

16 July 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Type of Meeting: Public**

**Meeting Location: Town Hall, First Floor**

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Buco at 7:15

Recording Secretary: Michael Costanzo

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members Present:** Cathy Gorman, Cindy Buco, Lisa Tapley, Bruce Cleveland, Tony Piemonte, Michael Costanzo

**Committee Members Absent:** Tina Buckley, Michael Garonne

**Members of the public:** Arthur Green

Cindy Buco began the meeting by noting the purpose is a debriefing the tour of Pinkerton Academy given by Headmaster Griffin Morse on Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Members took turns discussing their thoughts.

Cathy Gorman: Found the tour very impressive, emphasizing an extensive offering for all students. Concerned about transportation costs and suggests we check with other towns to see how much they pay. Tuition as a flat rate will help us with calculations, but is concerned about sped tuition. Asks if anybody made rough calculations yet.

In response:

Tony Piemonte: Based on the numbers given by Griffin, estimated a 37 million total budget next year.

Arthur Green: Has started calculations but it's a work in progress and will have those numbers for the next meeting.

Bruce Cleveland: Estimating a 3.3 million base + sped + transportation. Tony Piemonte: Asks percentage of sped students in Sandown

Arthur Green: ~ 24%, does not yet know breakdown by grade.

Michael Costanzo: Breakdown has been submitted to SAU, work in progress, and expect it to take 1-2 weeks.

Discussion then shifted to current costs for Timberlane. With Cindy Buco and Arthur Green noting that cost are around 16 or 17 million, 4 of which comes from state aid. Committee needs to research real costs before state aid, in order to budget for a scenario where the town receives less in aid. Committee also needs to find current formula that the State uses to calculate aid.

The committee then noted that elementary and middle school configuration options are the key(s) for successful budgeting. There was some pondering about tuitioning of middle school students. At the

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suggestion of Bruce Cleveland, the committee decided to continue that discussion at a later meeting and resumed discussion about the Pinkerton tour.

Michael Costanzo: Impressed with campus, and options for CTE. Most impressed with the way the Headmaster spoke about the students and their accomplishments rather than the accomplishments of the administration.

Questions about the appointment of trustees, rather than an election of a school board.

Tony Piemonte: Very impressed with the mentoring program and the way the school gives students a feel for the future.

He also noted good security and security cameras everywhere.

Bruce Cleveland: Wants to know more about the CTE program because it seemed more “basic”, by lacking technology, and that it took up a small percentage of buildings. The classrooms also seemed small.

In response:

Michael Costanzo: Reminds the committee that Pinkerton is not a vocational school, it’s a public academy that offers vocational programs.

Cathy Gorman: Notes small classrooms compared to vocational school she attended. Questions about the number of certifications that are earned.

Lisa Tapley: As a parent, she was “blown away” by the programs offered. Notes that the PAC is older, and slightly smaller than the PAC at Timberlane, but the rest of the campus is modern and impressive.

In response:

Cathy Gorman: Impressed with the PAC, found it clean, uplifting, and to be a positive atmosphere. Very large stage.

Cindy Buco: Very impressed with the history and comradery of the school, and feels that weighs strongly against other schools. As a parent, she loves the opportunity for vocational learning, and noted the 9th grade facility as being very impressive. The committee agreed.

Bruce Cleveland asked if the committee should put together some type of spreadsheet for metric comparisons of other high schools we will tour. Michael Costanzo offered to draft that, drawing from the “gallery walk” data from an earlier meeting.

Before adjourning for the evening the committee elected to contact Sanborn, Timberland, and Salem as three other schools to tour and compare with Pinkerton. Cindy Buco volunteered to make tour arrangements.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:30