

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday - January 10, 2005
Lower Town Hall – 7:30pm

Present: Co-Chairs Bob Jacobson & Marty Ragonas, Tracy Billig, Michael Grosberg, Bill Kneeland, Larry Rowe, John Nikula, Sheila Stewart. Also present: Suzanne Petersen, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

Item 1: Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened at 7:45pm.

Co-Chair Bob Jacobson welcomed everyone to the FY06 Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Budget Hearing. He reminded everyone that the next budget hearing scheduled is for Thursday, Jan. 13th and that Sudbury Public Schools (K-8) will be the presenters. He informed the public that they may find information regarding the upcoming hearings and information regarding the committee on the Town's website.

Item 2: FY06 Budget hearing: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School:

Bob Jacobson introduced Marty Ragonas, Bill Kneeland, and Sheila Stewart as the liaisons to L-S High School.

John Ritchie, Superintendent, Pauline Paste, Business Manager, Rosemary Colson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Eileen Glovsky, LS School Committee, were the presenters for the hearing.

Before the hearing started, each committee member was provided with hand-outs from the hearing presenters. (See attached).

Eileen Glovsky was the first presenter of the evening. She informed the committee that the new school was opened on time, but as with any project of this size, they are still working on a punch list. The final completion is expected by the spring of 2005.

Dr. Ritchie stated he is concern about what has been happening. He stated that enrollment has risen 70% since he has been in this position. He stated that the classes are now unacceptable compared to what the students, parents, and teachers expect. He also stated that while looking at the increase teacher loads, that you can not only look at the number of students in their classes, but also at the effect on services & help being offered to the students.

Dr. Ritchie informed the committee that the school committee has been taking an in depth look at the classes & services being offered to the students. They also have been looking at the fees that affect the students as well.

Dr. Ritchie introduced Rosemary Colson to the committee who explained the educational impact to the students at the different grade levels. She stated that for the first time a cap had to be put on some of the classes. There are also waiting lists for various classes. The school has been decreasing the number of new class offerings. Another major concern for the school is the impact on the counselors. Currently each counselor is responsible for approximately 218 students.

Dr. Ritchie stated there have been financial impacts on the students as well. Parking Fees are now up to \$200, and the athletic fees are \$165. He reminded the committee that bus fees can not be imposed since they are a regional school district.

Bob Jacobson asked how the number of teachers needed is calculated. Dr. Ritchie stated that is it actually a calculated science. They take the number of students and the number of classes to come up with the actual teacher count.

Pauline Paste discussed the FY06 Budget drivers and explained some of the utilities/operating costs. The new high school is 36% larger than the older building. They have been continually watching the utilities cost. They did see a drop in costs of the utilities in the months of October and November.

Currently, they are expecting a 60% reimbursement from the Circuit Breaker for Special Education costs. This is a larger reimbursement than originally expected. 19% of the budget goes to Special Education.

Bob Jacobson asked what the cost of living increase was for the high school. Pauline Paste stated that for FY06 a 3.5% increase was negotiated. The current contract is expired at the end of the next school year.

Bob Jacobson asked the committee members and the audience if there were any questions or statements. There being no questions, Bob Jacobson thanked all the presenters for their efforts, and the school committee members who attended the meeting.

A five minute break was taken, before continuing the meeting.

Item 3: Salary Adjustment Transfer Request #05-12:

Salary Adjustment Transfer Request #05-12 is requested by the Personnel Department in the amount of \$10,307.70. This request is to cover the retro amounts owed to the highway union employees, due to the contract settlement.

VOTED: Motion to approve the Salary Adjustment Transfer Request #05-12 in the amount of \$10,307.70. Motion made by Larry Rowe, and seconded by Tracy Billig. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (DeLuca).

Item 4: Approve Minutes:

Marty Ragonas asked for the last sentence in the first paragraph under Item: 4 to be revised.

VOTED: Motion to approve the December 20, 2004 minutes with the understanding the above mention change is to be made. Motion made by Larry Rowe, and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (DeLuca).

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:15pm.