

Andover School Committee

Minutes - Budget Workshop Meeting

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: School Committee Room

SC Members Present: J. Blumstein, P. Colby-Clements (left at 1:25 pm), A. Gilbert, S. McCready, T. Teichert (left at 1:40 pm)

Others Present: N. Duclos, M. McGrath

1. Call to Order – A. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 12:38 pm in the School Committee Room with the main order of business being the FY 16 Budget Review and the signing of the warrants.
2. A. Gilbert reported on the April 9 Chairs meeting that she and Dr. McGrath attended with BOS Chair D. Kowalski, J. Stumpf and B. Stapczynski regarding the request for additional \$280,000 for the school budget to reduce the number of teacher layoffs. She also reported on the April 13, Board of Selectmen meeting where she made the formal request for additional funds. She stated that J. Blumstein, S. McCready, C. Hall, and Dr. McGrath were also in attendance to respond to questions.
3. The School Committee discussed the request and agreed that it was unlikely that the selectmen would provide any additional funding. They discussed options for the school budget which included voting to approve and bring to the town meeting (1) the 2.78% request based upon the Town Manager's February 6th Proposed FY 16 budget; (2) the 2.78% request with the request for an additional \$280,000 included, and (3) the 3.37% budget based upon the Town Manager's January 15th preliminary FY 16 allocation for the schools.
4. J. Blumstein, P. Colby-Clements, A. Gilbert, and S. McCready stated that they are in favor of bringing forward the January 23, 2015 original request for 3.37% increase (\$73,296,591) for a vote to both the school committee and the town meeting. T. Teichert stated that he was not in favor of bringing the 3.37% budget forward, but stated he is more comfortable with the 2.78% budget (\$72,873,529) with the addition of \$280,000 and to not go higher than that combined amount. The school committee decided it would discuss these options further at either the April 30 school committee meeting or a date prior to April 30 (if all school committee members are available) and decide then if they are ready to vote a budget for FY 16.

5. A. Gilbert stated that she would inform D. Kowalski and J. Stumpf about the discussion and the possibility that the school committee may vote to take a higher budget to the town meeting. M. McGrath said she would inform B. Stapczynski of the discussion.
6. The School Committee discussed next steps and asked Dr. McGrath to prepare the FTE reduction comparison for the 2.78% budget and the 3.37% budget for its next meeting.
7. The School Committee discussed the importance of providing a budget update and recap of the process to date to parents and staff prior to the school vacation since Town Meeting begins on May 4.
8. P. Colby-Clements left at meeting at 1:25 pm.
9. Members continued to discuss the points that should be included in the budget update communication. M. McGrath advised that a communication sent to parents or community should be reviewed by the Office of Campaign Finance to ensure it is allowable to use public funds for distribution.
10. T. Teichert left the meeting at 1:40 pm.
11. The remaining school committee members continued its discussion regarding the content of the FY 16 budget update and authorized A. Gilbert to send a communication, via Connect 5, recounting the budget process to date prior to school vacation week.
12. J. Blumstein made a motion to adjourn. S. McCready seconded the motion. The school committee adjourned its meetings at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marinel McGrath
Acting Secretary