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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes - Ways and Means School Subcommittee

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Subcommittee
DATE: March 11th, 2021
TIME: 5pm
PLACE: WebEx Conference Call

Present:

Roger Riggs, Cody Case, Rob Neufeld, Kelly Pappas, Jayashree Voruganti
Tom Murphy, Eric Conti, and Nichole Coscia

Agenda

Review of FY2022 School Budget – Operating

Introductions of Kelly Pappas and Cody Case, newer members of the W&M school subcommittee

Eric Conti gave a brief overview of the budgets, operating and special education.

Both budgets are dominated by personal costs set by negotiated contracts.

The current year budget did not anticipate changes necessary for all remote and hybrid learning.

A support a cohort of fully remote elementary students, the Burlington Academy was formed by reassigning some specialists and aides and hiring to fill 7 or 8 interim teaching positions for a total staff of 22. The Covid relief funds in SR1 and SR2 were used to pay for all related costs. The Burlington Academy is a one time temporary measure and is not included in the 2022 budget.

Enrollment at the elementary level is up and in some schools is higher than the ration of 20 to 1 preferred by the School Committee. Some further growth is expected as students return from other schools and some home schooled students choose to return to in person class in Burlington Schools.

The operating budget is driven by teacher contracts and obligations. These costs for 2022 are not fully known as the contracts for Unit A , D, clerical, admin, are being renegotiated.

The ongoing costs of Covid related expenses are hard to estimate but both state and federal relief money has been available and is expected. The American Rescue Plan provides funds that can be spent over the next few years to support recovery and catchup to educational goals and support for student learning.

Additional budget review is planned for 25 March 2021.