

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Via Zoom # 884 5249 8871
May 26, 2021

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Jane Hackett, Vice Chairman
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Absent: Pascale Burga, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Malary, Municipal Finance Director
Kathleen Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Wargo, Superintendent-Elect, WPS
Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Belmarsh, Chair, Weymouth School Committee
John Sullivan, Weymouth School Committee
Carrie Palazzo, Weymouth School Committee
Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw, Weymouth School Committee

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and called the roll with one member absent. Chair Molisse reported that Councilor Burga was absent due to a family commitment.

John Sullivan, School Committee Budget Chair, made a brief statement on the school budget process that began with input from teachers, parents, principals, school councils and other stakeholders to prioritize and ensure that the proposed budget aligned with the district's most pressing and immediate needs. It then moves to the superintendent's office and is reviewed by the central administration team to bring it to the school committees to determine a final product for submittal to the town. He thanked his colleagues on subcommittee, and the entire school committee. There was a high level of cooperation with the town administration, and they were in regular contact with the Town Council's Budget/Management chair.

Kathleen Smith, interim superintendent, read a statement thanking everyone for their assistance during her time with WPS, and introduced the new superintendent, Robert Wargo. He thanked Supt. Smith for her mentorship, and looks forward to working with the schools, staff and town.

21 062 Z-Schools

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 20, 2021.

Supt. Kathleen Smith gave a Power Point presentation with Asst. Supt. Brian Smith, school staff and school committee. During and following the presentation, questions and comments from the Budget/Management Committee were fielded.

Overview-

- State of the School District
 - Accomplishments
 - Communication
 - Culture
 - Creative Solutions
- Weymouth Public Schools by the Numbers
 - Proposed Budget - \$79,822,216
 - Needs List
 - Expense Classification
 - Projected Attrition- Unfilled Positions- Breakage
 - Compliance / Other Needs
 - Projected Enrollment / Historical Enrollment
 - Per Pupil Expenditure
 - CBA Budget Impact
 - Employment Contracts
 - Revolver Funds
 - Oversight / Reconciliation / Reporting / Annual Review
 - Grant Awards – Federal / State / Private
 - Maintenance & Facilities –
 - Capital Plan FY22
 - Project / Justification / Cost
 - Personnel Needs
 - Utility
 - Procurement – Quote / Bid / State Contract / Consortium Participation
 - District Instruction
 - Instructional Technology
 - Transportation Services
 - District Administration
 - Special Education

Vice Chair Hackett asked if WPS saw much increase in home schooling? Supt. Wargo responded that there has been a very small uptick, and the department will try to re-attract families to the public schools. Overall, enrollment is declining, but that is not unique to Weymouth. Vice Chair Hackett also asked if the department is reviewing revenues for potential reimbursement? Chief of Staff Langill responded yes, and the same is done in all other town departments. She noted the unprecedented infusion of funds to the department without Town Council oversight. It was designed that way, but she also

cautioned regarding the use of one-time revenues to fund recurring costs to not create a future problem. This is a lot of money; she urged they spend it wisely. Asst. Supt. Smith responded that they are getting more guidance from DESE on the application without creating structural deficits. Vice Chair Hackett acknowledged her tremendous gratitude to everyone in the Weymouth Schools for their perseverance. She believes the true story of the last year in a pandemic will never be told.

After the presentation, Auditor Swanson reported that he had no follow up questions.

21 075-Free Cash Transfer for School IT Leases

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 20, 2021. Asst. Supt. Smith reported that backup for this measure was included in the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 PM Vice Chair Hackett made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachment: Budget Management Presentation- WPS, dated 5/26/21
Questions on Proposed FY22 School Budget- Auditor Swanson

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 30 August 2021