



Town of Wilmington

Finance Committee

121 Glen Road Wilmington, 01887

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Finance Committee Vice-Chairman, Theresa M. Manganelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present via video conferencing on ZOOM were, Michele Kincaid, Secretary, Jonathan Dugas, Marianne Gallezzo, Andrew Lavigne and Bernard P. Nally. Leigh Martinson and Kevin Stokes were absent. Chairman John F. Doherty III was excused.

To begin the meeting Ms. Manganelli read a statement regarding Open Meeting Law and public access to the meeting via technological means, then took a verbal roll call of the attendees.

FY 22 BUDGET OVERVIEW

SHAWSHEEN VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Melanie Hagman, Assistant Superintendent Director/Business Manager; Bradford L. Jackson, Ed.D, Superintendent-Director

Superintendent Jackson introduced himself. He joined Shawsheen Valley High School on July 1, 2020 as the new Superintendent. He briefly described his professional background and gave some personal details about himself.

Ms. Hagman then presented the FY22 budget. She reviewed the Cooperative Placement (co-op) program and stated that 52% of seniors are on co-op. Shawsheen remains ranked in the top two schools for co-op in the state.

Proposed Capital Budget highlights include programming and web gaming computers, design and communications for Apple computers and replacement of retractable bleachers and painting of the gym floor. The FY22 assessment to Wilmington is \$1,035,114. The total operating budget is up \$781,243 and of that, \$546,864 is due to contractual obligations to teachers. OPEB liability for FY22 will be the sixth year at an increasing rate of 5% each year. The capital assessment to Wilmington is up because enrollment is up 30 students from LY. Applications for SY 2021/2022 are at 120. The total projected assessment is up 14.5% for a change of approximately \$694,000. Ms. Hagman added that \$100,000 of equipment was purchased with funds acquired from the Carl D. Perkins Grant.

Ms. Gallezzo asked about the increase in Special Education. Ms. Hagman said that they are anticipating higher needs after so much remote learning. Dr. Jackson noted that the only addition to the staff budget is an additional special education teacher. He said that Shawsheen attracts special education students because of the programs offered but there is the requirement to then provide support for students with special needs, including social and emotional needs and challenges. Ms. Gallezzo asked if there has been any uptick with the hybrid platform. Dr. Jackson said that the school has 1 & 1/2 school psychologists to support students and the students are in the building every other week so they are able to observe and interact with them regularly.

Mr. Nally asked if students are currently in co-ops even with the hybrid model and remote learning. Dr. Jackson reviewed the rotation. Students are physically in school during shop week doing hands-on learning. During academic weeks they are connecting on-line with teachers who live-stream from their classrooms. This has been since school started in September. Special education students are given the opportunity to be in school during academic weeks as well. Co-op students are academically remote and then work at their respective co-op employers on alternate weeks. They are never in the school building.

In the building they are using 3-foot distancing not 6-feet. There have been 40 cases of COVID-19 and 300-350 close contacts. Only 1 case was suspected of being transmitted in school and it was between adults who share office space. Students have been very compliant and the teachers are on-board and staying student focused.

There was then a brief discussion of the rise in transportation costs. Ms. Hagman explained they had to go out to bid. They are using all of the buses available as they can only transport 22 students maximum for CDC standards.

Ms. Manganelli asked if it would be possible to make a note in the budget to add the number of full-time employees next to the salary line. Ms. Hagman agreed. She also asked if the School had any interest in moving away from textbooks but Ms. Hagman said not all students have a laptop and though it is something they are looking at for the future it will not be part of the FY22 budget.

Dr. Jackson then reminded the Committee that the assessment has not yet been voted on by the School Committee. That will happen on March 24, 2021 and the number could go down upon the vote.

Ms. Gallezzo praised Shawsheen's social media platform. Ms. Kincaid congratulated everyone for making the school year a success and getting through the pandemic. Ms. Manganelli agreed and thanked them for their time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Manganelli reviewed details for the addition of a meeting on March 11, 2021. She implored all of the members to look at the Facility Master Plan and in particular the sections related to School Department buildings. She also asked that everyone watch the meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday night and School Committee on Wednesday night.

Mr. Hull then explained that the Board of Selectmen have moved their meeting to March 15, 2021 so that the School Committee will hear the presentation regarding MSBA first and then the Selectmen will be given the presentation. Ms. Manganelli thanked Mr. Hull for the update.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes.

At the conclusion of the discussion, there being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Kincaid and seconded by Mr. Nally, it was unanimously and by roll call:

VOTED: That the Finance Committee adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris Caggiano", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Caggiano
Recording Secretary