

Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee
May 5, 2022 8:00 AM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

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DATE: June 21, 2022
TIME: 9:14 AM

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Anne Helgen, Paul Rickter, Laurie Slap, Jack Weis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM.

Discussion of FY 23 School Department Budget and Warrant Committee Report

The group began with a brief discussion regarding the School Committee's May 3rd meeting and the approval of a Draft 2 budget that included the addition of 3.2 new FTEs. The group also discussed the School Committee's two caveats associated with that vote – namely, that A) the approval is contingent upon the Select Board approving \$1 million in ARPA funds to help support certain temporary needs of the School Department and B) that if the town receives additional Chapter 70 aid, that those additional funds flow through to the School Department to cover identified needs not addressed in the approved Draft 2 budget.

Jack will follow up with Mike Crowley and/or Meg Moriarty to get a copy of the specific language included in the budget approval motion.

The group then turned to a discussion of the Ed Subcommittee chapter of the Warrant Committee report on the School Department FY 23 budget. The discussion began with the "Conclusions" section. Some of the points or suggestions raised included:

- Changing the word "Observations" in the title to "Summary".
- Including some commentary on the aforementioned caveats that the School Committee vote was predicated on. The subcommittee felt strongly that, unless this topic was addressed in our report, Town Meeting members could potentially be completely unaware of the arrangement.

The group then went through the other report sections. For the most part, the comments and suggestions were more editorial and cosmetic. Two substantive suggestions included:

- In the FTE/Staffing section, adding a paragraph discussing the number of staff hired over the past three years (FY 20 to FY 23), including the number of unbudgeted additional hires.
- In the enrollment section, deleting the comment speculating on a potential reason for the decline in vocational enrollment.

Each subcommittee member will revise their individual sections of the report no later than the end of the day on Saturday, May 7th. Jack will send the report to the School Committee and the School Department administration on Sunday, May 8th for their comments and feedback. The group will meet again on Monday morning, May 9th to make any final edits and to approve the final draft.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.