

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
70 Waterford Street
Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Friday, March 8th, 2019
Superintendent's Office
Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere (Chair), Mr. Swartz, Ms. Pelavin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ms. Yu (Business Administrator), Mr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM by the Chair.

A motion was made by Ms. Pelavin to accept the February 11th, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. LaFreniere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed all the expense report, transfer report and special education finance report line by line. Ms. Pelavin raised a question on professional services over-spending. Mr. Pellegrino explained that due to shortage of internal educational support, we are contracting out BCBA and psychological services, which drives up the cost on professional services. Out of District Tuition is close to \$185K over budget. Tuition rates have increased drastically during the past few years, and current foundation formula is not keeping up with all the mandates, which leads to the shortfall of Special Ed budget.

Ms. Yu gave the Committee the Extended Day Tuition Increase 3-year proposal with the analysis based on current staff level and student enrollment. The Finance Sub Committee agreed to the increase. This increase doesn't require the School Committee's vote and approval. Ms. Pelavin proposed a suggestion to extend the afternoon hours from ending at 5:30pm to 6:00pm to provide more convenience to working parents with small children.

The students and adults lunch prices including A la Carte prices were voted by the Sub Committee to bring to the March 11th School Committee for vote and approval, Ms. Pelavin motioned and Mr. LaFreniere seconded.

Donation of gulf clubs with market value of about \$3K was voted to accept by the Committee, Ms. Pelavin motioned and Mr. LaFreniere seconded.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu updated the Committee on the FY20 budget. Mr. Pellegrino presented the FY20 level service budget, and the Committee discussed over the budget packet and PowerPoint presentation on FY20 budget. All are concerned about the budget gap of

\$642K. The level service budget will be presented to the School Committee on Monday, March 11th at 7PM.

The Sub Committee also discussed about future budget meetings. Two meetings are scheduled on March 26th and April 1st with the Principals and Directors for further discussion on FY20 budget. Budget Summary Sheets for each school and department will be provided by Ms. Yu to the Finance Sub Committee before the scheduled meetings. Both meetings will be posted according to public meeting law.

Adjournment

Ms. Pelavin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Swartz to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.