

**Town of Sudbury
Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

The Town of Sudbury's Finance Committee (FinCom) Meeting was held at the Flynn Building and was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Susan Berry.

Finance Committee Attendance

- Jeff Barker, Susan Berry, Joan Carlton, Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, William Kneeland, Jeff Atwater

Item 1: General business

- There were no minutes to approve and no transfers.
- Chairman Berry explained that since there would be a meeting on March 10th there was no meeting scheduled for March 2nd or March 9th at this time.

Item 2: Follow up FY16 Budget Q&A with SPS

Dr. Ann Wilson and Mary Wills began by explaining two reductions they were able to achieve for their FY16 budget. Mary Wills explained that they would be able to carry over \$250,000 in Out of District circuit breaker money from the FY15 budget to FY16 budget and Dr. Wilson told us that they would be able to purchase \$100,000 in Chrome Books in April thus using funds from their FY15 budget for these. This reduction of \$350,000 in the FY16 budget brought the deficit for the Level Service Budget down to \$394,419.

Dr. Wilson was asked how she would address the deficit. She explained that there were three possible options or a combination of portions of these. These were –

- Reduce teaching staff by 6.8 FTE's .
- Hire for none of the new positions requested in the budget
- Decrease supplies (likely in the \$25-50,000 range)

In response to a questions that was submitted to SPS –

- Mary Wills distributed and reviewed the salary schedules for Sudbury and several adjoining towns. These included Action-Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dove-Sherborn, Lincoln, Lincoln-Sudbury RHS, Sudbury, Wayland, Wellesley, and Weston.
- Mary Wills distributed a sheet with detailed information and explained that 9 Out of District SPS students will be moving from the SPS to LS budget for FY16. The SPS cost for these students in FY15 is \$591,607. She also explained that SPS will have 6 new Out of District students in FY16 at a cost of \$399,624 and that this cost could be higher if there are additional students needing Out of District placement.
- Mary Wills distributed a sheet that showed the number and percent of SPS teachers at each step and lane.

- Mary Wills distributed a sheet that showed the teacher turnover at each step and the step of the teacher hired as their replacement for both FY14 and FY15.

Susan Berry asked if the 1% cola is included in the average salary information on the FInCom spreadsheet. Mary Wills answered that she would check on this and get back to her.

Susan Berry asked if the SPS had considered a phase-in of full day kindergarten. Dr. Wilson said that she consulted with the parents on offering a ¾ day kindergarten program and there was not enough interest among the parents.

Bill Kneeland asked if SPS had considered a phase-in over two year for full day kindergarten where the cost would ½ for the first year. Dr. Wilson answered that not enough parents wanted ½ day.

Item3: FinCom Budget Deliberations

Susan Berry asked if there were any additional question for LS. Three questions were proposed but two were answered by information that was available.

- Susan Berry asked why has the number of FTE increased by 7.5 since FY14 while the number of students went down?
- Susan Berry asked - where in the budget was the \$175,000 increase in the cost of bus monitors in the FY16 budget. Jeff Atwater found the answer in the budget book.
- Joan Carlton asked if the mid-year FY15 Cola increase was included in the salary schedule distributed by LS. Mary Wills pointed out that it is included in the salary schedule that she distributed.

Andrea Terkelsen distributed and explained an updated Consolidated Budget Summary.

There was a long discussion of budget options including discussion on whether FinCom should propose an Override budget. After much discussion, all members of the FinCom agreed that FinCom should not propose an Override budget.

Joan Carlton proposed taking some funds from the OPEB normal cost allocation in the FY16 budget to help fund the budget gap. Bill Kneeland explain that the OPEB committee recommended increasing the OPEB normal cost allocation each year over three years until the estimated yearly OPEB Normal Cost was fully funded. He explained that the FY16 OPEB funding was more than 1/3 so the OPEB Normal Cost could be reduced by about \$220,000 to bring it to 1/3 the Normal Cost.

Joan Carlton proposed taking \$220,000 from OPEB and the \$237,000 surplus to help fund the level service budget gaps. She proposed \$250,000 to LS, and \$100,000 each to the SPS and the town. This proposal along with two other proposals were discussed – one to split the \$457,000 evenly three way and the other to split it 50% to SPS, and 25% to the Town and LS.

After considerable discussion there was general agreement on reducing the OPEB Normal Cost funding by \$220,000.

Bill Kneeland and Mark Minassian expressed concern over giving LS a disproportionate amount. Andrea Terkelsen suggested that if LS is given a disproportionate amount than if some or all of it is not needed than that amount should reapportioned back to the cost centers.

Jeff Barker stated that if LS is given a disproportionate amount then a message should go along with it that LS should look long term at how they could better control expenses.

Jose Garcia-Meitin suggested comparing LS cost structure to that of other high schools. He also asked if we could trim the \$392,750 for Operating Capital. Andrea Terkelsen explained that this would have to be negotiated with the Town Manager.

Item 4: Adjournment to lower town hall for meeting with BoS.

At the February 23, FinCom meeting, this was postponed until March 10th.

Item 5: Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Prior to Adjournment, Susan Berry asked the FinCom members to review the Enterprise Fund articles and be prepared to discuss and vote on them at the next meeting

Susan Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Adrian Davies made the motion; it was seconded by Jose Garcia-Meitin, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45.