

Present: Ken Estabrook, (Chair), P. J. Gauthier, Jill Prendergast (VC), Alannah Gustavson, Bob McCarthy, Pete Campbell
Absent: Tom Black

Six members recognized as being at the meeting Ken called the meeting to order @ 7:03 PM

Minutes taken by – P. J. Gauthier

Guest(s): Mary Brannelly, Lydia Clancy, Bethlyn Houlihan, Natasha Rivera, Mary Jane Rickson, Maro Hogan, Irene Houle, Jennifer Gaudet, Megan Zammuto, Greg Johnson, Mike Guzzo, David Gavin, concerned citizens

Discussion: Minutes – 5/11/20 – Bob moved to approve as amended, Alannah 2nd, vote 6-0, pass. Ken read the on-line open meeting regulation.

It appears we are to be on Zoom for a while. Dick Downey and others are still working on how to hold the Town Meeting. It will still be a Fowler school per Greg but this is subject to change.

Jill has received more information on the 1917-1918 Pandemic from the Historical Society

Bethlyn opened the School Committee meeting and started the discussion. The School Committee will have their Open Meeting on 5/28/20.

Mary Jane and others spoke to their budget process and their budget.

Ken asked for 4 or 5 highlights of their budget and challenges of state funding.

Jennifer believes they can meet the needs of the kids with their current resources by reallocating funds, i.e., increasing kindergarten class sizes to allow for computer science and engineering classes. They have reduced 1 Admin. at GMS.

Challenges include - What will State funding be? , Concern about aged staff. , What can't we plan for? , What training may be needed over the summer? We are losing revenue from loss of summer program. Will kids need more attention to recover from the shutdown? Ken is pessimistic about this.

Jill asked about funding MSDA moving forward. Funding is in the pipeline. When do we have to have money for feasibility study? It is needed by 1/1/21. We need a positive vote in the October STM.

Bob mentioned scenario planning for potential cuts. Greg did not budget for additional State aid. There is a spending freeze now and maybe into next FY. We have enough cash but we owe the banks.

Mike says the real unknown right now is State Aid. Schools may be looking at staffing levels.

Bob stated we cannot use the Stabilization fund for the feasibility study.

Alannah mentioned the legislation pending regarding SPED.

There may be an adjustment for the facilities manager position. The School Committee is looking for savings where possible. They adjourned their meeting.

Bob and Jill discussed the Pitch Deck presentation. Jill has refined the historical info on the 1917-1918 pandemic from the Finance Committee reports of that time. The total tax was \$100,000 with \$46,000 for schools. They closed the schools for 5 weeks. If they survived, we can. How much info is enough or too much? There is some discussion about this. The Deck must be ready by 6/1/20. Bob will work on changes and distribute to members. We should send comments to them.

9:50 - PJ moved to adjourn, Pete 2nd, vote 7-0, pass.

FY20

5/20/19

Article #1

250,000.00

Next Meeting: 6/1/20, 6/8/20, 6/13

Documents: FinCom meeting notice and Pitch Deck.

Approved 6/1/20