

**TOWN OF SUDBURY  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FY17 BUDGET HEARING  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 21, 2016**

**ATTENDENCE**

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Fred Floru, Vice Chair, Jeff Barker, Joan Carlton, Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, Bryan Semple

**Also Present:**

Andrew Vanni, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance, SPS, Melissa Martel, Assistant Business Manager, Scott Nassa, Chair, SPS SC, Lucie St. George, Vice Chair, SPS SC, Ellen Winer Joachim, SPS SC, Lisa Kouchakdjian, SPS SC, Bella Wong, Superintendent, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS), Peter Rowe, Director of Finance and Operations, LSRHS, Elena Kleifges, Chair, LS School Committee, Kevin Matthews, Vice Chair, LS SC, Radha Gargeya, LS SC, Nancy Marshall, LS SC, Patricia Mostue, LS SC, Gerald Quirk, LS SC

**Absent:** Jeff Atwater

**CONVENE:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m., by Chairman, Susan Berry at the Lower Town Hall, Sudbury, MA 01776

**ITEM 1: Presentation of the Sudbury Public Schools FY17 Proposed Budget and Discussion**

Chairman introduced this item and welcomed Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools, Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance, Melissa Martel, Assistant Business Manager and invited them to present the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) FY17 Proposed Budget.

Dr. Wilson began her presentation with a brief synopsis on the Sudbury Public Schools Theory of Action, noting that it is the essence of the work of SPS. Dr. Wilson summarized the SPS FY16 Strategic Goals and Objectives. In addition, Dr. Wilson summarized accomplishments and challenges occurring in FY16. Dr. Wilson stated that the Budget Drivers are, Enrollment (Salaries and Benefits), Special Education cost (in-district and out-of-district), and Improvements, Innovations, Enhancements.

Ms. Will presented the proposed FY17, 2.6 non-override budget. Ms. Will stated that salaries increased by 3.54% and expenses

increased by 2.42%. Ms. Will stated that SPS has budgeted with the town for benefits and OPEB cost. Ms. Will stated that the needs budget request is \$960,351 over the non-override guideline. Ms. Will explained that new positions totaling \$277,907 for the coming year are not included in the budget request. These positions include, a .4 FTE Nurse at ECMS (increase to 2.0 FTE), 1.0 FTE Social Worker, Walker Report Recommendations (phase in), MS Special Education Administrator, 1.0 FTE District Network Technician and 1.0 FTE ECMS Technician. In addition, 4.5 FTE positions are not included in the FY17 budget request. This amount totals \$325,171. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Will continued with additional reductions, which keeps the proposed FY17 request within the 2.6% non-override guideline. A discussion then followed on a detail description of salaries as well as revenue from grants and circuit breaker funding.

Dr. Wilson outlined the diminished services as a result of budget cuts. These include: staffing cuts (4-5 FTE), unrelated to enrollment changes (\$325,171); responding to unanticipated student needs would result in freezing/cutting services; inability to continue operational cost saving initiatives; inability to respond to student needs and improve student services based on identified needs triangulated through district data and independent program review; inability to sustain technology implementation; and decrease in curriculum resources.

Ms. Will outlined the cost of direct services to children related to salaries (no benefits) and expenses (net). Ms. Will also outlined the salaries against the SPS district cost centers. An in-depth discussion followed on clarification of budgeted items.

## **ITEM 2: Presentation of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Proposed FY17 Budget and Discussion**

Chairman Berry introduced this item and welcomed Bella Wong, Superintendent, LSRHS and Peter Rowe, Director of Business and Finance, LSRHS and invited them to present the proposed FY17 LSRHS Budget.

Ms. Wong presented an outline on the proposed FY17 budget. The outline included a presentation on the following items: budget history and challenges, enrollment, class size, budget priorities, budget overview, program improvements, budget charts, financial assumptions, managing efficiencies, budget summary, assessments and capital request.

Ms. Wong noted that the LSRHS FY17 budget requests are aligned with the Sudbury Finance Committee guideline for a no-override budget increase in the amount of \$29,271,207 (with OPEB funding)

or an increase of 2.60%. An in-depth discussion followed on clarification of budgeted items.

**ITEM 3: General Business**

**Approve Minutes**

There were no Minutes to approve.

**Transfers**

There were no Transfers to approve

**Other**

Chairman Berry reminded members to sign the Finance Committee Annual report. Chairman Berry distributed handout regarding Minuteman. Chairman Berry note she has extra budget books. Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion in preparation of Monday's meeting.

**ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments

**ITEM 5: ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion and Vote:**

Fred Floru moved and Jeff Barker seconded to motion, that the January 21, 2016 Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 10:04 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Flynn Building.