

Warrant Committee
Education Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday May 21, 2014 6 pm

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Present: Bob Sarno, Pat Bruschi, Jim Gammill, Elizabeth Grob, Raffi Manjikian

Chair Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion of the School Department's request for a FY2014 transfer from the reserve fund of \$200,000.

Chair Sarno distributed an analysis prepared by him of the Q3 deficit accounts based on data provided by the School Department. He noted that the financial account data does not reveal the extent to which higher staffing levels explain the account deficit.

Chair Sarno then focused attention on the enrollment and staffing data. The subcommittee discussed different explanations why the number of SPED aides increased. The subcommittee received additional data earlier in the day that indicated a higher level of the turnover in the SPED student population than previously indicated. Chair Sarno said he would follow up with the School Department to clarify the subcommittee's questions concerning this new information.

The deficits in the maintenance accounts were discussed. Subcommittee members commented that from the perspective of current reserve fund policy, deficits in maintenance accounts are harder to justify as "unexpected".

Chair Sarno next discussed the LABBB credits, noting \$190,000 in credits, originally budgeted to be used in the current year, have been moved to help fund the FY2015 budget. Since the School Department identified an increase in SPED enrollment as one significant contributor to the deficit, the subcommittee discussed whether or not LABBB credits could or should be used ahead of, or along side of, a draw from the reserve fund in order to fund the FY2014 deficit.

The subcommittee agreed to continue the consideration of the School Department's reserve fund request at a later date.

The subcommittee unanimously approved the minutes of its May 7, 2014 meeting.

Chair Sarno adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.