

DRAFT MINUTES

Greenfield Public Schools Budget & Finance Subcommittee

Date: 5/2/17

Time: 9-11 am

Location: Central Office

Attendees:

Adrienne Nunez

Susan Hollins

Mayor Martin

Jordana Harper (Super.)

Howie Barber (Bus. Dir.)

Tim Farrell

Madison Walker

Gary Tajian

Val Miller

Dianne Ellis

Supporting Documents Received:

Memo from Mayor regarding Mayor's budget

RE reductions/eliminations

Sub pay info

Memo to Town Council regarding reduction to fy18 budget

Budget docs given via email after meeting

Call to order:

9:05 am

Agenda Items:

- 1. Public Comment—NA**
- 2. Lunch Prices:** Madison—Out of compliance with federal set pricing. Must raise prices
Approx. 4% increase. Likely that will not have to raise prices again for one or two years.
50% of students participate in lunches. Many qualify for free or reduced. We have opted
for the minimum increase that can keep us from having to raise again soon. Discussion
on unpaid debt. Noted that practice has adapted and is respectful—Noted that no public
comment on this in two years. **Consensus recommendation to support this change.**
- 3. General FY17/current affairs:** copies of monthly reports to be given via email. Noted
that GPS reported to Ways and Means the night before.
- 4. Substitute Teacher Pay increase:** Super suggests increase for sub pay to help with
sub shortage to: daily \$75 HS diploma; \$85 Bachelor's degree; \$95 ELT. Mayor
notes/questions sub pay extra and surplus in FY17. JH notes that we have money in a

line, but can't get subs because rates are too low. Trying to be aggressive about it and so, proposal to increase sub rate is part of this remedy. Current impact is negative to the district. Mayor asks for breakdown of absences. Proposal is to raise pay to be competitive with region. Discussion on what rates may be better. Some support for higher sub pay than those put forward by super. More study requested.

- 5. Superintendent on making reductions to budget:** one pager from Super. Recs to get to balanced number. Would need approval from subcte and may need bargaining. Building Monitors possible reduction means that we need some clarity on who/how they bump down. Mayor asks about revolving funds choice, etc. Asks why are we eliminating front line funds if we have money in revolving? Mayor wants more in-depth discussion on use of school choice money. JH notes rather cut now and build sustainable system for the next couple of years—for sustainability. Some discussion on use of the choice funds and other offsets. If used now, may not have next year and beyond. Choice based on projections, unstable revenues. Noted the insufficient foundation budget. Dianne notes that sped choice out is being considered. Feels need to build capacity of district programs and confidence from families. Choice out sped cost is higher than choice in sped costs. Super suggests continuing to have choice in limited places where we know we have flexibility to take on students. Quick notes on possible reductions:

- Reduction of .5 nurse will leave .5 AEL nurse and .5 district-wide nurse floater (housed at AEL)
- GMS .8 Library teacher is leaving at end of year and Literacy/Tech teacher will be housed in library and take over duties of Library teacher
- District wide paras— not 1:1 paras, not K paras
- Revenue/Cost Savings: \$61,000 IDEA re-allocation is due to change of plan from NECC proposed program at HS. Possible elementary programming being considered.
- Noted that the possible Building Monitor reduction needs some clarification regarding seniority and recall.

TF questions maintenance merger, asks why it is not listed as a possible reduction. JH—needs more review. If there is a cost savings, this may be due to less maintenance. SC has no assurance that this would be available. JH recommends retaining our policy and oversight of the building and maintenance. Mayor—issue is that there is no line item to facilitate the repair that is needed. Notes past that line item for maintenance was used for staffing/other costs. Need for better coordination of the maintenance and upkeep. Mayors says that position has been put into town budget. JH—Notes that SC is committed to HR merger as first step for more collab./merger with town services. Mayor—Next move is to bring implementation plan for Maintenance merger to full committee. Noted that city brought plan to super for her comment, then to be returned to mayor, then more discussion on/revise, then move to sc. Noted that unions won't accept discussion without plan. SH—interested in seeing the plan: components for problem solving if there is a concern on the school side. Notes past issues with employees related to school safety because the school didn't hire them, school could have handled them quicker and easier than they could because they were town-side hires. Wants to know how to quickly address any issues like this.

Qualifications and credentials, etc. If this doesn't work, what are we going to do? Mayor says there has been a commitment to explore collaboration with town deliberately and carefully. Mayor says that we have commitment to consolidate hr *and* maintenance. Notes 37N and past years' votes from TC and SC. JH says commitment is to review possible collaboration. SH—notes governing policy on facilities and personnel and collab, etc wants opportunity to review that policy. Suggests may need for special subcte to review. JH asks for savings to town side/efficiencies. Mayor says other efficiencies besides transfer of salary.

6. **MISC:** Jake Toomey—notes we aren't getting subs. Rely on paras to do this within building. Morning scramble of how to make it through the day resulting in people not doing the jobs they were hired to do. Worry about cutting paras when can't get subs. Notes that maintenance covers custodian absences. Coverage and completing absences is really a big deal. Wants to know there is clear plan including coverage, etc. Jake thinks that increasing sub pay can make a difference especially with nurses.
7. **SUB rate sheet presented by HB.** Some discussion and request for more local info. Noted that this has been conversation ongoing for three years. Tim suggestion to have full time on calls. JH says some other issues with that suggestion.
8. **Wrap-up:** Budget docs to come via email. Policy Subcte to review carry forward of pre-school acct.

Adjournment time:

11:17 am

Submitted by AN