

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Budget/Management Committee
June 1, 2016, Wednesday

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Absent: Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Dr. Kenneth Salim, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Belmarsh Chair/ School Committee
Tracy Nardone, School Committee- Budget Subcommittee
Gail Sheehan, Weymouth School Committee
Kathleen Curran, Weymouth School Committee
Micky McGonagle, Acting Business Mgr., Schools

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**Review and Discuss School Department Budget with School Superintendent,
Assistant Superintendent and Applicable Senior Staff**

Deliberate the following measure:

16 066Z-School Department

Dr. Salim presented the proposed budget with Ms. Nardone.

- Organizational Chart
- Overview
 - Budget Process
 - Includes free cash and supplemental appropriation
 - Identified Needs
 - Needs list summary
 - District
 - Special Education
 - Primary
 - Middle
 - High School
 - Curriculum and Department materials
 - Technology Capital Needs
 - Needs list additions
 - Critical technology
 - Adjustment counselors
 - High school staffing

- Administrative support middle and primary levels
 - Needs List Summary
 - Technology Needs
 - Independent Technology Review
 - DESE district review cited challenges
- SPED Program
 - Number of students
 - Number of staff
 - District wide programs
 - Needs
 - Adjustment counselors
 - Team chairs-primary level
 - Primary SPED teachers
 - 6 middle school teachers
 - 4 WHS teachers
- Curriculum Leadership and Teacher Support Needs
 - DESE review
 - cited challenges
 - recommendations
 - Teacher support needs
 - Curriculum leadership
 - Instructional coaches
 - Math and Literacy
- Additional School and District Needs
 - WHS teaching positions
 - Exploratory CTE, ELL teachers
 - Administrative support
 - Primary Science teachers
 - Collective Bargaining
 - Nursing Support
 - Arts/Music Leadership
- Current Context and Drivers
 - Variable impacting budget development
 - State aid Ch. 70
 - Focal Financial contribution
 - CBA
 - Circuit Breaker
 - Local Free Cash supplemental funding
 - Non-resident tuitions for Voc-Tech
 - Projecting and analyzing future costs
 - Sustainability challenges
 - Increasing non-discretionary expenses
 - Insurance, pensions, utilities, tuitions
 - Personnel and programming needs
 - Collective bargaining
- Mayor's Proposed Budget

- Operating budget
- Capital measures
 - IT infrastructure
 - Curriculum/textbooks
- Operating budget proposal
 - Meets level service needs
 - Enables additional school department needs
 - Transfers two payroll positions to school department
- Capital budget proposal
 - Makes progress towards critical IT infrastructure needs
 - Funds replacement outdated materials secondary level
- Closing
 - Level service and progress to meeting longstanding needs
 - Does not include use of free cash
 - Regular communication

During the discussion, at 6:12 PM Vice Chairman Patrick O'Connor arrived
 During the discussion, at 6:22 PM, Councilor Hackett arrived.

Chairman Molisse asked the status of CBA negotiations. Dr. Salim responded that the Unit A teachers have settled; there is a tentative agreement with SEIU Cafeteria workers. All others are settled for FY17, but without an identified source of funding. Councilor Hackett asked about the Chapman School process and timetable and when the Council will see a measure brought forward for funding. Dr. Salim responded that MSBA voted to accept funding the feasibility study. There is some controversy about the grade configuration. Once that's done, then a building committee will be formed. No meeting has been scheduled yet. The next few weeks will be to discuss the requirements. Then MSAB votes again to accept the study and partner with the project for reimbursement. The feasibility study will look at the options, program, location, and how broad a study will be and the potential costs. The process will determine the ultimate timeline and then the Mayor and Town Council will determine funding source or whether a debt exclusion measure will be sought. A number of surrounding communities have gone through the process, but they will want to be sure Weymouth's questions are addressed.

Business Manager McGonagle noted that a similar project was recently completed in Duxbury and the process ran five years start to finish. Councilor Haugh asked if the school committee will determine the grade configuration. Councilor Hackett suggested that a few public forum meetings should be scheduled to have the discussion with the stakeholders. The decision cannot be made in isolation. Dr. Salim noted that it was a budgetary decision due to teacher cuts and eliminations. They conceptualize the middle school as a continuum with teams that travel together. The current makeup doesn't allow for building relationships, and the parents feel is as well; fund-raising is more of a challenge. He was asked why the fifth grade isn't included in the primary school configuration and responded that it doesn't fit. The same goes for all-day kindergarten programs--here simply isn't room for them. Ms. Sheehan noted that a study was conducted several years ago; it might be worth reading again. Councilor Hackett noted

they need to be fiscally practical and do only what they can afford. There are tremendous needs, and they need to prioritize the middle school process, then look at the primaries.

Vice Chairman O'Connor reported that he was on the Council when this originally came up in 2009 and he voted against it. He didn't believe it was the right move to make. There has been lots of adjustments since then. There have been bubbles in population and the South Shore Charter added a high school, so these impacted other schools.

Councilor Haugh noted it is a good overall budget; there are no new fees for buses or athletics. Dr. Salim reported that the budget committee met and looked at user fees that would affect families- summer and evening school programs and payrider. Hall Rental fees were also considered; no changes are being made to high school field rates (which were adjusted last fall) and a proposal has been presented to possibly increase costs to rent gyms and auditoriums.

Vice Chairman O'Connor agreed it is a solid budget all around, with no use of one-time revenue or free cash. He extended kudos to the Mayor and Mr. Langill and thanked Dr. Salim for collaboration with the Council at a critical fiscal time. He wished Dr. Salim good luck in his new role.

Chairman Molisse asked about the status of the transportation contract. Councilor Hackett asked about the revolving fund to receive revenue from the high school turf field so that replacement will be funded in 8-10 years. She also asked about measures coming forward to meet IT needs and maximizing purchasing power by combining purchases with the town. Dr. Salim noted that there are similarities, but there is a difference in the end users and there are stringent guidelines around student data. The ultimate goal is to support teachers in the classrooms. Councilor Hackett responded that it's also the students' ability to use the technology; the capacity to utilize what's there. It's not just teachers as the end users, but students- they need to be able to go home and obtain information online. She also thanked Dr. Salim for what he has contributed to Weymouth during his tenure.

Adjournment

At 7:23 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Councilor Michael Molisse as Chair
Voted favorably on 6 September 2016

