

**Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee**  
**March 15, 2023 6:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, Conference Room #4 and Remote via Zoom**

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 20, 2023  
TIME: 9:19 AM

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Members in Attendance**

Bill Anderson, Anne Helgen (remote), Paul Rickter, Laurie Slap, Matt Taylor, Jack Weis

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

### **Other New Business**

The group began with a brief discussion on the OOD tuition numbers and analysis that Tony DiCologero had distributed earlier that afternoon. Most members hadn't had a chance to digest the updated numbers in detail. However, the key take-away from the material was that, given the unexpected and unprecedented increase in OOD enrollments, the School Department is showing a projected deficit in FY 23 of about \$360,000, even after utilizing the full \$672,000 in the dedicated SPED reserve.

### **Discussion of FY 24 School Department Budget**

The group reviewed the draft memo that Jack distributed earlier in the day, summarizing the subcommittee's comments and observations that we made on the Draft 2 FY 24 School Department budget at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with members of the School Committee and School Department administration. The subcommittee members provided feedback on the draft. Jack will complete the section on user fees, with Matt agreeing to send him a paragraph on potential kindergarten user fees. The group also agreed that we should include as an addendum Anne's analysis on the approach that other district's have taken in forecasting Circuit Breaker funds. Jack will revise the memo by week's end and send it out to John Phelan, Tony DiCologero, Meg Moriarty, and Mike Crowley.

### **Discussion of FY 24 Warrant Committee Budget Report**

The group had a preliminary discussion on the subcommittee's chapter in the FY 24 Warrant Committee report. An initial list of the suggested report sections was as follows:

- Enrollment, including the change in composition (SPED, OOD, ELL) and the change in grade cohorts at individual schools.
- A budget overview, including a comparison to FY 23.
- Federal funding, in FY 24 and beyond.
- Reconfiguration and redeployment of staff.
- Union contracts (potentially including a comparison to other nearby town contracts).
- SPED/OOD

In addition to the foregoing, Matt suggested that our report incorporate a discussion of some big-picture topics, specifically: "where does the money come from?", "where does it go?", and "why have costs gone up?".

The group agreed to meet again on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, one hour before the joint meeting between the Select Board and Warrant Committee, to refine the chapter outline and to assign individuals responsibility for the various sections.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.