

MOULTONBOROUGH ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2016

Present: Amanda Bergquist, Jean Beadle, Alan Ballard, Cody Gray, Kathy Garry, Linda Murray

Chairperson Bergquist opened the meeting at 5:30 PM in the town hall conference room.

The minutes of the January 6th meeting were approved by Jean and seconded by Linda. A notation was made that the school public hearing had been change from the 9th to the 8th of February 2016.

Kathy Garry brought to the meeting a 3rd revision of the school budget. The teachers and union have ratified a 3 year contract. The current version of the budget will be updated to reflect the changes by Kay. There will be a warrant article on the contract at the Annual Town Meeting. Kathy indicated that the major provisions in the new three year contract included the following:

Changes in the teacher's salaries and benefits:

8.2% increase over 3 years

The Union membership will have four health plan options. The current high end offering potentially subject to the "Cadillac Tax" has been eliminated.

Special incentives for early retirement have been removed

Next, Amanda presented a draft of talking points for the school budget review letter. The talking points are outlined below:

Course Curriculum:

The Committee discussed options for small class sizes at the Academy (2-3 Students). Options discussed included distance learning and further participation in VIAC offerings.

Sixth Grade:

The committee was strongly in favor of moving students up to the middle school. It was suggested that there could be larger and more varied classes available along with potential long term financial savings.

Outsourcing / specialized position:

The Committee felt the school should look into potential benefits of outsourcing specialized positions such as Curriculum Director, School Psychologist, School Nurse, Special Ed. Outsourcing these positions could be more cost effective with continued declining enrollments.

Technology:

The committee strongly recommended looking into upgrading to fiber optics, which are currently available on Route 25

Stem:

The Committee was pleased to see stem extended to the elementary level and would like to see it return to the high school level.

Amanda will have a draft for the \Town Budget Report for the next meeting on 2/1 at 5:30 to review. Amanda also mentioned committee members should attend the 2/4 and 2/8 meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00

Respectively Submitted
Linda Murray, ABC Alternate

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