

Mr. Bradshaw did a high level walk through of the administration's proposed budget reductions for the benefit of the audience.

ACTION ITEMS:

- *Recommend to the full School Committee approval of the FY20 Preliminary Budget*

MOTION: Mr. Bento made a motion to approve the FY20 Preliminary Budget; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

Mr. Bento rescinded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Ellsworth made a motion to approve the proposed budget as set forth by administration with the caveat that the positions that are on the proposed reductions be looked at and other avenues taken before reducing any staff, teachers or otherwise; seconded by Mr. Bento.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bento stated that over the next 90 days the School Committee will be looking at everything. Ms. Pellerin added that it is our hope to work collectively in order to be sure that we have proposals in place before the start of school. Ms. Pellerin explained the process of federal grants as it relates to the budget process.

Ms. Pellerin explained how the fund balance will affect finalizing the budget. She added that there are positions opening up that will impact the budget. Ms. Pellerin reiterated that everything will be looked at before reducing staff.

Mr. Simmons stated that many of his staff are here in support of one another. Mr. Simmons stated that he was standing up for his staff on the importance of all that they do for the District. The custodians give their best effort every day. He stated that they are 12 month employees and work during the heat of the summer. Mr. Simmons stated that he asked the School Committee to come to him for ideas for budget efficiencies. Mr. Simmons mentioned that work is being done to start a centralized supply system. He added that the Facilities Department will be implementing a big change that will affect how business is done as a custodial staff. This change will provide a savings to the budget.

Mr. Bradshaw stated that the options he proposed regarding the reduction of some custodial and secretarial staff are not included in the proposal before the Subcommittee this evening, and they are not part of the preliminary budget. Mr. Bradshaw stated that if anyone has ideas on how the District can look to save and potentially bring back areas that are being reduced that are important, he would be more than happy to listen.

Ms. Ellsworth thanked Mr. Simmons, the custodial staff and the secretaries, saying that they are all valuable in the schools and are amazing. She stated that the District is in crunch mode, but that we are all a team working together for the kids. Ms. Ellsworth reiterated Mr. Bradshaw's sentiment inviting anyone who has ideas for the budget to let the School Committee know. She stated that she believes this situation can be turned around and that it must be done together. Ms. Ellsworth closed by thanking everyone who came out this evening.

Ms. Olson, Council 94 President, stated that she would like to reach out and be a part of the budget discussions.

{Mrs. McBride arrived at 6:26 p.m.}

Mr. Cabral asked for clarification regarding the positions that were laid off. Mrs. Aguiar, Director of Human Resources, offered clarification. Mr. Ramos offered further clarification.

Mr. Bento stated that in the ten and a half years he has been on the School Committee, this is the tightest budget he has seen. Mr. Bento stated that the fact remains, the District does not generate revenue. He clarified that the School Committee is here tonight to approve the bottom line preliminary budget with 90 days to work on the budget further before it is finalized.

The motion to recommend to the full School Committee the FY20 Preliminary Budget passed unanimously.

Next meeting – Monday, July 22, 2019

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: At 6:34 p.m., Mr. Bento. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth

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The motion passed unanimously.

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