

DRAFT MINUTES

**Greenfield Public Schools
Budget, Finance, Negotiations**

Date:11/7//2016

Time: 3 pm

Location: Central Office

Attendees:

Chair Nunez

Member Tripp

Asst. Superintendent Elizabeth Pratt

Bus. Director Howie Barber

Dir. of Pupil Services Dianne Ellis

Supporting Documents Received:

SPED OOD cost summary

Capital request information (reviewed, not received)

Call to order:

3:04 pm

Agenda Items:

1. General Budget Discussion

- a. Update on Capital
 - i. HB shares capital request spreadsheet. Process included gathering requests from admin team including supporting material as to why these expenditures are needed; capital packet has been delivered to Mayor's office, noted that praise was given for comprehensive approach to request.
 - ii. Capital request to focus on technology.
 - iii. Subcommittee requests update on capital funding for bus purchase (previously discussed). HB notes Mayor's freeze on capital spending on transportation. Mayor's transportation study and planning is cited as reason for freeze. HB notes that when or if these funds are released it may take approximately one year to procure new vehicle.
- b. Clarification on FY17 budget status.
 - i. Review of attachment on details regarding OOD costs.
 - ii. The current total cost of deficit listed as approximately \$875,000. (\$775,00 listed on attachment, plus approx. \$100,000 in transportation.)

- iii. DE comments on efforts made to return students to district and review all placements. Offers modest estimate of \$50,000 offset due to returning students. Cites new and developing elementary level program.
- iv. HB offers input and ideas for solution:
 - 1. Approx. \$250,000 request to Council for supplemental funding.
 - 2. Approx. \$250,000 request to Council for SPED prepayment (prepayment is consistent with past practice.)
 - 3. Approx. \$250,000 request to start SPED stabilization account. (Noted that previous school committee voted in support of establishing a stabilization acct.)
 - 4. Utilize additional School Choice funding (approx. \$200,000)
 - 5. Utilize Circuit Breaker funding (approx. 550,000-600,000\$)
- v. Discussion on Circuit Breaker and Choice funding. Noted that these accounts are set to cushion the district and utilizing them now will set up with very little financial cushion in the future.
- vi. BP recommends review of staffing/positions. Subcommittee supports review of staffing and requests more specific plan and ideas as to what changes can be made without compromising the students' educational experience.
- vii. HB requests support from the subcommittee to modify transportation offerings. Subcommittee requests more evidence to benefits of such modifications including specific estimates on possible savings from transportation.
 - a. HB and BP leave for capital meeting
- c. Dianne Ellis briefs subcommittee on SPED department changes stressing need and desire to support parents and students; the practice of Director of Pupil Services to review OOD placements regularly (including monetary cost to district); and review of para staffing.
- d. Brief discussion on FY18 budget calendar and desire to stay on schedule. Consensus support to continue with proposed budget schedule, with the date of Dec. 1st as the presentation to the subcommittee the first draft of the FY18 proposed budget.
- e. Consensus to table discussion on "Minutes" agenda item, due to time and SH not present to speak to item.

**Adjournment time:
5:01 pm**

Submitted by AN