

Budget Strategies Task Force Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Flynn Building – Silva Room

Susan Berry called the meeting to Order at 6:32 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Berry (Finance Committee), Jean Nam (Finance Committee), Pat Brown (BOS), Dan Carty (BOS), Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues (Town Manager), Bella Wong (LS Superintendent/Principal), Brad Crozier (SPS Superintendent), Radha Gargeya (Chair, LS School Committee), Kevin Matthews (LS School Committee), Lisa Kouchakdjian (Chair, SPS School Committee), Silvia Nerssessionian (SPS School Committee)

Others Present: Donald Sawyer (SPS, Director of Business and Finance), Sherry Kersey (LS Director of Finance)

Members Absent: Carole Kasper

Susan Berry was elected Chair and Silvia Nerssessionian Vice Chair. Lisa Kouchakdjian volunteered to be the Clerk.

Ms. Berry discussed future meeting schedule. She suggested Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays from BOS.

Ms. Berry distributed draft meeting minutes from the January 31, 2018 meeting. Motion to Approve these minutes by Mr. Gargeya. Ms. Brown seconded the Motion. Motion passed 6-0 with 5 abstentions.

Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues reported the Town received the Safer grant for firefighters which could impact FY20. She also indicated the Town continues to plan for OPEB. Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues is setting up an Operating Budget Calendar.

Ms. Wong reported on the new program LS is developing at the white house.

Mr. Carty discussed last year's winter clean up.

Mr. Gargeya reported he is preparing a presentation on Regional School Finance and hopes to have the presentation ready by late October.

Ms. Berry recommended a future meeting after November 15th. A meeting on or about December 18 would be preliminary. Ms. Berry recommended a meeting in January to discuss any issues. Ms. Wong indicated LS should have a decision on its start time before December 12.

Ms. Brown stated 75% of costs are presented in early December.

Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues will work with the cost centers. Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues will put together a budget with Dennis Keohane and then the Finance Committee will either agree or not.

Ms. Nam stated the reconciliation sheet should be usable. She reported that she, Ms. Nerssessian and Ms. Sawyer are developing another document to show budget information as an alternative to the typical reconciliation sheet.

Mr. Carty stated opportunities for shared costs should be explored.

Ms. Berry will send out proposed meeting dates for December and January.

Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues. Seconded by Mr. Gargeya. Motion passed 11-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.