

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:07pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Tim Maxwell, Sue Nersessian. Absent: Clerk Ben Sparrell, Dan Alfred and Vincent Murphy.

Members of the School Committee's Budget Subcommittee, Joan Shaughnessy, Cynthia Listewicz and Stacy Raffi, presented the FY19 budget request for the School department. Ms. Shaughnessy acknowledged that the request was far above guideline; that it was a big ask, needed to provide a high quality education.

Topics discussed included staff changes and proposed added positions including a technology integration specialist, an elementary school nurse (0.5 position), a campus supervisor. Other topics discussed included student activities fees, support to families of early elementary students, custodial and maintenance responsibilities. Ms. Shaughnessy pointed out the need for support of the increasing number of students who are English language learners.

Superintendent Brad Jackson said that the budget was built around moving toward a new building for the high school and he anticipated needing \$150,000 for a site review. There was a discussion about examining enrollment trends as part of the process since enrollment has been declining for several years.

The Finance Committee members requested that the Budget Subcommittee submit additional information. Ms. Nersessian requested they submit a list of budget priorities. Mr. Szajda requested the total costs of salaries and benefits over the three years of the teachers' labor contract. He also asked for more data on Chromebook breakage and replacement. The Finance Committee will take the budget into consideration with discussions to be continued.

Mr. Szajda said that the review of the Benefits budget with Mary Bousquet would likely be postponed and that departmental budgets still to be reviewed included CPC, Conservation Commission, the Council on Aging and Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it was passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

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