

5/9/19

**Attendees-** Mary Traver, Lynette B. Varnon, Andrew Varnon, Crystal Zimmer, Jodi Falk, Steve Nimberkow, Matt Holloway, Karen Rider

- I. Meeting started 6:30 introductions for new participants
- II. Approval of minutes- motion Matt, so moved Crystal, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Andrew
- III. Budgetary- Presentation by Stephen
  - a. There are 2 sides of budget- City side and school side-
    - i. The City side handles insurance and benefits
    - ii. The City side will see about a \$50,000 increase this year
    - iii. The 1.1 million in extra Chapter 70 funding in going exclusively to the city side.
    - iv. Question about if city can raise taxes to help fund school-
      1. There is what is called a "Levy Limit" meaning the City CAN raise taxes up to 2.5% every year. If they do not raise it a full 2.5%, the difference is Banked
      2. They have not hit the levy limit over the passed few years therefore can raise the taxes by more than 2.5% - pulling from the levy
      3. Members speculated that the levy was being saved to pay for projects the Mayor approved in future years instead of going to the school.
- IV. What is being affected by 1.3 million reduction-
  - a. We will not be able to get an extra desperately needed School Psychologist
  - b. We will not be able to get the additional BCBA necessary to use the Behavioral grant we got.
  - c. There will be an increase in some teacher workloads
  - d. 1:1 paras being laid off- mandated Paras included- Causing student to leave the district
  - e. May cut mandated services which would cause students to leave the district
  - f. In our district, the Sp.Ed. does a full day of teaching with the workload of a full-time teacher and manage the IEP process for 20 kids. This is not a typical workload for Sp. Ed. Teachers.
  - g. Inclusion suffers as class sizes raise and staffing and services decrease.
  - h. Loss of Arts, Music, Language, and Sports Funding and Opportunities, especially to lower income who rely on these free opportunities in school.
- V. What advocacy can we do?
  - a. The school committee asked to put forward the full budget to city council, outside of the mayors cut school budget proposal.
  - b. GO to the vote on the 22<sup>nd</sup> where they will decide what the bottom line will be
  - c. Ask the City Council to fully fund the school committee budget
  - d. Ask that the City Council will need to make Moderate cuts, increase the tax rate, pull in additional revenue from revolving funds etc.
  - e. Go to the City council meetings and subcommittee
  - f. Write to the state government to increase funding to schools
  - g. Write a letter to the recorder and city council
  - h. Recruit people to go to the meetings and speak up

- i. What should we say?
  - i. Talking points- focus on specific topics
  - ii. Contextualize- Bring in your stories, and what will happen
  - iii. Band scholarship concert- 3 seniors of what band has meant to them. Get students to speak about their experiences and what the losses will mean to them.
- VI. Crystal read drafted letter to the City council- Discussion about talking points- making pleas personal and contextual.
- VII. Parent Concerns
- VIII. Mary motion to adjourn- Crystal So Moved- Karen 2nd