

February 22, 2012

A meeting of the **Action Committee** was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 5:00 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)

Mark Andrews (Town Administrator)

Ellen Begley (Board of Selectmen)

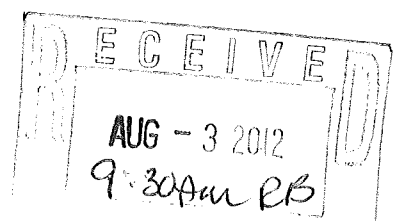
Mary Jane Driscoll (Capital Planning)

Mr. Swett called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Driscoll had questions on the transportation budget numbers including homeless and an increase in payroll.

Another meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room to answer any further questions by committee members and to reach a consensus on recommendations for transportation including privatizing or in-house, funding, and whether or not to reduce services.

Submitted by Dr. Barry Rabinovitch



February 29, 2012

A meeting of the **Action Committee** was held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 5:00 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)

Mary Jane Driscoll (Capital Planning)

Absent was member Mark Andrews (Town Administrator) who was ill.

Mr. Swett called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Mr. Swett focused the meeting on privatization versus local control. He stated that the lowest bid including all services was \$2,653,605. In an apples to apples comparison, given the current \$1,368,927 budget for transportation, continuing local control saves \$467,000 each year.

Mr. Swett discussed the deficit looming for the town of 6 million dollars.

Mrs. Driscoll said she could not advocate for fees.

Mrs. Begley reported on the research she did regarding fees for services. She noted that closer than two miles can be charged a fee. Plymouth charges \$125 for the first child, \$109 for the second child, and \$75 for the third family member with a \$300 family cap.

Mr. Swett asked for an opinion of the group whether we could vote on item one. There was no consensus to have a vote, but no one said it was cheaper to outsource; therefore, this item was tabled.

The next item discussed was debt exclusion to purchase vehicles and/or option B. It was clarified that though the group discussed option B, the group was only advisory. Option B would include all or some of the following:

- Reduction in services
- Fees for services (\$90)
- Three tier system

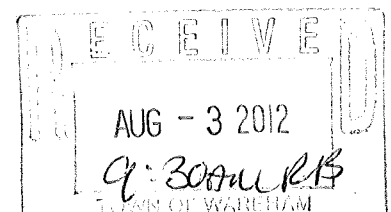
Mr. Tatro was asked to prepare Plan B scenarios for the next meeting.

Mr. Swett asked about 50% of the meals tax, but no one agreed.

Mrs. Begley said "I am not marginalizing the 3,000 students, but what about the 20,000 without students."

The next meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2012 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Submitted by Dr. Barry Rabinovitch



March 20, 2012

A meeting of the **Action Committee** was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 5:00 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)
Mary Jane Driscoll (Capital Planning)
Mark Andrews (Town Administrator)

Mr. Swett called the meeting to order.

Presentation by Town Administrator Data on Privatization

Mr. Andrews said he had not completed his survey of other towns regarding privatization.

Presentation by Superintendent of School and Transportation Manager - Alternate transportation scenario including fees and reduction of services

Mr. Tatro presented a plan for reduction in transportation services. There was discussion on the number of vehicles needed and the mileage.

Mr. Swett stated that if we went with the Town Administrator's budget and level funded transportation, we would need to use the revolving account to make up the deficit in the operating budget and raise fees for approximately 1,100 students at \$200 per year to buy capital.

Ms. Driscoll stated that the number of vehicles can be reduced by using the revolving account without a debt exclusion.

There was continued discussion about cuts in services, legal requirements of transporting students, fees for students and profit making companies and non profits.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he thought it was inappropriate for Ms. Driscoll, as the former Transportation Director, to comment on the current operation of the transportation system with Mr. Tatro present.

Mrs. Begley added that she felt Mrs. Driscoll's comments were relevant and appropriate because of her background and experience.

Another meeting will be scheduled once Mr. Andrews has the data on privatization.

Submitted by Dr. Barry Rabinovitch

