



Medway Finance Committee

155 Village Street
Medway, Massachusetts 02053

Frank Faist, Chairman
Larry Ellsworth, Vice Chairman
Phil Giangarra, Clerk
Eric Arbeene, Member
Mark Brown, Member
Phyllis Cerel, Member
Jeff Devolder, Member
Jan Fish, Member
Paul Marble, Member

Meeting Minutes: January 22, 2009
Joint Meeting with the Medway School Committee
School Committee Meeting Room
Medway Middle School

Call to Order: This joint meeting of the Medway School Committee and the Medway Finance Committee was called to order by School Committee Chairman Diane Borgatti at: 7:05pm.

Members Present:

Finance Committee: Frank Faist, Chairman, Larry Ellsworth, Vice Chairman, Phil Giangarra, Clerk and Members: Erica Arbeene, Mark Brown, Phyllis Cerel, Jeff DeVolder, Jan Fish, Paul Marble and Administrative Assistant Shirley Bliss.

School Committee: Chairman Diane Borgatti, Vice Chairman, Debora Trindade, Members, Shelley Wieler, Dawn Rice-Norton, Carle Bernstein, Steven Dahl, School Superintendent, Judith Evan, School Accountant David Verdolino, and Administrative Assistant Carol Villa

Guest Present: None

The purpose of this joint meeting was for the Finance Committee to bring forth their questions on the preliminary FY10 school budget.

Discussions:

Each member of the Finance Committee was allowed to ask as many questions as they had. Jan Fish questioned the elevator project as well as the need for new rivets in the High School bathrooms. She was told by the Committee that these items as being worked on. Ms. Fish also asked for an update on TRANE; was there a contract in the works, financing, where would it come from and what progress on that part of the project is. Ms. Fish and this Committee was informed that financing was being worked on and the more information would be given when they have it.

Jeff Devolder requested information on the increased number of Special Education Students. Superintendent Evans and David Verdolino explained that school year 2009 found an increase in the number of students needing to be sent out of district to be serviced. They also explained that costs are up and the Circuit Breaker reimbursement program is staying stable although no carry over of funds is expected. The costs per student going out of district changes as the needs of the child change. Transportation costs are being kept under control.

Paul Marble expressed his concern over the current budget as it is being presented. The School Committee has presented both a level funded and a level services budget. The level funded budget includes cuts in many areas, the level services budget included on 1 half time staff cut. Public hearings will be scheduled in the near future.

Frank Faist questioned the \$880,000 in salary increases. The Superintendent explained this as: contractual agreements, retirements, staff turnovers, step increased and salary settlements. Ms. Evans also stressed that Special Education services cannot be change; as they are federally mandated. Ms. Evans also explained that several grants fund staffing positions in the Special Education Department, she feels that these grants are likely to continue as most are federal entitlement grants. Should they not, then programs and staff positions funded with these grants will no longer be offered/staffed. Mr. Faist also requested a clarification on the "revolving funds". It was explained that the only revolving funds were the school lunches, athletic fees and the pre-kindergarten tuition. Funds from these accounts are used to maintain these programs. Mr. Faist then questioned the number of school employees; with the cost of 60 paraprofessionals seen as high. Mr. Faist did state that he liked the new budget format as it lends itself to more construction questioning.

Mark Brown requested more information on the full day kindergarten program. Tuition is set but is also open to deferrals and reduced tuition based upon ability to pay. It was stated that a slight increase in tuition is anticipated for school year 2009-2010.

As there were not more questions from this Committee, Superintendent Evans, thanked the Committee for all it's help and expressed an interest in working both with this Committee and the residents of Medway to achieve the best possible budget.

Adjournment:

With no further business with the School Committee the Finance Committee portion of this meeting was adjourned at: 8:10pm.

