

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA  
Princeton Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Feb 27, 2017

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AC members in attendance: John Shipman, George Handy, Jimmy O'Coin, Bill Lawton,  
Wayne Adams, Judy Dino, Don Schoeny  
BOS and Town Administrator  
WRSD Superintendent and leadership team  
Princeton School Committee Rep Megan Weeks

**Advisory Committee Agenda**

- WRSD FY18 Draft Budget presentation

Meeting started at 5:00 PM

**Meeting Minutes**

- Darryl McCall presented the draft FY18 planned budget
- AC and BOS asked several clarifying questions throughout the session including:
  - What new metrics will WRSD implement and what other districts/regions use the same metrics
  - How FY17 expenses were being managed for those under/over budget
  - Reconciling student headcount based on Foundation budget formulas vs WRSD counts
  - Strategy for school choice enrollment numbers
  - When benchmarking school districts and regions on a \$perPupil, are the numbers apples to apples, if some districts include debt for capital projects while others don't
  - Whether the region would reconsider health-plan program change to manage rising costs, from BC/BS to GIC
  - Recurring request of WRSD is reflect the FY18 budget aligned with the 11 expense line items the State uses for Foundation Budget Calculation:
    - 1 Administration
    - 2 Instructional Leadership
    - 3 Classroom and Specialist Teachers
    - 4 Other Teaching Services
    - 5 Professional Development
    - 6 Instructional Equipment & Tech
    - 7 Guidance and Psychological
    - 8 Pupil Services
    - 9 Operations and Maintenance
    - 10 Employee Benefits/Fixed Charges
    - 11 Special Ed Tuition
    - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/chapter->

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- What WRSD is doing to receive parity funding from the state when contrasted to other districts and regions
- How other towns in the WRSD district are reacting to the budget
- Overall, FY18 is an increase in WRSD draft budget of 5.2% for the 5-towns in the district; Princeton's increase is 6.3% . While towns are only able to raise revenues at 2.5% year over year, the net effect of a continually growing school budget at a higher rate than town revenues is forcing town's to cutback in services or towns to not support the size of the school district increases. The continual concern by AC and BOS is the school budget is unsustainable and when contrasted on \$perPupil, there is no way to close a gap with benchmarked peer districts and regions without the state increasing their funding.
- For reference, WRSD Strategic Plan  
<http://www.wrsd.net/documents/WRSDStrategicPlan.pdf>
- For reference about chapter 70 funding  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/>

WRSD session ended ; AC Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM; BOS continued to meet for balance of their agenda

Next BOS/AC meeting is 2/28 for FY16 auditor's report and management letter

**Handouts**

- WRSD FY 18 Budget presentation

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AB Member