

December 7, 2016

A joint meeting of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham High School Auditorium.

School Committee present: Mel Lazarus, Geoff Swett, Judy Caporiccio, Mary Morgan, Student Rep Jamie Read

Finance Committee present: David Heard, Tom Worthen, Dominic Cammarano, Ellis Baily, Bernard Pigeon, Glen Lawrence

Board of Selectmen present: Judy Whiteside, Peter Teitlebaum, Patrick Tropeano

Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood, Business Manager MacMillan, Town Administrator Derek Sullivan

Chair Lazarus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the only item on the agenda tonight is the budget public hearing. The meeting is being broadcast live on WCTV and an audio recording is being made by Mrs. Ruiz. Also present are members of Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Chair Lazarus further stated that the meeting is here tonight for the convenience of the Chair, who is physically not able to be accommodated at the Middle School Auditorium with a three board setup. In regard to the budget, Chair Lazarus had a "We are Wareham" button on and stated we will find a way to make things work.

He then asked each board member present to identify themselves and what committee they serve on.

Chair Heard stated that the Finance Committee started their meeting earlier this evening and recessed at 6:45 p.m. to this meeting.

### **FY18 Budget Public Hearing**

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked members for attending this evening. The FY18 budget centers on the needs of students and is based on our strategic plan. She reported on the Strategic Plan Progress in scholarship, leadership, citizenship and stewardship. She reviewed the Budget Drivers, Student Enrollment, Special Education and Medical Needs, and Employee FTE from 2010/11 to 2016/17.

Mr. MacMillan addressed the following budget items:

- Upcoming Negotiations with Unit A, whose current contract is concluding. He shared a chart comparing teacher salaries in our area. We have been experiencing an inability to recruit and retain our teaching staff based on our salary schedule.
- Building Use by school from 2011/12 to 2016/17 showing year built and square footage.
- Facilities Management and Improvement – capital items by school for 2018, 2019, and 2020
- Transportation – recently negotiated new salaries for the bus drivers but we still have to outsource some out of district transportation – moving into municipal maintenance and their spearheading new buses has been a tremendous help to us
- Technology Flow Chart – School/Classroom Hardware

- Budget Draft Request for 2018, not yet voted by the School Committee, is \$29,967,163, increase of 6% over FY17. He presented the budget by major categories and net and non-net, with classroom and specialists teachers having the major increase.

Dr. Shaver-Hood reported that this budget does not include any additional staff which principals have asked for and represents what we need to meet the needs of our students.

Chair Lazarus asked for public comment and/or questions.

Heather Hogan, parent, made a statement. She is on the Special Education Parent Advisory Council and based on comments she heard from the previous School Committee meeting there is an incredible need for training of School Committee members. She asked how is the committee going to address these needs.

At the request of Chair Lazarus, Dr. Shaver-Hood replied that all additional staff are special education teachers and we will continue to meet the needs of all students.

Mrs. Hogan asked for an apology from Committee members to parents based on their comments, and stated that she will be coming to the next meeting to see how the Committee will be handling this.

Another parent of special needs students talked about what she heard on the audiotape relative to all IEPs looking for a free lunch and a child with ADHD is from a drug use parent. The budget for special education needs more to meet the children's needs.

(Peter Teitelbaum arrived at 7:38 p.m.)

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the budget has increased in special education and we still have a lot of work. The administrators agree and if we are able to hire new staff, it will be in special education. She would be happy to come to a SpEd PAC meeting and apologized for the statements which were made.

Mike Flaherty, citizen asked about the two 13% increases in Guidance/Testing and Pupil Services and how much is budgeted for IB.

- Guidance/Testing - \$180,000 increase based on comments from staff, students, and parents on lack of social counseling and support. We were seeing discipline problems so we added counselors and social workers.
- Pupil Services - There is an increase in athletic costs in pay for bus drivers and officials.
- About \$30,000 is budgeted for IB.

Mr. Swett stated that the need for services spoken about by parents is about the budget and he offered to accompany the superintendent to the SpEd PAC meeting.

Finance Committee Chair Heard thanked the Committee and Administration for inviting his board and it will take this information home to study it.

Board of Selectmen Chair Whiteside stated that one member could not attend and she asked to have his statement read into the record (See attached e-mail from Alan Slavin, Subject: Joint Budget School meeting tonite).

Chair Whiteside commented on the finite amount of money available for the upcoming year and the term "living within the budget" being discussed and understood. Fiscal progress has been spectacular under Mr. Sullivan. The key word is "management". The town budget is reflective of the availability of funds.

Mr. Sullivan echoed the Superintendent and Business Manager. He is proud of bringing school technology, new school buses, the High School roof, Minot Forest feasibility study and the Decas roof/boiler. He reviewed Wareham's demographics and taxes for a single family being the lowest in the county.

Mr. Swett responded to Mr. Slavin's statement that there is no such thing as throwing money to the schools. There has been an average increase of 2% each year in the budget and charter schools in Wareham is not a solution. He shared in the compliments of Mrs. Whiteside to Town Administrator Sullivan and stated that we, as elected members representing our parents, have to at least ask for our needs.

Mike Flaherty asked if the negotiations chart done by the Business Manager can use the state DART like towns to see where Wareham lines up in salaries.

(Mr. Tropeano entered the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. – Now with a quorum present, the meeting was not opened by the Board of Selectmen and no votes were taken.)

Mrs. Morgan commented that we are throwing money if we are not investing it well.

Mr. Lazarus stated that if you compare Wareham to the town of Bourne in the chart of salaries we need to attract the best and pay our professional staff more. One year Unit A members took a freeze on steps and columns and one year there was a change in their health insurance contribution.

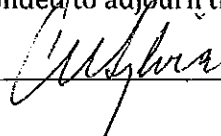
Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

(It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. 6-0-0)

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_



**List of Documents:**

WPS FY18 Budget Proposals – Public Hearing December 7, 2016  
WPS FY18 Draft Budget Proposal

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2017

TOWN OF WAREHAM  
TOWN CLERK