Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30 A, c. §18-25)

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Sub-Committee

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2020

TIME: 5:00 PM

PLACE: School Admin Conference Room – Remote access meeting location see below

AGENDA

School Budget

Here is the access information for anyone who wants to participate in this meeting.

Meeting number (access code): 718 844 617
Meeting password: ways330

Monday, March 30, 2020
4:45 pm | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) | 3 hrs

Join meeting

Join by phone
Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)
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Ways and Means School Subcommittee Minutes  
Monday, March 30, 2020, 5:00pm.  
All participants via video/phone conference due COVID-19 pandemic

Present
Members: Diane Creedon, Susan Harrigan, John Iler, Robert Neufeld, Jayashree Voruganti  
Administration: Dr. Eric Conti, Nichole Coscia, Bob Cunha  
School Committee: Christine Monaco, Steve Nelson

Discussion

Ways & Means members asked a variety of budget and background questions which were addressed by the school administration.

What is the focus of LABBB programs within the elementary schools?
- Francis Wyman: medically fragile
- Memorial: Asperger’s spectrum
- Fox Hill: emotional and behavioral

Where are state SPED transportation reimbursements shown?
These are included in the tuition ‘circuit breaker’ reimbursement lines.

What is ‘ESY’ in the accommodated budget p2 and elsewhere?
ESY = Extended School Year. SPED ESY is a mandated program and may be included in Individualized Education Plans (IEP).

What are ‘structures teachers’?
The Structures program was started last year and services high school students that might otherwise be in the LABBB or an out-of-district program.

Who is being paid during the COVID-19 related school closing?
Paid: salaried employees, cafeteria workers, before and after school program employees  
Not paid: per diem (e.g. substitute teachers)  
Still resolving: bus company, stipends, out-of-district placements, other contracted services

The ‘open item’ list below was discussed and updated.

All of the Burlington Public School warrant articles were discussed. This included additional details provided by Bob Cunha since the March 24, 2020 School Committee meeting. All warrant articles were voted upon via roll call vote of the W&M School Subcommittee members: Diane Creedon, Susan Harrigan (chair calling the role), John Iler, Robert Neufeld, Jayashree Voruganti

21-01 Interactive technology $85,000  
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-02 MSMS boiler $125,000  
W&M requested a vendor quote and support for $125k number (vs. $106k backup).
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-03 Varsity field turf $500,000
Number includes 5% overage, so there is no need for additional contingency.
There is no need to re-engineer since this is a direct replacement.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-04 Music department installs and upgrades $50,000
There was concern since a young outside user had fallen off stage previously.
Cunha noted any overage could be covered by the revolving account.
W&M questioned what other theaters, if any, are using netting? Negative impact on orchestra?
W&M requested a more recent proposal than backup dated 2017.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-05 Audio technology replacement $100,000
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-06 MSMS auditorium $350,000
Cunha described uncertainty due to possible unknown additional asbestos.
Ages were estimated as: rigging 30 yrs, lighting may be original, audio 15 yrs old.
MSMS was renovated in 2011-13.
Cunha to investigate if PTO paid for some improvements previously.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-07 Memorial playground $50,000
Previous material was warrantied for 5 years and lasted for 8 years. The proposed material has a 10 yr warranty and BPS has had favorable experience at the pre-school playground with this material.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-08 MSMS exterior bathroom $25,000
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-09 Water bubbler replacement $50,000
All school bubblers are already filtered. There are currently 24 district wide that do not have bottle fillers. This article will add fillers to 15 of these so 9 will remain without fillers.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-10 Security camera replacement and upgrades $75,000
These will all be exterior cameras.
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-11 Curriculum $90,000
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)

21-12 Design work $100,000
Roll call 5-0-0 (approve)
Articles 21-01 – 21-12 total to $1.6M

21-13 Community custodial services $47,464.45
   Cunha to investigate if Citations still exists and fits within policy, mother-to-mother status, and to review hours used in general.
   Vote not taken pending review of budgeted hours

Additional non-warrant discussion…

[W&M] What is financial impact due to MCAS delay?
   [Conti] 10th grade delayed, others cancelled. He does not expect a significant cost impact.

[Conti] SPED extended year services mandates are a significant budget unknown.

[Creedon] Recommended highlighting BPS contributions to help with the Town’s COVID-19 response:
   - masks and gloves given to the Fire Department
   - sharing of cleaning supplies
   - perishable food donations to People Helping People

[Coscia] FY20 spending still within budget. Others noted uncertainty with the future.

Next meeting
   Date dependent upon school department/committee progress on the budget.
   Understand final proposed FTE plan.
   Vote on final Accommodated and Operations budgets.

Open items: (added to and updated list started in March 5 minutes)

Coscia: Provide list of stipends for athletics/clubs. List to include amounts, actual staffing with longevity.
   Open

Conti: Document stipends associated with MSMS musical in draft budget.
   Open

   Open

Coscia: Review p149 Art supplies and understand why Pine Glen is much higher per capita than other elementary schools. May be related to SPED programs.
   Open

Conti: Provide detail on budget p168 PD $47k (# of people, for what?)
   Open

Coscia: Review Athletics insurance item and check to see if current approach is more cost effective than adding to Town main policy. Nelson notes that schools/charitable organizations generally have their liability limited to $100k per incident. See
Open

Coscia: Provide list of grant/aid and other revenue estimates. Estimated to be ~$1.1M for entitlements and ~$100k other.
Open

Conti: If included in final budget, provide # devices in budget p136 IHT Spirit system and describe ongoing costs.
Open

Cunha: Provide previous years’ warrant status (amount spent, closed, etc.)
Open

Cunha: Provide 10 year capital plan with understanding it is evolving.
Open

Conti: Provide student counts for the following programs
   BECC (SPED and Gen Ed breakdown)
   DSC
   LABBB (number of BPS students in program and total LABBB students served by BPS)
   total SPED
Open

Coscia: Resend breakdown of baseline FY20 Operating and Accommodated budgets. This will include allocation of transportation increase and subsequent decrease.
Closed 03/06/2020 – Coscia resent and Iler confirmed budget baselines are consistent with this.

Iler: Budget p8 L65 transportation assumes minimum increase of 1.5%. Noted that COLA should not be applied to mileage rates. Doublecheck CPI increase.
Closed 03/10/2020: Iler confirmed 1.5% is a good projection

Adjourned 6:29 pm

Iler to email minutes to meetings@burlington.org