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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes — Ways and Means School Subcommittee

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Subcommittee
DATE: Tuesday May 3rd, 2022
TIME: 5:30 PM to 6:50PM
PLACE: Hybrid, BHS School Committee Room and WebEx Conference Call

Present:

- W&M: Roger Riggs, Rob Neufeld, Chris Campbell, Jayashree Voruganti (remote, left at 6:15), Ed Parsons (remote)
- Administration: Eric Conti, Nichole Coscia, Bob Cunha
- School Committee: Martha Simons, Katherine Bond(remote), Christine Monaco (remote)
- Other: Shari Ellis(remote)





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Review of Superintendent's Operating Budget for FY23

The School Committee Voted on the Operating Budget on April 26th based on the target Guideline of 3.75% That amount includes adjustments from the FY 23 Superintendent's Budget provided in the "Reductions to Guideline FY23" document.

The adjustments include an increase to the negotiated settlement line item(line 12) of \$218,742 to support the anticipated settlement of the teachers contract.

Reductions to the budget include:

(\$34,000) REDUCE ATHLETICS EQUIPMENT EXPENSE BUDGET REQUEST (LINE #54)

(\$ 99,873) NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT (DO NOT BACKFILL)

(\$114,101) REMOVE POSITION REQUEST #5 (BHS ASSOC PRINCIPAL OF CURRICULUM)

(\$ 46,319) REMOVE POSITION REQUEST #7 (MSMS .5 READING STRATEGIES TEACHER)

(\$102,750) REMOVE POSITION REQUEST #14 (FH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL)

(\$ 67,485) REMOVE POSITION REQUEST #15 (FH MATH SPECIALIST)

(\$464,527) TOTAL CUTS TO SUPERINTENDENT'S OPERATING BUDGET

School Committee's Operating Budget

Operating Salaries: \$51,992,231

Operating Expenses: \$7,546,897

Total Operating: \$59,539,128 an increase of 3.75%

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

Review of Special Education Budget for FY23

The Special Education Accommodated Budget supports 49 outplacement students, 32 students at the LABB Collaborative, and transportation for both in-town and out of town placements.

Special Education Accommodated: \$12,872,799 - Increase of 4.4%

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger





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Review of School Capital Warrant Articles

7-12 Francis Wyman Playground - \$290,000

The design of the playground was approved by a committee of school department staff, Recreation Department staff, and parents.

The \$290k is based on two estimates included in the backup expecting that much of the site preparation work would be done by the Recreation Department.

The existing playground is 25 years old and is using equipment repurposed from Simonds part from 1996.

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

7-13 CS4ALL Curriculum - \$150,000

The CS4All Curriculum includes programs, materials, and devices in kits for the elementary grade levels that are used in and moved between classrooms. The price includes software and iPads licensed for 40 students.

The subscription and consumables costs for future years will be included in future budgets.

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

7-14 HVAC Controller Upgrade at MSMS - \$108,000

The HVAC control is at end of life, the warrantee and support cannot be extended.

Original installed in 2004 and updated with the renovation in 2011.

The system heats and cools 108 separate classrooms and other spaces in the school.

The HVAC equipment is TRANE and can be supported only with TRANE compatible equipment.

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

7-15 Pine Glen Bathroom Repairs - \$65,000

The stalls and doors in the student bathrooms at Pine Glen are in poor shape and need to be replaced. Some plumbing fixtures may need to be replaced.





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The School Committee has committed to four elementary schools and Pine Glen needs to be maintained in a usable condition for the foreseeable future.

Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

7-16 Pine Glen HVAC - \$500,000

Pine Glen classrooms and common areas do not have air-conditioning.

The funding should be sufficient to add heating and air-conditioning “splits” to 18 classroom and up to 6 other areas.

There are a few weeks each school year for which the temperature in the building becomes too hot and stays hot for the day. This also would allow the school to be used in the summer months.

A similar project was done at Frances Wyman over the previous two years with good results.

The School Committee has committed to four elementary schools and Pine Glen needs to be maintained in a usable condition including HVAC. The main heating system is heat-only installed in the 70’s. The new splits HVAC units can supplement heat when needed.

Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

7-17 Sports Field Master Plan - \$70,000

A through review of the fields used for Burlington School Spots is needed.

There are many individual requests to improve various field conditions. But there is not a comprehensive review of the status and needs for fields. This study will provide needed information to be able to prioritize and plan for improvements and maintenance.

