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**Town of Belmont**  
Warrant Committee  
Education Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday February 29, 2016 7:30 pm  
Town Hall Conference Room 1

Attending: Jim Gammill (JG), Anne Helgen (AH), Robert Sarno (RS)  
Absent: Roy Epstein

1. JG called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. The subcommittee unanimously approved the minutes of the February 16, 2016 as presented.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY17 school budget as presented on February 24th, and to propose questions to be submitted to the school administration for answers.
4. AH commented on the SPED budget lines and the historical trend of significant increases in these expenses over recent years. RS referred the subcommittee to the "Walker Report" from 2014 for detailed information about SPED tuitions and other expenses. RS discussed whether out of district enrollment data by grade would lead to better projections. The members discussed that ideally they would be able to assess:
  - \* how much do the needs of any one student fluctuate over time;
  - \* how much churn is there in the SPED population;
  - \* how much would expenses change with improved management of services;
  - \* how much inflation in SPED expenses should we expect; and
  - \* how much misclassification is there in the cost accounting records.

The members also discussed the various kinds of out of district placements and how to track the impact of students moving between programs, if that is occurring.

5. With respect to ELL expenses and the recent stable trend, the members expressed a desire to understand whether or not the district had identified less costly ways to satisfy the state mandates about ELL.
6. The members discussed whether or not it would be helpful to meet with senior members of the district administration, or whether the subcommittee should wait for written responses to its set of questions.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.