

Harvard School Committee

Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Bromfield Faculty Room

Present: School Committee Members (Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Piali De, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Maureen Babcock)

Administration (Tom Jefferson, Lorraine Leonard, Mary Beth Banios, Gretchen Henry, Pam DeGregorio, Mark Force)

Chairman Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:04.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed budget for 2010-11. No votes were taken.

Superintendent Jefferson provided an overview of the process used to develop the budget and the operational guidelines which had been presented by the Finance Committee.

The Superintendent, Finance Director, and Facilities Manger reviewed account lines related to the maintenance budget.

Discussion, questions, and requests for additional information regarding the maintenance budget included a breakdown in the separation of utilities and maintenance expenditures, energy savings projected due to recent upgrades, use of overtime for snow removal and other functions, summer work projects, an overview of capital needs and the revised definition of a capital item, and projected equipment needs.

The Superintendent and Elementary Principal reviewed each line of the HES budget.

Discussion, questions and requests for additional information regarding the elementary budget included issues related to class size, use of kindergarten aides, tutors, management of lunch and recess duties, the role of curriculum coordinators, the function of the copy aide, the role of the technology specialist within HES, how the district would address supporting writing given the reduction in administrative staff, and enrollment projections for the upcoming year.

The Superintendent and Director of Special Services reviewed each line of the Special Services budget.

Discussion, questions, and requests for additional information regarding the Special Services budget included issues related to the number and responsibilities of learning assistants, the efficacy of co-teaching and whether that model might be expanded, the role of technology in supporting students with special needs, trends in out-of-district enrollments and projected circuit breaker reimbursement, transportation costs, transition planning between schools, projections and revised options regarding the preschool, potential alternatives to the current preschool model (i.e. shared programming with a local provider), summer support services, and how collaboratives could further support our students.

Motion to adjourn (De), seconded (Sklar), approved 5-0 at 11:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Jefferson, Superintendent, Temporary Recording Secretary