

Minutes – Wayland School Committee Finance Subcommittee  
November 29, 2018

A meeting of the School Committee’s Finance subcommittee was called to order at 10:10 AM by Kathie Steinberg.

Present were:

Kathie Steinberg, Chair  
Ellen Grieco

Also present:

Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent  
Susan Bottan, Business Administrator  
Klaus Shigley, Liaison Finance Committee  
Katie Merrill, Director, The Children’s Way  
Pat Keefe, Director, Wayland School Community Programs

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Financial Matters

(a) Discussion of Capital Improvement Projects and 5-Year Capital Plan

Susan reviewed the prioritization of the capital improvement requests that will be shared with the town and Finance Committee. The request for funds for the Route 20 South Landfill is currently under review by the town. The schools have included this in their capital request as this may be a potential sight for bus parking and therefore the schools would participate in the cost sharing of this project. The town has been in discussion with DEP as to what work will be required on the site. The report from Weston and Sampson has been delayed so cost estimates and clean up requirements are not fully known at this time.

(b) FY 20 Budget Planning

There are no changes to the schedule as previously discussed.

(c) Finance Committee Budget Report Request

Susan updated the committee on the requests received from the Finance Committee of charts, tables and information they would like included in the budget book. Much of the information is already provided, but she will develop an “Executive Summary” to include with the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget.

The Finance Committee has been invited to the Superintendent’s presentation on Dec 12, and has also been encouraged to attend and submit questions for the January presentations of the principals and departments. Klaus will share the schedule with the Fin Com and it will be provided to the chair.

(d) Discussion of the OPEB Parity Payment for The Children’s Way

This was taken out of order.

Katie Merrill reported that the impact of the parity payback burden on the TCW budget will result in a deficit, as anticipated. Katie shared several scenarios of fee increases (1-3%) to

mitigate the deficit. She is concerned about the sustainability of the program with the fee increases due to the fact that this program is already the most expensive preschool program in Wayland, and the second highest cost program in the area.

A discussion of the program followed, including the unique professional services and support provided to the preschool population that the district is required to serve through SPED. The increasing cost of providing these mandated services and the lack of any comparable programs locally was recognized if the TCW was not part of our community. The success of the TCW program to provide early support, appropriate interventions and smooth transitions has been instrumental in containing future SPED costs, especially in cases where early signs are identified and addressed such that more costly interventions are not needed later. The success of the TCW inclusion model has also been recognized as best for students' education, especially as it allows students to remain in the community.

Susan will bring this before the School Committee for discussion. In the meantime, she will check with the legality of the practice of using current fees for the parity payment.

### 3. Administrative Matters

#### (a) Future Agenda Topics and Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting is Dec 13 @ 10 AM. The committee will review the Budget Presentation.

#### (b) Outstanding Projects

Susan has been working on the budget. There were no other updates at this time.

### 4. Matters Not Anticipated by the Chair

There were none.

### 5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 6. Approval of Minutes

This item was passed over.

### 7. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the Finance Subcommittee voted (2-0) to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Steinberg

Corresponding documents:

Agenda

The Children's Way Tuition Illustrations

WPS Summary Five-Year Capital Improvement Requests for FY20