

Date: 19 June 2017

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: W. Hodges, T. Cooper, P. Fitzsimmons, K. Prentakis

Others Present: K. Lyons, S. Givens

W. Hodges called the meeting to order at 3:41pm.

1. Discussed and agreed meeting ground rules: start on-time; no side-bar conversations

2. Discussed possible goals for the year:

- Long-term capital plan (and the need for another warrant article this year)
- Improvements to the budget process (such as multi-year forecasting)
- Review of facilities use policies and fees
- Getting ClearGov website operational to improve transparency

3. We briefly discussed the budget calendar and our meeting calendar. We agreed that we would develop these over the summer and have it ready for the full school committee by the fall. Discussed that we would likely meet on the Monday before a school committee meeting, and not opposing Wednesdays as we did last year. We discussed the possibility of moving the meeting time around to accommodate members' schedules.

4. Discussed current state of facilities use policies and fees. Noted that the Facilities Use Task Force had tried to simplify the process and make it more fair. With the recent departure of Deb Lambert and seemingly lack of clarity regarding how the current policies are being implemented, it seemed that this topic needed another look. Also, with declining enrollment and the accompanying declining participation in some extracurricular activities, this also led us to consider reviewing the fee schedule again.

5. Discussed ClearGov website. S. Givens asked us to review the Groton-Dunstable website's use of ClearGov to get a sense of what we could do with this tool, essentially to make information from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) more user-friendly. S. Givens asked us to define our comparison groups, which we will take up at a future meeting. Possible groups included those based on:

- Near us geographically
- "the usual suspects"
- Regional 7-12 districts in MA
- Comparably-rated high schools

6. S. Givens brought up several items, including an update on Summer 2017 Projects underway at the MSRD, highlighting those covered in the recently passed Safety and Security warrant

article. She agreed that she would periodically provide this update to both the Budget Subcommittee and the full School Committee as directed. S. Givens also asked us to validate MSRDC's full contribution of \$150,000 to the Safety and Security Warrant Article, in the context of rebuilding the Stabilization Fund and making contribution to E&D. She led a discussion on how ratings agencies like S&P and Moody's view our financial health, which will only become more important as we consider new debt to implement the Long-Term Capital Plan in the future.

7. P. Fitzsimmons moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by K. Prentakis. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.