There is no previous study to base a new study on.

The Recreation Department is a partner in the review and maintenance of the fields.

The estimate for the work is provided by a firm that has done similar studies and other work for the town. The estimate is credible.

The question was raised about other community groups that use the school fields and how funding of improvements could be structured.

An objective review of fields and conditions is needed.





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Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

7-18 BHS Music Room Floor Reconstruction - \$450,000

The Music Room and the Chorus Room floors are stepped, the steps are poured concrete, original in the 1972 construction.

To make the rooms accessible and usable the sunken floor will be filled in with concrete to make it level.

The estimate was done by CDI Consulting, an architectural firm on contract with the school system. Their estimate was based on similar projects done in other schools.

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

7-19 Fox Hill Portables Roof Repairs - \$160,000

The roofs of the portables are leaking around failing HVAC units and needs to be repaired. The floors need to be repaired and re-carpeted to address past leak damage.

Though Fox Hill is planned to be replaced, the classrooms will need to be used for the next 4-5 years and need adequate heating and air conditioning.

The HVAC units are to be replaced. When the portables are no longer needed, the HVAC units can be repurposed to other areas.

The work will be done over the summer and the portables ready for the Fall of 2022.

The portable classrooms were bought used, and were 8 years old at that time and have been in use in Burlington for 15 years. They are in poor shape and are at end of life.

Votes in favor: 5-0-0: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Chris, Roger

7-20 Scoreboards for Sports Fields - \$110,000

Add three Scoreboards at MSMS Turf Field, Francis Wyman Baseball Field, and Marvin Field.

The Athletic department requested the scoreboards to allow the fields to be used for league play. Without the scoreboards, the Marshall Simonds Turf field cannot be used for league play. It allows more flexibility in scheduling the fields.

Recreation Department activities and Youth sports such as soccer and baseball will also benefit.





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The scoreboards can be used via an App or via a wired controller by the teams, no dedicated staff is needed.

The question was raised about funding of the scoreboards from donations. The School Committee has a policy for naming rights that was developed for Varsity Field. It will be reviewed and considered. Though it may not sufficient or timely to get the project going.

Votes in favor: 4-0-1: Rob, Ed, Jaya, Roger; Abstain: Chris

7-21 Activity Bus and Utility Vehicles - \$145,000

Two Passenger Vans and Two Gator utility vehicles are to be purchased.

The 14 passenger vans will be used initially for athletic event travel and possibly later for other school based trips including special education. Currently some of the special ed trips are being done with vans borrowed from the LABB collaborative.

The drivers of the vans will be school staff, approved as drivers, who sign out a van. Insurance will be added on the Towns insurance policy.

The two Gator's will be used on school premises and possibly between to move people and equipment to events on campus. One Gator is a 2-Seat and the other a 4-seat, both with dump bodies; consult the backup for details.

Both the vans and the Gators should have lifetimes of about 10 years.

The van and Gator maintenance will be done by the Highway department. They already support an existing utility van and 2-seat Gator that is about 10 years old.

Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

7-22 MSMS Bleachers - \$220,000

A set of accessible bleachers will be installed at Marshall Simonds Middle School Turf field.

There are currently no bleachers.

This will support more varsity and league sports and parent attendance. Along with the scoreboards, this will provide two good venues for spectators and players for school teams.

The bleachers have a 10 year warrantee.

Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

7-23 Visitor Access Control System - \$25,000





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The Visitor Access Control System will allow easier checkin and followup for visitors in all 6 schools.

Kiosks will be placed in school entrances that allow a visitor to scan and check their identification. It will take a picture of the visitor and print a badge indicating the name, picture and other information. The badge would be worn in the school and allow cross checking, and allow the person to easily checkout. The \$25,000 will cover 18 stations across the 6 schools. The amount covers the first 3 years and costs for subsequent years will be included in the operating budget.

Several members mentioned they had used similar systems in other schools, including Shawsheen.

Votes in favor: 4-0-0: Rob, Ed, Chris, Roger

Adjourned at 6:50pm

Documents:

- BPS FY23 Superintendent Operating Budget
- Special Education Accommodated FY23 Budget Request For SC & WebSite
- Reductions to Guideline FY23
- Capital Items 7-12 – 7-23 from the Warrant for May Town Meeting

