

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

January 22, 2020

(Approved 2/12/2020)

MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair
Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair
Stephen Bilafer
Mayanne MacDonald Briggs
Joshua Donati
Dr. Melissa Pearrow
Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent
Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing II

Ms. White motioned to open the FY21 Budget Public Hearing II, Mr. Bilafer second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Donati noted the Budget Subcommittee reviewed the Superintendent's operating budget recommendations. In order to reduce the request to the Town, the subcommittee made some reductions to the Superintendent's proposed budget. The subcommittee then voted unanimously to forward this revised proposal to the entire Committee for discussion.

Supt. Welch provided the Committee with a presentation of the FY21 Proposed Operating Budget. The presentation is available on the District website. The Superintendent's original proposal was for a 5.87% increase. The Committee brought that request down to 5.5%.

Supt. Welch reviewed the School Operating Budget.

Questions & Comments from the Committee

Ms. Briggs voiced her disappointment with the vision and hearing testing equipment request being cut in half.

Mr. Bilafer commented that the level service increase of 4.22% is a difficult starting point and thus small adjustments have large impacts.

Ms. Laprade thanked the administrators who were in attendance this evening for their reasonable requests and stated it was a difficult decision to cut the vision and hearing request.

Mr. Coughlin stated that increases in student enrollment as well as aging facilities will only continue to push the percentage request up. He asked for the public's help in supporting the school budget.

Questions & Comments from the Public

None

Supt. Welch reviewed the Facilities Operating Budget.

Questions & Comments from the Committee

Both Chair Coughlin and Supt. Welch complimented the facilities staff for their care of the buildings.

Questions & Comments from the Public

None

Ms. White motioned to close Public Hearing II of January 22, 2020; Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Donati noted that the next step would be to present the budget to the Finance Committee.

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

Policy

Ms. White presented the first reading of the following policies. The full policies can be found on the District website.

- Access to Digital Resources (IJND) (Revised)
- Staff Digital Use Policy (IJNDE) (Revised)
- Employee Email Policy (IJNDEA) (Revised)

- Student Data Privacy Policy (IJNDG) (New)
- Extension to Student Records Policy (JRA-R) (New)
- Written Information Security Policy (IJM) (New)
- Nondiscrimination Policy (AC)
- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)
- Revised Equal Educational Opportunities Policy (JB)

SBRC

Mr. Bilafer stated the SBRC met last evening. They are working hard to close out the ECEC project as well as trying to achieve LEED “Silver” status. He stated there will also be need to hold a joint meeting between the School Committee and the SBRC to vote on the next Statement of Interest prior to its submission to the State.

Ms. Briggs thanked everyone who attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday. She also thanked the Human Rights Commission and Livable Dedham for organizing the event.

Ms. Briggs motioned to enter Executive Session, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor; a roll call vote was taken:

Stephen Bilafer - Yes

Mayanne MacDonald Briggs - Yes

Joshua Donati - Yes

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes

Tracey White - Yes

Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair - Yes

Kevin Coughlin, Chair - Yes

Motion passed 7-0

Mr. Coughlin announced the Committee would not be returning to open session.

Regular meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.