

## **Call to Order**

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair, Kevin O’Handley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and initiated roll call. Present in person were Aaron Buzay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Ken Russo-Y. Present remotely was Bill Haskell-Y, Paul McKay-Y. Andrew McBrien, Yican Cao and Kim Perry were absent.

Also present were School Superintendent, Dr. Parvey, Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Keith Taverna and School Committee Chair, Susan McCready. The meeting was videotaped and cablecast.

### **FY24 School Department Budget Recommendation**

Dr. Parvey, Keith Taverna and Susan McCready gave the committee an overview of the FY24 School Department Budget. The total recommended budget for FY2024 is \$99,600,924 which represents a 3.75% increase from FY2023. Some major initiatives for FY24 include adding an Elementary Math Coach, Middle School STEAM and Humanities Coaches and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Student Support Coordinator. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Student Support Coordinator will work guidance and teachers to support and coordinate programs for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will not be a one man show. The question was asked about what the measure of success for this position will be. There will be multiple including benchmark assessments, MCAS and class performance. The FY24 recommended budget maintains the FY23 budget increases for student activities, maintains the reduced student fees implemented in FY23 for bus and middle school extra-curriculars and leverages ESSER and other grants for student supports.

There is a 14% tuition increase that the State is implementing across the Commonwealth for Out of District placements to help the Operational Services Division. Circuit breaker reserve will be used to help mitigate that cost. There is a separate fund that could be created under MGL, but it would have to be voted on by the Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee and Town Meeting. The funds could only be used for Out of District education.

All Bargaining Agreements have been settled and are up to date. The question was asked if there is a concern for teacher retention? No, for teachers but hourly workers and substitute teachers, yes. We are trying to get creative and offer recruitment stipends etc.

### **Liaison Updates**

Ken Russo will be attending the Open Space Task Force tomorrow. Aaron Buzay gave an update on Andover High School. The cost of the project is expected in March once they settle on a design plan. Most of the conversations have been about traffic concerns. Aaron will forward information to the Finance Committee members. Bill Haskell mentioned that he would like to see more community involvement.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes December 7, 2022, Tri-Board Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Ken Russo it was voted to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022, Tri-Board Meeting. Aaron Buzay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Ken Russo-Y. Bill Haskell abstained. Motion passed 5-1-0.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. The Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee Budget Workshop will take place on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

### **Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Ken Russo it was voted to adjourn. Aaron Buzay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Ken Russo-Y, Bill Haskell-Y. Motion passed 6-0.

**Documents:**

Minutes from December 7, 2022, Tri-Board meeting, School budget overview PowerPoint presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Salvi  
Recording Secretary