget Message
3. Draft Powerpoint Presentation