



RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO
 Newton School Committee Members
 WARD
 I Rajeev Parlikar
 II Chris Brezski
 III Anping Shen
 IV Tamika Olszewski- Chair
 V Emily Prenner,
 VI Paul Levy
 VII Kathy Shields- Vice Chair
 VIII Cove Davis

SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING – FY23 BUDGET Minutes

Date: April 4, 2022

Location: Remote via **ZOOM** Meeting

Time: 6:00 pm

Members Remote: Parlikar, Fleishman, Brezski, Levy, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Davis, Mayor Fuller

Students Remote: Nabeshima

Staff & Others Remote: Toby Romer, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Renee McCall, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Stephanie Gilman, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability, Amy Mistrot, Director of Business Operations Steven Rattendi, Director of IT and Library Services, Jill Murray, General Counsel, Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture and Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks & Open Space at Parks, Recreation & Culture

PUBLIC HEARING: FY22 Budget

At 6:00 pm Chair Olszewski opened the FY23 Budget Public Hearing. The Chair gave instructions for participating in Public Comment and informed the public that the Committee would hear first from those who had requested to speak by emailing the Committee prior to the meeting, and then she would open it up to anyone else in the audience who wished to speak regarding the FY23 Budget Only.

The Committee heard from the following people:

Karen Manning
Kim Smith
Adele Jasperse
Sherri Rice –
Brice Hobbs
Andy Kochar
Jen Abbott
Jennifer Tomaneng
Barry Greenstein
Sonya Marquez
Marcia Okun
Patrick Brown
Andrew Guttell
Jenny Klein-Sosa, on behalf of SEPAC
Terry Altherr

Jennifer Leslie
Josh Ehrenfried
Irene Margolin-Katz
Elizabeth Ross Del Porto
michael t smalley
Philip Koesters
Konstantin Amitan
Stephen Farrell
Donna M Pentaleri
Jane Frantz
Andrea Steenstrup
Hanna Supeyeva Duran
Ruth Sakakeeny
Alison Lobron
Alli Franke

Rachel Schechter
Rielle Montague
Susan Cohen
Alissa D Saginaw
Jordana Bluestein
Carolyn kraft
Kerry Curran
Ilana Margalit
Lisa DeConcilis
Julie McLaughlin
Oggie Sosa
Michael Burtch
Kate Devagno
Linda Gillespie
Kim LeQuire

Cassidy Donahue
Liz Metraux
Ruchira das Gupta
Colleen Nolan
Nefertiti Boyers
Sarah Solomon
Kim Boudreau
Hila Ben-Levi
Ariana Foster
Ryan Normandin

Topics:

- 1) Fully fund the school budget
- 2) Use ARPA funds
- 3) Disproportionate cuts to Bigelow
- 4) Inadequate mental health funding
- 5) Override
- 6) Don't cut literacy
- 7) Teacher leader positions
- 8) Importance of early interventions

Chair Olszewski thanked everyone for their comments. and closed the Public Hearing at 7:51 pm. She announced that the regular School Committee meeting would begin with the High School Lighting Project.

High School Sports Lighting Project

Nicole Banks, and Luis Perez Demorizi presented the High School Lighting Project which was received and placed on file. They then gave an overview of the rationale and plans for sports lighting at the two high school fields. After the presentation the Committee questioned whether they were required to vote on the project and asked for clarification. Mayor Fuller explained that this was being funded using ARPA money and was collaboration between Parks and Recreation, School Committee and City Council, but was covered by City Ordinance regarding lights. She said this was a discussion, not a vote. Jill Murray Grady advised that the item should be deferred until more information is available to the Committee.

Chair Olszewski asked for questions from the members. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

GRANTS

The Chair recognized Amy Mistrot who presented a Memo for approval of Grants totaling \$127,502 which was received and placed on file.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Grants as presented.

Motion – Levy
 2nd – Davis

The chair asked for any questions or additional discussion. Seeing none, hearing none she asked for a vote.

The motion passed 9-0 to approve the Grants presented.

Zervas 1-Day Liquor License

The Chair presented a request to approve a 1-Day Liquor License for the Zervas PTO which was received and placed on file. She asked for a motion to approve the request.

Motion: Prenner
 2nd: Shen

The Chair asked for any questions or additional discussion. Seeing none, hearing none she called for a vote.

The motion passed 9-0 to approve the Zervas 1-Day Liquor License

Student Activity Revisions

The Chair recognized Amy Mistrot who presented a request to several items regarding the high school Student Activity Accounts which was received and placed on file. Questions, answers and discussion followed the presentation.

The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the five motion items presented:

- 1) Approve the list of approved student activities for 2021-2022
- 2) Approve Newton North/Newton South checking account balances as described
- 3) Approve new bonding amounts for the principals and bursars as described
- 4) Approve revised Policy JJF (Student Activity Accounts – inactive accounts
- 5) Approve revised Policy JJH – Overnight/Late Night Travel: returning funds
- 6) Approve the inclusion of donation activity on the annual high school ledger for review

Motion: Parlikar

2nd: Shen

The Chair asked for any questions or additional discussion. Seeing none, hearing none she asked for a vote.

The motion passed 9-0 to approve the five Student Activity Account items.

MOA's w/NTA, NESAs & Custodians re: COVID Stipend

Chair Olszewski apologized that there would not be a lot of time to delve into the discussion and vote of the Memorandums of Agreement with the NTA, NESAs and Custodians regarding COVID 19 Vaccinations and Recognition Stipends, which were presented and placed on file. Jill Murray Grady and Mayor Fuller explained that the City utilized ARPA funds to recognize city side employees with a stipend and money was set aside to do the same for school side employees. The stipend has already been bargained with the NTA/NESAs and Custodians and is now brought to the School Committee for discussion and vote.

The Chair asked for a vote to approve the MOA's.

Motion: Shields

2nd : Prenner

The Chair asked for question or additional discussion.

Questions, answers and discussion followed. Including Mayor Fuller's offer to have Maureen Lemeiux, Chief Financial Officer and Alissa Giuliani, City Solicitor come to the next School Committee meeting to answer additional questions. Committee members inquired whether or not there was a downside to postponing the vote. Jill replied that the negotiated agreement stated payment by the end of the school year so there was no downside as long as there was a decision that fit that timeline.

The Chair noted that it was Kathy Shield's motion to vote on the floor so it was hers to withdraw. Kathy Shields withdrew her motion seeing no procedural issue to postponing the vote.

Mayor Fuller stated that Maureen and Ali's expertise will be helpful at the next meeting.

Chair Olszewski announced that the Committee is postponing the MOA vote until the next meeting which will be Wednesday, April 6 and will also include continued FY23 Budget Discussion and a straw vote.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Lisa Mazzola Date: August 26, 2022

School Committee Secretary