

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

December 7, 2016 | 5:00 pm to 6:30 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
Brenda Buzzell, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Brent Tewksbury, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School [arrived 5:15 pm]
Kristin McCarthy, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Paterson, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School

GUESTS:

Pat McAskill: 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

The Wednesday December 7, 2016, Finance Committee was called to order at 5:04 pm. The meeting was held in the Conference Room upstairs at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Administration

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Buzzell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from the October 5, 2016 and November 16, 2016 meetings.

4. FY 18 Budget Development

The following budget considerations were discussed;

- The “yield” for FY18 is anticipated to increase from \$9701 to \$10,076.

Note: Act 46 of 2015 introduced the “property dollar equivalent yield” beginning in FY2017. This number answers the question: how much per pupil spending would a \$1.00 homestead property tax rate “yield” in FY17? Put another way, if you taxed all the homestead property (for those paying based on property) at a \$1.00 rate and then divided by the number of equalized pupils in the state, what would you get? That’s an over-simplification, but the main factor that determines the yield is the value of property in Vermont. Since property value, education spending, and number of students all change year-to-year, the yield number will too, but the base homestead tax rate is set in statute at \$1.00. That’s why, for FY17, the important number to know is the property dollar equivalent yield, which has been set at \$9,701.

Source: <http://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/tax-rates-and-charts/education-tax-rates/faqs>

- Equalized per pupil spending costs are not yet available.
- Grant spending will also be coming into focus soon.
- Spaulding High School’s expense budget is currently anticipated to experience a 5.1% increase, however, the cost per equalized pupil is increasing < 1%.
- The Administration presented a revised bulleted list of FY18 Budget Considerations. They ultimately prioritized their top three priorities as follows;
 - Add 1 FTE teacher in the Math Lab (cost = 65k)
 - Add Math Interventionist in the Middle School (cost = \$65k)
 - Hire an Educational Technologist as a certified teaching position (cost =65k)

The School Resource Officer was communicated to be a low budget priority because the administration is hopeful that a grant can be attained that would entirely fund this position.

The Administration has budgeted \$30k for “responsive classroom” and “developmental design” training. If not specifically funded this would likely be an activity that the Administration continues to find ways to support.

- Current draft of the BTMES “expense” budget is forecasting a 5.76% (\$644,171) increase in spending. It is unknown what this translates into for a cost increase based on the number of equalized pupils. However, the draft budget is experiencing the following budgetary pressures;
 - 2% increase in salaries
 - Increases in Special Education salaries
 - Increase in the Supervisory Union assessment (due to increases in special education, early education and administration costs)

The increases in special education costs are based on an increase in needs which cannot be met without an increase in personnel. Budget targets must be set higher to meet the increased need.

- Mental health services are increasing.
- Mrs. Perrault estimates that the increase in equalized per pupil spending will be approximately 2%. She indicated that we should use \$200k of the fund balance to offset projected budgetary needs and to reduce the impact on FY18 homestead education tax rate.
- The Committee did not review specific line items in the FY18 draft. Committee members should review the draft and forward any comments to Mrs. Nye by the end of next week.
- Next Finance Committee Meeting is set for December 7, 2016 beginning at 5:00pm in the Library. The regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be cancelled for that day to allow for the Board to focus on the FY18 budget.
- The BTMES School Board should plan on having an approved budget in place no later than the 2nd Board meeting in January 2017.
- The Committee supports the Administration's top three priorities as outlined above. At the next meeting the Committee will review trends in equalized pupil costs, increases in tax rates and current budget impacts/pressures.

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 6:29 pm for the regularly scheduled BTMES School Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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