

Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2013
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Michael Tyler, (At Large), Chairman, Brenda Furtado (Ward IV), Vice Chairperson, Barbara Crow, (At-Large), Secretary, William Larson, (Ward II), Christopher O'Neil, (Ward III), Frances Zito, (Ward V), Kenneth Parent, (Ward VI), and David Murphy, (At Large)

Absent: Teri Enegren, (Ward I)

Also Present: David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Marisa McCarthy, Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Meeting was called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag: Mr. Tyler led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Mr. Tyler noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Mr. Tyler explained the purpose of the meeting and the background on the process to-date was reiterated. The committee presented a budget to the Mayor that provided adequate funding for the needs of the students that would continue to move the district forward (see Power Point attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Slide 1 compared FY13 to FY14 defining the total school spending costs; transportation costs and the net school-spending totals. The increase from FY13 to FY14 was \$2,303,591.

Slide 2 gave an analysis of the FY14 increases and summarized the changes between FY13 and FY14 in the net school spending and broke down contracted salaries, healthcare costs, tuition reductions, the "health care" holiday line, and health care savings. This defined the increase of \$2,303,591.

The Health Care "Holiday" was explained. The City is self-insured and runs its own health care insurance program. Other municipalities do not benefit from the process. It was noted there were no guarantees that the \$190,000 savings provided by the Mayor's Health Care Holiday provision would be available next year.

Mr. Parent explained the difference between a sustainable use and an unsustainable use.

Slide 3 broke down the funding priorities that were included in the April 8th Preliminary Budget Request. Slide 4 broke down the unfunded preliminary budget requests.

Ms. Crow discussed questionable compliance needs.

Mr. Sawyer explained the state's view and noted Attleboro showed progress and this is viewed as favorable.

Ms. Furtado noted the need for teachers at the higher levels of Hill-Roberts and Hyman Fine.

Mr. Sawyer explained the decision making process.

Ms. McCarthy noted the behavioral supports and plan in place to answer the needs at the elementary levels.

Ms. Furtado questioned the CTE plumbing program and other programming decisions.

School Committee Approved: 08-12-13

Mr. Sawyer explained the grant process and the need to continue the CTE programs noting once a program is closed the district would need to start the process from the beginning again. He explained the Chapter 74 program funding and review process.

The unfunded preliminary budget requests were identified on Slide 5. The pool drain is a priority item.

Ms. Furtado stressed the importance of funding regarding the science programs and noted the staff is going above and beyond to meet needs caused by this lack of support.

Mr. Sawyer acknowledged the need and importance in this area.

Ms. Craw questioned the retirement of a nurse and replacement of that position.

Mr. Sawyer explained the breakdown and the floater position in the district.

Ms. McCarthy explained the special education paraprofessional needs and the different initiatives that benefit from this position.

Mr. Sawyer noted the district is reviewing the needs and the possible grant funding that may assist with certain building needs.

Ms. Furtado commented on teacher salaries and the need to mentor new teachers.

Mr. Sawyer explained that the salary amount includes the health benefit costs to the district.

Ms. Craw inquired about the possible cuts to the Title I funding.

Mr. Sawyer explained the possible 10% decrease noting the focus on resources and support. Title I funds have continued decreased each year. The restrictions were explained and it was noted only Title I student benefit from Title I funds.

Mr. Tyler noted with the unfunded mandates statewide 90% of schools are "out of compliance".

Mr. Sawyer explained the new regulations and requirements and the time that is given to meet these targets. The steps toward addressing these needs are being reviewed. The ELL requirements are dramatically changing. Districts have until 2016 to meet certain needs.

Ms. McCarthy explained the circuit breaker funding process and how student needs change stressing the need to continue to build in this area.

Mr. Tyler stated the need to prioritize the unfunded staff needs.

Mr. Sawyer explained the needs are enrollment based. Once enrollment has been finalized, a list could be better created.

The potential sources of additional funds were broken down. This included: FY13 unexpended funds; further health care savings; circuit breaker funds; and possible support from the Mayor.

Mr. Parent noted the unexpended amount is unknown at this time. The priorities were noted. He stressed the priority of pool repairs. He also noted staffing needs to be sustained. Mr. Parent thanked the administration for their work.

Mr. Tyler noted staff cuts were never part of the school committee's plan. The committee voted unanimously on the needs of the district.

Mr. Murphy noted the budget involves a year-round process which involves constant re-evaluation. Mr. Murphy stressed the importance of commitment.

Ms. Furtado noted a pro-active plan needs to be in place and stressed the need to plan for the future.

Mr. Tyler acknowledged the country has gone through one of the worst recessions in history.

Ms. Craw stated the need to involve the Mayor earlier on financial needs.

A motion was made to set the budget at the net school spending level of \$62,382,504:

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	Yes
Mr. Parent:	Yes
Ms. Craw:	Yes
Mr. Tyler:	Yes
Ms. Furtado:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. O'Neil:	Yes

Vote: 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Craw, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda: 06-27-13
2. APS FY14 Budget Power Point