

I. 6:15 Review of minutes

II. Old Business

- A. Lending Library- Matt Holloway included request for funds in new budget
- B. Bus Cameras- Request put in by Matt
- C. ALEC- Autism and Law enforcement Coalition-
 - 1. In Westwood
 - 2. Gfld officers have attended- 2 trainings a GFD- Safety meeting-
 - 3. Can send PD to SEPAC to discuss Emergency medical response and safety for people with disabilities.
 - 4. Free through DDS
 - 5. Capt. Bill Cannata will be setting up a time to come and meet with us.
 - 6. Matt would like to possibly get info about this to parents of kids with significant issues- find protocol
- D. School Committee Budget- End with this
- E. Pathlight
 - 1. Big agency in Springfield/Amherst Northampton area- moving into Greenfield- Franklin county.
 - 2. Offer support/ workshops
 - 3. AKA- Autism connection and Family empower
- F. Bylaws
 - 1. Can't find- Previous SEPAC and Pupil Services leaders and Matt- no one knows where they are.
 - 2. Draft to be developed and hopefully to voted on at next meeting?
 - 3. Considering MA- SEPAC bylaws or another SEPAC's bylaws as a model
- G. Brochure for GPL in August
 - 1. Space at Gfld Public Library for month of August
 - 2. We get a case to display books and Materials
 - 3. We have SOME books
 - 4. Want to gather community resources
 - 5. We need a Brochure ourselves- Crystal can help make it.

III. Minutes reviewed

- A. Motion to accept minutes- Seconded and accepted- Submit and post

IV. School Committee- Budget sub-committee- How can an organization like this be involved in the Budget?

- A. Sue Hollins- Interested community resident, and school committee member on Budget sub-committee
- B. Immense History in Special-Ed Law. Life Long interest in Sp.Ed
 1. How does the system work?- City/Town there is a difference-
 - a) *Town has taxing ability*
 - b) *GFLD is a city- School committee must go to city- petition to town- mayor put it into budget then goes to city council- almost never changes because it's really hard to change*
 2. City charter has timeline and process
 - a) *March 7th- budget needs to go to the mayor usually votes occur Jan-Feb, once budget go to may then to council, if everything is not approved, then they need to re-budget.*
 - b) *Education is generally about 60% of City- Education is constitutional and a high priority*
 - c) *The amount for people and personnel is about 75%-85% of the budget is salaries. Books and supplies about 2%-3% of the budget*
 3. Every district has policies and policies on budget
 - a) *School committee must post budget policy and goals on school website.*
 4. School committee meets every month once month on 2nd Wednesday – 1st part is always public comment. Cant talk about people as a rule
 5. Standing finance committee meeting- 1st Wednesday at noon and 3rd Monday at 5pm
 6. City has a finance committee as well and they are more influential
- C. School budget way it's organized-
 1. sections- transportation, custodial maintenance, curriculum, special ed, etc...
- D. Year calendar- finance meets all year round for both school and city- complicated!
 1. In general standing committee starts generating talk about next year sept, get serious in November, tension starts, budgeting deadline march.
 2. Not likely getting what you want- so from March-June- back and forth and budget and spending negotiations.
- E. How can we help?
 1. Go to a public session. Think about what you want to say and go to a school committee meeting- bring statistics and suggestion- go to budget committee meeting- public comment.

2. The School committee has been considering if they will entertain the idea of responding to people's comments and answering questions as an agenda item at meetings- currently they do not. Looks like it will be something that they are going to discuss doing

F. Issue in Greenfield-

1. Part of the budget is in city budget and a smaller amount is in the actual Greenfield School budget.

2. i.e utilities, insurance plowing, in city budget, school choice- city budget, out of district placement School Budget.

G. GFLD will be getting an increase in money from the state- goes to the city education budget but the use of it is undefined.

H. Question: Do you pad a little knowing you won't get what you want?

1. In certain areas it's a good idea, she tries to think outside the box for how to get what we need. Efficiency.

I. Question: Does surplus stay with the school if you don't spend it?

1. In the city- it goes back to the city except in the law says there are a couple kinds of funds you can have that you can roll it over in- revolving funds. Special Ed tuition – there are about 9 of these- Special law for special ed tuitions- State law-

2. Also at the end of the year you can use it to prepay summer month special ed placement tuitions. Mostly it doesn't make it back to the City because it's spent.

J. Question: Is there anything we could do to help the requested budget increases for Lending library and Transportation (Bus cameras).

1. Feb 25th public comment session special meeting in the evening- Specify to the committee that the requested materials increase goes to support library and transportation. See Calendar on website.

K. Are there other budget requests that we should try to help push for Sp.Ed at the meeting?

1. The hiring of an additional BCBA? The current one is doing great. They train teachers and paras

a) *Behavioral health is becoming focus*

b) *Need Professional level people. Right now behaviorists and paraprofessionals are used, with little professional training and for ~ 33,000/year A BCBA would help to build a strong behavioral supports in the district including helping train behaviorists- need more stable higher professional level BCBA presence.*

2. Need more special ed support at Newton they have 1 Special Ed. Teacher and a Title 1 spot to be filled. They need more support and are high need for this. They need an additional Sp. Ed. Teacher.

V. Parent concerns