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Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee
Education Subcommittee
2011-12

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2012

Members Present: Pat Brusch, Michael Libenson, Noreen Millane, Raffi Manjikian, Bob Sarno

Chair Brusch called the meeting to order at 8:05am

This meeting was a joint meeting with the Finance Subcommittee of the School Committee. Superintendent Thomas Kingston, Business Manager Anthony DiCologero, and Director of Student Services Ken Kramer were also present.

The meeting began with discussions concerning the Department's FY13 budget proposal, with school officials providing updates concerning any changes that had occurred since their initial budget submission on January 11. Particular focus was given to the budget for the Special Education program. The original budget had envisioned some \$200,000 savings in the budget line items for out-of-district placement tuitions; however, Mr. Kramer stated today that these savings would not in fact be achieved and that this sum would need to be added to the final budget.

Following the budget discussion, Education Subcommittee members reiterated our desire that the Department provide more detailed cost information for both placement tuitions and the ancillary services (for example nursing or personal care assistants) provided to students in placement. Mr. Kramer responded that his office does have additional information concerning these costs, but that much of the information is in manual form and they do not have the systems needed to collect the data efficiently. He also noted that any attempt to collect greater detail would need to be implemented in a manner that preserved student confidentiality. We raised the possibility of their conducting a one-time audit of costs for a specified period in order to provide at least some insight into the nature of these costs, and he suggested that his staff might be able to undertake such a project. We agreed to return to this subject once final budgets had been submitted and approved by Town Meeting.

Chair Brusch adjourned the meeting at 10:10am.

Minutes submitted by Robert Sarno