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Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee
Education Subcommittee

2012-13

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2013

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

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee Chair Bob Sarno called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

- This meeting was a joint meeting of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee and the School Committee Finance Subcommittee (along with members of the School Department Administration). It was held in the conference room of the School Administration Building.
- The most substantive topic of the session was the first agenda item – a debrief of FY2013 and feedback from the SC on the Warrant Committee's report created by the Education Subcommittee. This discussion included items such as: 1) the need to address the cost curve, particularly stabilization of projected increases in salaries; 2) the opportunity to benefit from new instructional models (both in terms of instructional effectiveness as well as cost impact); and, 3) the challenge of rising enrollment, including the difficulty of forecasting exactly what the student population numbers will look like.
- The next agenda item was a follow-up discussion on the Education Subcommittee recommendations in the Warrant Committee Report. In particular, we reviewed additional ways we might be able to get a better handle on out-of-district placement costs. While understanding privacy considerations, Raffi Manjikian offered to dig in further on Special Education data collection and be an additional analytical resource. The Ed Subcommittee then shared our final suggestions on the Special Education Stabilization Fund procedures and process. Tom Kingston agreed to review and respond. All parties were looking forward to achieving resolution on final language.
- The last topic was an update from the School Committee / School Department on the Long Term Financial Planning exercise that is underway. There are eight proposed groups that are looking at a wide variety of topics over the next year or more and conducting data collection and analysis. One goal is to create a draft financial model that will forecast overall costs in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Submitted by Chair Bob Sarno
Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee Chair