Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 14, 2023
TIME: 7:00PM Regular Session/Joint Meeting with Bourne Select Board, Finance Committee and Upper Cape Tech Superintendents and School Committees
PLACE: Bourne Police Station, 35 Armory Rd., Bourne, MA

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Berry; Donel Beals; Maureen Fuller; Kari MacRae

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; Marlene McCollem, Town Administrator; Erica Fleming, Finance Director; Arthur Sampson, Finance Committee; Roger Forget, UCT Superintendent; Mary Crook, UCT Bourne Representative; Michael Degan, UCT School Committee Treasurer; Tom Corriveau, Vice-Chair UCT School Committee; Mike Ellis, Town Accountant; Liz Hartsgrove, Assistant Town Administrator; Anne-Marie Siroonian, Selectboard Clerk; Mary Jane Mastrangelo, Selectboard Chair; Peter Meier, Selectboard; Jim Sullivan, Finance Committee Chair ; Priscilla Harcourt, Finance Committee; Amanda Bongiovanni, Finance Committee Vice Chair; Kathleen LeGacy, Finance Committee; Thomas Joyce, Finance Committee; Renee Gratis, Finance Committee Clerk; Jared McDonald, Selectboard (via zoom); Melissa Ferretti, Selectboard (via zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

- Selectboard Chair Mastroangelo calls the joint meeting to order.
- Michael Rausch, Bourne Enterprise, acknowledges that he is recording this meeting.
- Chair Mastrangelo leads a moment of silence to recognize our troops and our public safety personnel and salute to the flag.
- Anne-Marie Siroonian reads the Selectboard Vision Statement.
- Peter Meier reads the Selectboard Mission Statement.

Bourne Public Schools

DISCUSSION: **Fiscal Year 2023 review and Fiscal Year 2025 budget preview-early projected deficit**

- Erica Fleming presents a Fiscal Year 23 review highlighting General Fund Financial Result, Financial Policy Compliance, Key Financial Indicators, Other Funds (special revenue, trust funds, agency), and Enterprise Funds.
- Marlene McCollem presents the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Preview and, although early in the process, a level-service budget shows a 5.16% increase over previous years with a budget shortfall of $1.8 million. She presents scenarios for discussion on how to close that gap including holding school increases to not more than 3.5% which would cut approximately $154,000 for the school budget.
    - Emily Berry asks for clarification on which schools would need to cut approximately $154,000 and Ms. McCollem says that number is for Bourne Public Schools. Chair Berry asks why it's just BPS and Ms McCollem says the UCT is paid as an assessment. Roger Forget says the assessment is based on enrollment and UCT acts as a municipality. Chair Mastrangelo explains that if they ask BPS to keep their increase to 3.5% they would ask UCT to do the same but how that translates into the assessment is a complex formula that uses different student populations for capital and different student populations for the budget assessment.

Kari MacRae joins the meeting; Chair Berry calls Bourne School Committee meeting to order at 7:51pm

- Dr. Zhou says at this moment she would be hesitant to cut anything because their level-services budget has already cut 2 positions. She says although it's at a 4.1% increase she would wait to see what the cherry sheets come in at.
- Chair Mastrangelo says they will continue the conversations through the Spring but they wanted everyone to know what they're facing.

DISCUSSION: **Planning for capital major investments and debt exclusion strategy**

- Chair Mastrangelo begins discussion on planning for capital major investments and asks UCT if the major projects they have coming up would be outside of the assessment. Mr. Forget says they would be part of the budget and comes on the backside as a debt exclusion piece that the town would pay their portion of.

DISCUSSION: **Long term planning, enrollment trends, and strategic plans**

- Chair Mastrangelo says she added the discussion on enrollment trends because the number of students on the Cape has decreased and it's important to look at future trends and be mindful of what we're providing. She adds that it's important to keep in communication on what BPS is doing for the future of their schools. She says we have some great opportunities for students and wants to be sure we can continue to have that.

- Dr. Zhou says they talk about planning for the future at every school committee meeting and talks about the different factors that have impacted the downward enrollment trends including less families at Joint Base Cape Cod, migration out of Massachusetts during the pandemic, and the aging population, but notes that they've seen enrollment start to trend upward.
- Chair Berry adds that a portion of BPS students chose to attend kindergarten out of town at schools they attended preschool since BPS does not offer universal PreK. She says offering universal PreK would help with keeping kindergarten students in BPS.
- Dr. Zhou says they've had internal discussion about grade-level structures at their four buildings and possible shifts as BES numbers balloon.
- Chair Mastrangelo notes that this isn't a Bourne issue, it's a Cape-wide trend.
- Mr. Forget says UCT is always looking at how to improve and expand and believes it is possible to afford to live on the Cape as a plumber or electrician.

ADJOURN MEETING

- Jim Sullivan acknowledges and thanks Renee Gratis who is leaving the Finance Committee after many years of service.

Emily Berry motions to adjourn; Seconded by Maureen Fuller; Voice vote passes 4-0-0

Meeting ended at 8:13PM

List of documents and exhibits used (GL c.30A, sect 22(a))

Agenda Item	Document
0	School Committee Agenda

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Moerman
Recording Secretary