

**BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 4, 2017 | 5:00 pm

Minutes

*****Minutes are draft minutes and are not official until approved by the Committee*****

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Allen, Chair, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Brent Tewksbury, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Brenda Buzzell, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Kristin McCarthy, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Jay Paterson, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School arrived 6:00pm

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Middle School Principal
Jennifer Nye, Elementary School Principal
Julia Pritchard, Special Education Director
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Lisa Perrault, BSU Business Manager

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUESTS:

David Delcore, Barre Times Argus arrived at 5:40 pm

1. Call to Order

The Wednesday January 4, 2017, Finance Committee was called to order at 5:03 pm. The meeting was held in the upstairs conference room at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

3. Administration

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy the Board unanimously voted to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes Absent in the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from December 7 and December 21, 2016 with the following minor change in future meeting minutes; change "Committee" Members Absent to "Board" Members Absent.

4. FY 18 Budget Development

Mrs. McCarthy explained the basis for her comments that she had earlier forwarded to the Administration.

Budget facts based on the proposed FY18 Budget date 12/28/16 included a few key notes from the BTMES "Comparative Tax Rate Calculations, Budget Years 2017-2018" as follows;

- This version of BTMES' expense budget is approximately a 6% increase from (FY17) \$12,744,370 to \$13,196,335
- Elementary Education Spending is up 2%.
- Elementary Equalized Pupils decreased 0.9% from 795.94 to 788.88; when the final numbers are determined (around Jan. 15) this number could increase by 2 to 3 equalized pupils.
- The Equalized Education Spending per Equalized Pupil increased 2.9% from \$11,860 to \$12,204.
- The total combined Spaulding High School and BTMES tax rate is projected to increase from 1.4067 to 1.4096 (0.2%).

From the BTMES "FY18 Budget Considerations - Revised 12/28/16" handout the following comments and/or clarifications were made. The Math Lab teacher which was originally thought to be in the budget was not in the budget because originally it was thought that there was only one Math Lab teacher when there is proposed to be two. However, next year the Administration feels like they will be able to fund this position using Medicaid or other grant monies.

Changes from the last Administration proposal include the elimination of the proposed substitute coordinator, the proposed school resource officer, the increase for the health substitute and two full time para-educator positions. A requested \$8,000 increase for transportation was clarified that it was for field trips and not for athletic events; which would be counter to current policy and practice.

Without any additions and solely covering the cost of essential education costs such as salaries, benefits and other commitments the increase from the FY17 budget is \$452,934 which represents an increase of 4.05% from the FY17 budget of \$11,186,496.

On the table for consideration are seven (7) items (all items include their estimated costs);

1 FTE Math Teacher – Math Interventionist in the Middle School	\$65,000
1 FTE Para-educator – Lunch & recess duty	\$30,000
0.5 FTE Para-educator - Preschool	\$15,000
1 FTE Educational Technologist	\$65,000
Employee Training in Responsive Classroom (RC) / Developmental Design (DD)	\$30,000
Facility Security Line Item	\$10,000
Transportation – Field Trips	\$8,000

If these additions were to be accepted the additions would total \$223,000 and the total expense budget would increase 6.04% to \$11,862,430.

A discussion ensued regarding several of the items, here are the highlights of the discussion;

The \$30,000 for RC/DD would cover only a portion of the costs and if unfunded would force the administration to find the funds elsewhere. This appears to be an essential training need for staff.

Our current cameras run analog and should be upgraded to digital. The cameras that are replaced would be repurposed and used in other areas of the building to provide additional coverage.

The 1 FTE Para-educator for lunch and recess duty would have a later start and supervise two afternoon bus runs.

The current projected value of the BTMES bus fleet as estimated by Brian Hemenway on 12/28/16 is \$305,000. This number is only an estimate and its accuracy depends on the results of the spring 2017 inspection.

As she did last meeting, Mrs. Perrault guided the Committee through a power point presentation entitled "Barre Town School District Proposed FY18 Budget – December 28, 2016". Mrs. Perrault provided this presentation in paper format to the group. The following comments were made during the discussion of this presentation;

- For FY18 there is approximately \$500k (\$200k from the FY16 surplus and \$300k from the sale of the buses) in additional "revenue" that will be used to lower the amount of educational spending.
- There is approximately \$250,000 in grant monies so the total proposed FY18 is \$12,112,430 [\$11,862,430 + \$250,000].
- The CLA (common level of appraisal) is 88.71% which is a 0.62% decrease from last year.
- The increase in Educational Spending per Equalized Pupil increased 2.9%. This would be the % increase that the voters would see in their ballot language.
- The Administration will review and add to the slides on "Budget Development Considerations" and "Investments". The slides will offer additional information regarding what the FY18 budget is expected to buy.
- A chart showing a comparison of Education Spending /Equalized Pupils in Neighboring/Comparable Schools (BCEMS, East Montpelier, Berlin, Rutland Town, Orange and St. Johnsbury) showed BTMES possesses one of the lowest Education Spending Rates per Equalized Pupil.
- The slide showing the projected tax rates for a fictitious Barre Town couple will be removed from the next edition of the Powerpoint presentation.
- The voters will be asked to support a \$25,000 transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund.

The BTMES School Board members present during the Finance Committee voted on whether or not to support the Administration’s request for the \$223,000 in additional investments above the 4.05% necessary increase. A summary of the recommendations are included below;

Description	Cost	Approved?
1 FTE Math Teacher – Math Interventionist in the Middle School	\$65,000	Yes
1 FTE Para-educator – Lunch & recess duty	\$30,000	No
0.5 FTE Para-educator - Preschool	\$15,000	No
1 FTE Educational Technologist	\$65,000	No
Employee Training in Responsive Classroom (RC) / Developmental Design (DD)	\$30,000	Yes
Facility Security Line Item	\$10,000	Yes
Transportation – Field Trips	\$8,000	No
Total	\$223,000	

The recommended additional budget increase is \$105,000.

The Administration will take these recommendations and develop a revised proposal for the next Finance Committee Meeting.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is set for January 18, 2017 beginning at 5:00 pm in the BTMES upstairs conference room. The meeting is scheduled to go until 6:30pm at which time the regularly scheduled School Board meeting is to take place.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad A. Allen, Chair – Finance Committee, Barre Town School Board