



Town of Wilmington

Finance Committee

121 Glen Road Wilmington, 01887

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Finance Committee Chairman, John F. Doherty III, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the conference room at Shawsheen Valley Regional Technical High School. Members present were Theresa Manganelli, Vice Chairman, Michele Kincaid, Secretary, Jonathan Dugas, Marianne Gallezzo, Bernard P. Nally and Kevin Stokes. Hirak Shah arrived late. Leigh Martinson was absent.

FY 21 SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET OVERVIEW

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Melanie Hagman, Interim Superintendent-Director; Andrew Pigeon, Director of Community Services & Post-Secondary Programs

DOCUMENT: Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Ms. Hagman reviewed highlights from the year for student achievement some of which include participation in co-ops, MCAS scores and medals and placements in national skills competitions.

In her Capital Budget Ms. Hagman is asking \$44,000 for engineering computers as part of a Mass Skills grant match, \$30,000 for the replacement of the Energy Management System, \$82,000 for materials to finish the stadium project, \$27,000 for the replacement of four basketball rims and approximately \$60,000 for a new dump truck to be used to pull trailers out to work sites as well as to support maintenance department use. After grants, revolving and budget excess the total Capital Assessment to towns for FY21 is \$1,238,084.

Mr. Doherty asked about the status of the Auditorium. It is undersized and in need of ceiling repairs. The capacity is only 140 and there are 200 faculty with over 300 students, so full assemblies must take place in the gym or at the football field. There have been discussions about renovations versus constructing a new space for performing arts that could also be open to the public.

The Operating budget is up \$904,217, of which \$499,333 is due to contractual obligations. There was a brief discussion of contract negotiations. Mr. Doherty referenced the approach used in Andover. \$33,072 is for safety enhancements, to replace the two-way radio systems. Mr. Doherty asked about computers and Chromebooks. Ms. Hagman noted that the school does not use Chromebooks and that last year they replaced 250 computers and are looking to replace 250 more this year. OPEB obligations are increasing by 5% for the fifth year. The total operating budget is \$32,724,271 (+2.84%). The projected assessment to Wilmington is 3%. Enrollment overall is decreasing. The new high school in Billerica accounts for some of this decline but most other towns also have declining enrollment. Applications are up over LY. The goal is to accept and enroll high, knowing that some students may leave before they finish all four years. This is always a possibility with students from Hanscom AFB, as they get relocated. There was a brief explanation about the constant analyzing of job markets and the limiting of program openings to control over-flooding and give students the best chance of being able to find employment after graduation.

Mr. Doherty mentioned that he is aware that there are Wilmington students attending Minuteman and other regional high schools for programs that are unfortunately not available at Shawsheen. Ms. Hagman stated that there are some programs that are not offered, for example agricultural programs.

Mr. Doherty added that last year they discussed having more transparency with contracts and budget and this is something he would like to see available online. He also asked about renovations to the 100-unit and adding a second story. Ms. Hagman discussed a recent study that was done to evaluate building maintenance priorities and benefits. The building is 50 years old. She stated that they have put the Capital Budget first, focusing on things like new boilers and the replacement of backup generators, and are deciding if it might be time for a new building.

Ms. Gallezzo asked if they have seen an uptick in student social and emotional needs. Ms. Hagman said that last year they built a space for a licensed paraprofessional for students to visit and they are looking at plans to redesign spaces for additional accommodations.

Mr. Doherty asked about grants. Shawsheen has a permanent, part-time grant writer who has been in place for 17 or 18 years, four days a week from 8:30am to 1pm. The position is 100% funded through the grants that are received. There are four or five grants that the school consistently applies for, including Perkins, Title 1 and Teacher Quality. They also apply for life science and Mass Skills grants as well as looking for others including workforce development, electronics and advanced manufacturing. The grant writer will write the grants and then works with the departments for implementation and follow ups. She also helps with billing and speaks with auditors. Ms. Gallezzo asked if there is a need to make the position full-time. Ms. Hagman said additional hours have been considered but full time is not necessary at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Finance Committee reviewed the Minutes from February 25, 2020. A motion was made by Ms. Gallezzo, seconded by Mr. Dugas, with Ms. Kincaid and Mr. Stokes abstaining and by the affirmative vote of all others it was:

VOTED: To approve the minutes from February 25, 2020.

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

VOTED: That the Finance Committee adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Caggiano
Recording Secretary