

**Town of Sudbury~Flynn Building  
Budget Strategies Task Force  
Minutes of Wednesday September 16, 2015 Meeting**

Attending: Susan Berry, Bob Haarde, Bella Wong, Radha Gargeya, Chuck Woodard, Maryanne Bilodeau, Anne Wilson, Lucie St. George, Patty Mostue, Ellen Joachim, Fred Floru

Meeting called to order at 7:38am by Chair Susan Berry

**Item 1 General Business**

- Clerk: Lucie St. George was selected to take minutes.
- Meeting Schedule: Passed around schedule for more potential meeting dates.
- Approval of Minutes:

**Item 2 Budget Guidance Process**

-Info from Interviews: Passed around handout with collected information from set of questions. It included Dover-Sherborn, Northborough-Southborough, Acton-Boxborough (before K-12 merger), Concord-Carlisle, Groton- Dunstable.

-Continued Discussion of Budget Guidance Alternatives, including any feedback from BoS, SPS, LSRHS, FinCom:

FinCom met Monday night and began with the budget guidance letter.

1. Agreed need to question cost centers early October including details on new costs, important events/changes '16 Budget. FinCom will send out last year's spread sheet with a request that the cost centers add FY15 actuals and 2%, 2.5%, and Level Service columns with FY16 appropriations
2. General consensus that guidance needs to be different than in the past years. Began discussion on what did they want?
  - A)Start with FY'16 Budget numbers and given costs- add benefits, contracted salaries, OOD, reimbursements, other Sped costs.
  - B)FY'17 Budget- what does each cost center want to add ie. Increases due to inflation, program changes or additions, etc.

After questions, Anne Wilson assured SPS can take total salary and segregate all SPED costs due to enrollment changes and program needs.

Chuck Woodard feels should start by adding the lowest negotiated COLA, other Salary benefits, etc to show why each cost center has what it has, why taxes increase and make clear why certain items increase. Staff, salary, new programs, etc.

FinCom to meet 9/28 and will know then what revenues to work with within levy limit.

Agreed 50-25-25 split of budget not best model and somehow we need to change this but how? Automatic 2 1/2% masks the driving costs.

What is Level Service Budget (LSB)?

Susan Berry acknowledged LSB means different things to different cost centers.

1. Everything same as year before with flat budget
2. Budget which will meet mandated needs of all students

Anne Wilson acknowledged challenge of traditional LSB in meeting changes of needs of students, staffing, government regulations/mandates, etc all within a fixed budget. SPSchool system needs to be responsive. Flat budget assumes no changes in staffing anticipated.

Chuck Woodard suggests last year's numbers FY'16 clear cut. Then for FY'17 adding with clarity what need, want, what can be taken away, providing every opportunity to do so. Ellen Joachim added being clear what and why of necessary changes and then other things would like/need.

Anne Wilson added cost centers should decide priority of their own needs.  
Fred Floru reminded must provide non override budget.

?Are additional funds added to cost centers last year part of base FY'16 or not?

Bella Wong for LSRHS prefers to present whole budget and then separate out.

How have other schools done this?

Patty Mostue- Town of Lincoln starts with cost increase projections, then pot of \$ gets divided among different centers.

Acton has a Leadership Group who work out suggested allocations for approval by BoS, FinCom, and the School Committee, not the FinCom. There is a hired moderator.

Groton-Dunstable start preparing in August. each cost center presents. Each year proportions change. If can't meet needs, there is an override. Not fixed.

Dover-Sherborn interesting. All K-12 OOD out of Elementary budgets.

Northborough-Southborough structure very different.

There was a suggestion that SPS-LSRHS budget hearings begin in January. LSRHS must vote its budget by Feb 10 (public hearing then vote) because the vote must be taken at least 5 weeks prior to Lincoln Town Meeting.

FinCom to finalize budget guidance letter at their Oct 19 meeting.  
Questions to cost centers will go out by the end of the week.

### **Item 3 Public Comments- None**

Fred Floru voiced concern that we are not fulfilling our mission as a committee as we have not discussed cost share suggestions to save \$ since the early meetings.

**Item 4 Meeting adjourned 8:47am by Susan Berry**  
**Next meeting Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:30pm**