

**Andover School Committee
Minutes – FY 16 Budget Workshop Meeting**

Date: January 21, 2015
Location: School Committee Room
SC Members Present: D. Birnbach, J. Blumstein, P. Colby-Clements (participated remotely starting at 9:05 am and ended participation at 10:20 am), A. Gilbert
Others Present: P. Szymanski, A. Reese, M. McGrath

1. Chairman A. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. A. Gilbert stated that P. Colby-Clements would participate remotely due to geographic distance.
2. A. Gilbert provided the committee with a budget work update and discussions from the Chairs meeting regarding revenue and the tax levy. P. Szymanski provided the committee with updated projections for FY 16 line items, base budget and strategic plan projections. He also reviewed the Town Manager hypothetical tax level reductions projections indicating that each scenario would each result in budget gaps between fixed costs and budget requests to comply with legal requirements for special education, English language learners and strategic plan investments.
3. M. McGrath reviewed the status of redistricting with respect to staffing. The current preschool staff will remain at the Shawsheen for the foreseeable future. The K-2 Shawsheen staff will be transferred largely to the Bancroft School with some positions also being transferred to kindergarten positions at Sanborn and South Schools. Both South School and High Plain School will decrease classrooms at grades 4 & 5; the FTEs will be reallocated to needed special education positions at the middle and high school levels and 18-22 year old TOPS program, thus reducing new requests for special education by 5 positions. She indicated that the principals and central office team were still reviewing the remaining new requests to determine critical needs.
4. The Committee discussed the budget amount to be submitted to the Town Manager by January 23rd. Discussions centered on the revenue available from the Town. The Committee discussed the tax levy scenarios and the five year average percent increase that the schools have received to date (3.38%). Through consensus, the committee agreed to submit a preliminary budget “number” to the Town Manager at a 3.37% increase which equates to \$2,392,139 over FY 15 until there is more clarity on available revenues. This percentage and amount are based upon the Town Manager’s January 14, 2015 “TM Preliminary Tax Level 2.5% Increase” document. The Committee asked that a statement be included on the submission which reads, “When the Preliminary Budget is presented in March, we will present what services can and cannot be provided within the budget number we have submitted based upon the Town Manager’s Preliminary Tax Levy number presented on January 14, 2015. We will also present what services would be provided if additional revenue becomes available.”
5. P. Colby-Clements ended remote participation at 10:20 am.
6. The Committee discussed adding \$150,000 to the contracted services line in the School Committee account to hire a consultant and 3 project managers from July - December 2015 to advance the district’s goals to accelerate the concept of innovation schools at all three levels and who will report to the superintendent. P. Szymanski will incorporate the request into account 110 – School Committee contracted services in the FY 16 draft budget.

7. M. McGrath updated the school committee on the status of the talks with the YMCA regarding a potential partnership for the preschool program and the HS Satellite Program.

Preschool Program – M. McGrath stated that YMCA staff has visited the Shawsheen School to view the programmatic and space needed for the program. The information will be presented to S. Ives for his review. M. McGrath expects to hear from the YMCA regarding next steps prior to the February school break.

HS Satellite School - M. McGrath indicated that D. Stephen is available on February 25 for a workshop with school committee members and HS teachers regarding the satellite school. M. McGrath also stated that P. Szymanski has drafted the RFP and once the conceptual framework is completed. M. McGrath expects that the RFP will be ready for publication in early March.

8. Motion to Adjourn. J. Blumstein moved that the school committee adjourn its budget workshop meeting. D. Birnbach seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0-0) and the school committee adjourned its budget workshop meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marinel McGrath
Acting Secretary

Handouts:

1. TM Revenue & Expenditure Projections 01.14.15
2. Hypothetical Tax Levy Reductions v. Est. Operating Budget Impacts for FY16 01.14.15
3. FY 16 Draft Budget Summary