DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Subcommittee

DATE: April 16

TIME: 4:30 PM

PLACE: via Webex

Meeting link: https://townofburlington.webex.com/townofburlington/j.php?MTID=m3aac1b4dae763ca1d8b7119e9e110b0

Meeting number: 717 202 082

Password: ways

Agenda

Discuss and Vote Technical High School Budgets

• Shawsheen Technical High School
• Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School
• Other Technical High Schools
Ways and Means School Subcommittee Minutes  
Thursday, April 16, 2020, 4:30pm.  
All participants via video/phone conference due to COVID-19 pandemic

Present
Members: Diane Creedon, Susan Harrigan, John Iler, Robert Neufeld, Jayashree Voruganti

Discussion

[Iler] Discussed Shawsheen budget and assessment. Neufeld and Iler met with Melanie Hagman Feb 27 to review the budget. Hagman has been Interim Superintendent-Director for this entire school year. The selection process for a permanent Superintendent is still underway.

The FY21 overall operating + capital budget increase is 2.84%, which is in line with projections that were given in their 5 year plan. A new 5 year plan is under development. Note that this budget includes many items that are normally ‘town’ costs (e.g. OPEB, snow plowing, etc.)

Burlington’s proposed FY21 assessment is $2,516,373 (FY20 +5.3%).

The number Burlington students has increased to 127 from 123 (+3.3%) so the assessment increase is less than this plus the overall budget increase. When the assessment is divided by 127 students, this yields $19,814 per Burlington student.

For reference:
BPS operating (FY20 $53,468,307 * 1.0375 guideline) + AA ($12,377,740 FY21 proposed) + FY21 school warrant articles ($1,600,000) = $69,451,108 for 3666 students = $18,945 per student.

[Neufeld] Recommended following up with Hagman to get comparative Votech teacher salaries.

Motion made and seconded to approve $2,516,373 assessment. Vote 5-0-0 (approved).

[Harrigan] Discussed plan for next week’s meeting with School Administration. The subcommittee will be reviewing BPS budgets that are anticipated to be within budget guidelines. The School Committee will be voting on these same budgets after that subcommittee meeting so the subcommittee will meet again to vote sometime after the School Committee meeting. Harrigan to remind administration to respond to open items from previous meeting minutes.

[Harrigan] Presented Minuteman and Essex North Shore assessments and related matters.

Minuteman has Biotech and other programs not available in Shawsheen, and Essex provides agricultural programs.

Minuteman assessment is $113,846.61 for 3 students (= $37,949 per student)

There was general agreement that the $14,100 per student transportation cost for Minuteman was very large relative to $2,500 cost for Essex. Voting is being held off until Harrigan can get further data from John Danizio (Town Accountant).

Essex assessment is $103,577 for 5 (2 existing + 3 new) students (=20,715 per student).

There was an earlier email with $168k that was a placeholder and should be ignored.

The Essex and Minuteman assessments will be voted as a combined single budget line item at a future meeting.

Adjourned 5:20 pm