

MINUTES OF  
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 5, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Richardson, Chairperson  
David Francis, Vice Chairperson  
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin  
David Saad  
Karen Perkins

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander  
School Superintendent Arlene Bosco  
School Finance Administrator Barbara Hamel

Mr. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of April 28, 2015

Moved approval of minutes of April 28, 2015, Ms. Perkins, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (4-0-1, Richardson)

FY 2016 Budget – School Department

Superintendent Bosco and Ms. Hamel presented an overview of the FY 2016 School Department budget, addressing present special education population and future population. Committee asked questions as the came up.

Ms. Bosco continued to cover “English Learners” in the district, the variety of languages spoken. Ms. Bosco explained the state mandated programs for English learners and the corrective action plan the Seekonk is under.

Early intervention was explained, covering children 3 years to the start of kindergarten. The special education transportation program and the variety of locations transportation was provided to was detailed. Committee questioned the outsourcing of transportation and the procedure employed by the school department.

Proposal to increase the number of advance placement courses offered at Seekonk High School. Discussion about the advance placement program took place. Regional vocational enrollment was discussed, and the variety of courses offered at the regional schools was discussed. Committee had a detailed discussion on the advanced placement offerings in the past, the reason the number decreased, and the vision of the new offerings.

Ms. Bosco discussed the social-emotional development and the income levels, agreed that population has gone down, free and reduced lunch utilization has gone up.

Professional development plans call for emphasis on the alignment of the currilicum with the “Common Core”. Assessment tools used was explained. Superintendent discussed residency requirement in Seekonk and the results of implementing a residency officer. School Choice was explained and the state requirements and impact on the school department.

Technology plan was explained, overview of the PARCC experience this year as well as the duty of the data clerk was discussed. Committee asked about the new testing programs piloted in the state. Salary matrix was discussed. Mr. Saad discussed the steps and his opinion of them. Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin questioned the funding mechanics of paying for a new teacher contract. Ms. Hamel explained what was included in the budget for step, lane change and longevity. Not all of the budgeted positions are new, they are restored positions. Positions were explained and discussed. Ms. Hamel reported that there was a reduction of 1.8 position last year and a 2011 to 2015 there were a total of 4.1 positions added. Proposed positions are restoration of positions. Enrollment is down system wide, but up in elementary, down at high school. Present enrollment at high school is 567, offering quality courses with fewer options.

Assessment choice is being driven by the state, history and science are still MCAS not PARCC.

Mr. Grant, school committee chairperson, was in the audience and was asked about negotiations but declined to respond, explaining they are still involved in negotiations.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved recess, Ms. Perkins, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (4-0) 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk