



RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 9:06 am, May 20, 2022

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes — Ways and Means School Subcommittee

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Subcommittee
DATE: Thursday March 24th, 2022
TIME: 6:00-7:00 PM
PLACE: WebEx Conference Call

Present:

Roger Riggs, Rob Neufeld, Jayashree Voruganti, Ed Parsons, Chris Campbell
Tom Murphy, Eric Conti, Nichole Coscia
Eileen Sickler

Agenda

- Review of Superintendent's Budget for FY23
- Other financial topics related to the budget or Town Meeting warrant

Superintendent Eric Conti commented on the general state of the schools and budget. Enrollment is fairly steady with a few increases in some grades and schools and also the mix of students is changing. Some students need different kinds of support than previously. In particular, mental health and social emotional support is needed by more students.

The salaries for individual teachers in the Superintendent's budget include all steps and lane changes, but not an across the board increase still being negotiated with the Teachers Union.

Utility budget amounts are hold steady on the recommendation of the DPW. The savings from the solar production has allowed a small reduction in utility costs.

Eileen Sickler commented about bus transportation cost and efficiency. The service does not seem to be reliable and some buses seem lightly used. Are there any potential savings?

The Superintendent commented that the school committee has requested buses for all students to be able to take the bus. The buses are well utilized for the middle school and elementary schools, less so for the high school with more after school activities and students with cars. This is the next to last year of the bus contract so next year will be an opportunity to review and revisit. The bus contract does have a provision for a surcharge for fuel as generally gas prices have risen.

On a question about federal relief (ARPA) funds, they have all been allocated. Some of the funds are being used over the allowed three year period to support additional staff to support student needs to catch up or recover from pandemic impacts.

The Memorial School principal is an interim position and interviewing is ongoing for a permanent replacement.





TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes — Ways and Means School Subcommittee

The Fox Hill enrollment increases are putting a lot of pressure on the classroom space. Something will have to change, but needs to be worked out with parents and teachers.

Rob Neufeld ask about retirements; are there more or less than usual. The Superintendent commented that so far only 4 are known but its still too early to know the number by the end of the school year.

One change covered in the budget is that special education students in grade 5 will be moving up and new programs and teachers are being added to support them in the middle school.

Burlington decides each year at what level to participate in the School Choice program for grades 9-12. It can allow students to attend Burlington High School providing stability to the student though they might live elsewhere. Across school systems it can allow a student to take a program that is not offered elsewhere, the costs and participation is negotiated with the other school system.

None of the budget items discussed were voted.

The meeting adjourned before 7.

Documents discussed:

- BPS FY23 Superintendent Operating Budget
- Special Education Accommodated FY23 Budget Request For SC & WebSite

