

School Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Present: Rich Robison, Chairperson, Karen Krone, Vice Chairperson

Members: Bill Braun, Kathy Precourt, Jane Santinelli

Also William J. Hurley, Superintendent, Patti Grenier, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Funk,

Present: Director of Business & Finance, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Rich Robison called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Open Forum I

Tad Mayer, Grace Noyes, and Susan Richmond, introduced themselves as members of the Community Coalition. This group is working to get communication out to pass an override for the FY '03 Budget.

I. School Committee Report

A. Budget Subcommittee Report - moved to discuss with II.B.

B. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Recognition

The Superintendent recognized Curtis Middle School for getting an Education Alliance Grant from Exxon Mobile Corp. for a portable microphone to be used by teachers and students.

B. Budget to Actual

Paul Funk presented Budget to Actual figures as of 2/4/02.

C. Transfer of Funds

Paul Funk requested a transfer of funds to cover unanticipated Special Education costs.

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to transfer \$285,000 from Elementary Salaries and \$115,000 from Middle School Salaries to the following accounts: \$320,000 to SPED Out of District, \$60,000 to Consult Services, and \$20,000 to OT Contractual Services. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

D. Vote on Safety Plan

VOTED: On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Bill Braun, to accept the Safety Plan as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

I. School Committee Report

A. Budget Subcommittee Report

Bill Braun reported on recent meetings of the Budget Subcommittee. L-S agreed that they should use the same principals as other cost centers, ie, level staff with only expense growth that is unavoidable. There was discussion around possible additional Ch. 70 monies available for the schools. However, the Superintendent does not think it wise to expect any increase in Ch. 70 Aid for FY '03. Agreement was reached that everyone would present information in the same format using various override scenarios. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is that the non-override budget would be level funded for each of the three cost centers. The Finance Committee voted not to approve a \$3.5 million override. Other options suggested were a \$2.9M override and a second question for \$400K with the additional funds going to the K-8 system. This second question would ask for \$400K to avoid eliminating non-mandated busing. The Superintendent indicated that he did not think the School Committee would support a separate question, preferring to have the total override raised to \$3.3M.

II. Superintendent's Report

E. FY '03 Budget

Paul Funk presented scenarios based on no override, a \$2.9M override, and a \$3.3M override. The Committee discussed possible staff reductions and eliminating non-mandatory buses based on different scenarios. There was no support from the Committee for a two-tiered override request.

Open Forum II

Grace Noyes expressed her appreciation for the dedication of Committee members. She stated it is important to get information out to voters as to what level of cuts are being considered while educating people about the impact of those cuts.

Tad Mayer voiced support for the Committee's dedication to the K-8 system. He stated there have been several communications to the Selectmen in support of an override.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Bill Braun, to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2002 Meeting as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

V. Personnel Action

As presented in the Personnel Packet.

Member's Forum

Mary Mahoney stated that the Committee has the respect and support of the teacher community. She also reported that there is a high level of anxiety among staff regarding the budget issues. She attended a meeting at DOE regarding substantial changes in the State Frameworks in the history curriculum which would require more professional development.

Rich Robison presented findings of a report from 1998-99 which identified an increase in the number of students with Autism and PDD. Special Education Directors reported on 1300 students in the Massachusetts public school system. Of those, 420 were preschool age and 623 were elementary age. These students come with related issues such as sensory integration, communication issues, self help issues, and behavior issues. Typically, these students require speech/language, sensory integration, applied behavioral management, OT and PT.

Bill Hurley distributed copies of a letter to Maureen Valente about the budget scenarios.

Bill Braun stated it will be an effort to maintain the level of energy and enthusiasm among staff in the face of layoffs.

Jane Santinelli attended the town meeting by Marty Meehan, who indicated the funding for FY '03 would likely be reduced at the Federal level as well.

VOTED: On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Bill Braun, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:40 p.m.

Yes Bill Braun
Yes Jane Santinelli
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Karen Krone
Yes Kathy Precourt

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary

[Home](#) | [General Information](#) | [News](#) | [Individual Schools](#) | [Central Office](#) | [Curriculum](#) | [School Committee](#) | [Site Index](#)

*contact the webmaster: pbarr316@sudbury.k12.ma.us
last updated March 4, 2002*