

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019**

ATTENDANCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Chairman, Bryan Semple, Jeff Barker, Vice-Chairman, Susan Berry, Adrian Davies, Jean Nam, Glenn Migliozi

ABSENT: Jeff Atwater, Lisa Guth, Eric Poch

ALSO PRESENT: Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRH), Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations, Radha Gargeya, Chair, LSRH District School Committee, Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools, Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance, and Stephanie Juriansz, Interim Director of Student Services, Pat Brown, member of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen

CONVENE:

Chairman Bryan Semple called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting convened at Town Hall, Lower Level, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

ITEM 1: Public Comment

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting for Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Motion and Vote

Jeff Barker moved, and Susan Berry seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2018, meeting as submitted.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion and Vote

Adrian Davies moved, and Jeff Barker seconded, the motion to approve the joint Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 27, 2018, as submitted.

The motion carried. The vote was, 5 in favor, 1 abstention.

Motion and Vote

Jeff Barker moved, and Susan Berry seconded, the motion to approve the joint Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of March 20, 2018, as submitted.

The motion carried. The vote was, 5 in favor, 1 abstention.

- **Transfers**

There were no Budget Transfers to approve.

- **Liaison Reports**

Jeff Barker provided a brief update on Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

- **Review Calendar**

This item was not discussed.

ITEM 3: SPS Budget Presentation and Discussion

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion and welcomed Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools, Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance, and Stephanie Juriansz, Interim Director of Student Services.

Mr. Crozier presented the SPS FY20 budget scenarios: Tier 1 Budget (Level Service), Tier 2 Budget (Priority Needs) and Tier 3 Budget (Development Needs). He stated that the initial calculations revealed a gap between level services and priority needs. He described reallocations of funds that could be shifted within the budget to fund other needs. Mr. Crozier described operational increases based on the Town Manager's guidance, which is an increase of 2.87%. Mr. Crozier spoke about increases in instructional leadership, which is 4.5 FTE's, he summarized the positions. Mr. Crozier also summarized the FY20 budget drivers, which include Steps, Lanes and COLA's as well as new positions.

The conversation continued with a review of the reconciliation worksheet. A lengthy discussion followed on FY19 Circuit Breaker Reimbursements that will show up in the FY20 budget. The conversation continued with a discussion on other expenditures and revolving fund accounts.

Chairman Semple provided a summary of the discussion. He stated that SPS has done a lot of budget reductions. The net increase of the budget is approximately \$1M most of which is going to Steps, Lane, and COLA's. SPS is funding \$385K for new positions, some of it is coming out of budget reallocation. There is a net increase of new employees some of which are associated with new programs that are specifically designed to reduce out-of-district tuition. There is a net of \$600K reduction in out-of-district tuition that is coming out of students aging out of the program, plus new programs, which is consistent with what the Finance Committee has been hearing from LS. Chairman Semple stated that more information is needed to fully understand the Circuit Breaker, but that Jean Nam is going to work on that. The Finance Committee will continue to review the overall budget

impact for FY2021. There is a question on the reconciliation worksheet about the .4% that came about from the Town.

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting to public comment. Chairman Semple recognized Radha Gargeya, Chair, LSRH District School Committee.

Mr. Gargeya stated that the two school districts have a collaborative relationship. He added that on March 11, 2019, there will be a tri district School Committee Meeting, largely looking at student services. He stated that the meeting will be recorded and encouraged Finance Committee members to watch it.

ITEM 4: LS Budget Update and Discussion

Chairman Semple opened this item first for discussion. Chairman Semple welcomed Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations.

Ms. Kersey referred to the Budget Reconciliation Worksheet. She stated that for the FY20 budget the numbers have not changed since their budget presentation to the Finance Committee on February 4th. Ms. Kersey also stated that the dollar amount for debt service has been added to the Budget Reconciliation Worksheet. Ms. Wong noted that the debt service is decreasing every year and that the last debt service payment will be FY2026.

Ms. Kersey summarized additional changes to the Budget Reconciliation Worksheet including adding the initials, TBD for FY21 and FY22 in the salaries and out of district line items. She stated that the LS Academy will be added as new addition and critical need programs to the FY20 budget and a new inhouse program will be added to the FY21 budget. The conversation veered to a discussion of out-of-district tuition estimates for FY21. Ms. Wong stated that out-of-district estimates for FY21 are recorded as TBD (To Be Determined). She explained that there are several variables in play that make it difficult to provide a good estimate of out-of-district costs for FY21.

Jean Nam referred to the 3.23% budget guidance for LS. She referred to the Sudbury portion and the Lincoln portion and asked why the discrepancy between 3.23% and the 3.9%. Ms. Wong summarized the reductions to get to 3.23% budget guidance. A general discussion followed on the funding formula between Sudbury and Lincoln.

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting for public comment and recognized Radha Gargeya, Chair, LSRH District School Committee. Mr. Gargeya spoke about LS as a regional

school district and how the member towns are assessed. He stated that there is guidance on the operating budget from both towns that is followed by LS. He also stated that what each town pays depends, in part, on the number of students who come from one town compared to the other town.

ITEM 5: Town Meeting Article Review

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. The Committee began a comprehensive review of the warrant articles. Chairman Semple suggested that the Finance Committee consider having a discussion on the funding process for capital items. A brief discussion ensued on Free Cash and expending Free Cash to fund capital items.

Chairman Semple took a moment to hear a comment from Pat Brown, Board of Selectmen. Ms. Brown commented on the Selectmen's vote on Free Cash at Town Meeting.

The conversation continued with a discussion on the warrant article relative to establishing a Comprehensive Waste Management Report. Chairman Semple invited Pat Brown to speak to the details of this warrant article. Ms. Brown spoke briefly on the need for the report and added that Dan Nasson, Director of Public Works would give the Finance Committee more specific information on this request. Ms. Brown also spoke briefly about the financing the Comprehensive Waste Management Report. A general discussion followed.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting for Public Comment. There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Possible Future Agenda Topics

A brief discussion followed on the following topics: Calendar Review, Liaison Reports, and a Review Calendar.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that the February 11, 2019, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 9:42 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, February 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary

