

Approved + released
4/2/15 AH

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 8:42 P M.
Present: Michael Niles, Michael Barbaro, Susan Burdsall, Dawn Harris
Salah Khelfaoui-Superintendent
Mark Chapulis-TMS/Business Manager
2. Citizen Questions and Comments: none
3. Correspondence and Announcements: An email from S. Burdsall suggested a monthly joint-meeting until the budget issues are under control. She included a guide to communications and expectations to be shared with the other boards.
4. Student Recognition: none
Student Representative: none

5. Superintendent Report:

He met with town officials, the new DOR Deputy Commissioner and others this morning. The DOR management review team should start soon. The deficit repayment is an allowable indirect expense; a figure may be available by the March 19th meeting. A 3-year trend report will be available for discussion but line items will not match between each document. Figures will be categorized by school and actual expenditures. Cuts will be highlighted and notes made regarding what will not be restored.

Business Office Report: M. Chapulis noted the Tuesday meeting included discussion about budget transfers, the Circuit Breaker numbers for DOR, indirect costs and Harpers Payroll level of interaction with Munis. J. Kreidler noted a TMS representative will be included on the committee that creates the RFP for new software for the town.

J. Kreidler updated the most recent indirect cost information per the Governors' House 1 budget. The projection figure is \$200,000 for health insurance and \$150,000 for unemployment totaling a \$350,000 increase in indirect costs for the FY16 budget. He reported additional increases, based on the most recent actual figures, total \$194,000, stressing that figure is not the net bottom end result. He noted the formula used to determine some of those has changed to the 'per pupil' cost of \$107.95.

Indirect Administration cost is \$157,391.10 for a net reduction of \$49,268.17.

Worcester County Retirement Assessment is \$506,406.77 for an increase in \$42,041.77. He will provide the assessment information.

Health Insurance is \$199,987.44.

Life Insurance is \$12,295.

Liability Insurance is \$84,125 for an increase of \$13,742.

Workmans Comp is \$138,000; this includes the anticipated district increase of \$20,000.

Medicare Tax is \$168,000 for an increase of \$7,000; is the actual full assessment.

School Choice -\$737,260 for a reduction of \$17,618.

Charter school is \$390,762 for an increase of \$90,456.

Unemployment is \$150,000 net; an additional \$50,000 place holder should also be included per Andy Paquette, TMS Business Management.

Deficit Repayment is \$1,852,000.00; this reflects 66 2/3% of the total amount.

The Charter Tuition receipts (revenue to district) -no figure stated
The Medicaid Reimbursement (at 25%) is \$31,250.

The bottom line indirects are \$3,893,766.98 against the projected figure of \$3,769,520. The difference or deficit is \$124,246.98. Even though there is a deficit repayment portion of \$207,000 there is actually \$194,557.54 not tied to the deficit but tied to other actual cost increases. He will email the draft document to the business office. S. Khelfaoui stated he did not feel it was fair to assess the schools 66% of the deficit legislation. J. Kreidler noted that the town and district now have the benefit of paying out over 10 years at .5% interest (the interest rate could change over that time).

7. New Business

A) The warrant article that will be presented will only include Sped funds. The warrant articles are not due until April 13th. S. Burdsall moved to table Agenda item 7.A) Draft Warrant articles for Town Meeting to the March 19th meeting. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 4-0-0.

A discussion regarding the history of the insurance trust fund shortfall and the rationale for the deficit legislation repayment percentage division continued.

6. Old Business

A) Restructuring public hearing: S. Khelfaoui asked the committee for guidelines to use during continuing discussion with the administration team. The team wants the committee to hear their opinions and ideas regarding each option. He stated the district deficit of over \$800,000 cannot be resolved by simple line item cuts.

10:03 PM S. Burdsall moved for a 5-minute recess. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 4-0-0.
10:10 pm Reconvened.

S. Khelfaoui noted there is not a good option. He hopes revenue can be generated to help pay back the deficit from the rental of any school building that is closed. He asked what is definitely on or off the table. S. Burdsall suggested focusing on the bottom line and getting the best detailed budget possible. M. Barbaro agreed a decision regarding the options does not need to be made right away. He is completely against Option C and sees a restructure as the least bad solution.

M. Niles noted it was good to hear the comment about the Academy students' feelings.

S. Khelfaoui noted the administration did not want to consider closing TTE. It is very viable for all elementary to be in Memorial. Jane Ripley is willing to help in any way. It is important to minimize teaching cuts, which would be at least 8-10 positions.

The March 19th meeting will just look at bottom line budget and vote on the budget. The April 2nd and 16th will focus on making a final decision about the options.

The committee agreed unanimously that it wanted more time to consider the options.

B) Superintendent Evaluation Preparation & Timeline expectations: The same template as last year will be used and adjusted as necessary. A discussion regarding the contract must be held by April 1st in executive session. The timeline will be created.

10:39PM M. Barbaro left the meeting.

7. C) Legal Services-S. Burdsall reviewed the RFP for legal consul. After discussion, it was agreed to send it to 10 MASC approved COSA members. S. Burdsall moved to send out a request for a letter of interest for legal services. Second by M. Niles. Approved .3-0-0.

8. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released: none
9. Questions and Comments by Members: above
10. Other: none
11. Future Agenda Items:
 - A) Guidance Department Review
 - B) Negotiation Strategy Meeting
 - C) Monty Tech Representative/Superintendent
 - D) Superintendent evaluation
 - E) Middle School Field Trip
12. Executive Session: none
13. Adjournment: 10:45 P.M. S. Burdsall moved to adjourn. Second by M. Niles. Approved 3-0-0.

-3- 3/12/15

Respectfully submitted: _____
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary