

Date: November 9, 2022

Place: Havemeyer Board Room

Present: Christina Downey (chair)

Joe Kelly

Laura Kostin

Cody Kittle (via telephone)

Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent

Mr. Blaize Levitan, COO

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

Ms. Kostin moved the approval of the minutes from the October 4 and 14, 2022 committee meetings and Mr. Kelly seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Discussion Item:**

The committee met to discuss the Superintendent's proposed operating budget for FY 24.

The first topic that was discussed was Special Education. Dr. Jones explained the excess cost reimbursements for settlements and outplacements and the work Dr. H has done to maximize those revenues. Similarly, Dr. H has worked to increase Medicaid reimbursements to the town. There was also discussion about co-teaching and the Unique Learner Program, as well as pre-K needs which relate to special education, and that some students have been able to stay within the district with the addition of those SPED programs. It was agreed that an annual executive session on the out of district costs is helpful to the Board.

There was discussion about a variety of issues, including enrollment projections and how that relates to hiring of staff, online registration for students (to help projections), allocating staff amongst buildings (staff movement), projections of elementary class sections for FY 24, and methods to look at efficiencies in staffing.

Utilities were discussed as a risk element in the proposed budget based upon projected increases in cost, particularly electricity. Mr. Levitan and Mr. Kelly explained various tactics being looked at to decrease utility costs, via Eversource, and EMAC.

Within the proposed budget the three areas of cost “risk” or challenges that were discussed were: 1) utilities (as stated above), 2) substitute teachers (due to Covid quarantines and staff illness), and 3) facilities overtime (largely custodial).

Ms. Kostin moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kelly seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM