

July 31, 2012

A meeting of the **Action Committee** was held on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Multiservice Center. Present were members:

Geoff Swett (School Committee)
Dr. Barry Rabinovitch (Superintendent of Schools)
Ellen Begley (Board of Selectmen)
Frank Heath (Capital Planning)
John Foster (Acting Town Administrator)

Mr. Swett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was a presentation of the Transportation Department deficit for FY2012, implications of the deficit for FY2013, and suggestions for how to reduce costs and future deficits.

Mr. Jeff Tatro, Transportation Manager, gave the FY12 Year in Review report (attached). He then reviewed Plan B, suggestions for how to reduce costs (attached).

Geoff Swett proposed that for FY13 the McKinley Vento money coming to the town be given to the school's transportation department for operating expenses and that we buy no buses. In FY14 the McKinley Vento money and one half of the money raised by the meals tax be used to fund the purchase of vehicles for the school's transportation department at approximately \$300,000. This would not reduce services.

Mr. Heath stated that at Town Meeting the meals tax money was not guaranteed to the schools.

Mrs. Begley suggested some decreases in services that were not provided in the past, i.e., pick up after 1 ½ miles instead of 1 mile and offer late buses on 2 days instead of 4 days.

Dr. Rabinovitch explained that the cost of late buses comes out of net school spending.

Mrs. Begley stated that she understands that the election results were devastating.

Mr. Swett asked for a motion regarding the McKinley Vento funds.

Dr. Rabinovitch moved to bring a warrant article to the fall town meeting for the McKinley Vento funds to be given to the school's non net school spending transportation budget, seconded by Mr. Heath.

VOTE: yea – 3 (Rabinovitch, Heath, Swett); nay – 1 (Begley); abstain – 1 (Foster)

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that we have an aged fleet, a deficit, and no plan.

Mrs. Begley brought up doing an RFP again.

Submitted by Dr. Barry Rabinovitch

