



NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – FY23 BUDGET Minutes

- Date:** April 6, 2022
- Location:** Special School Committee meeting via **ZOOM**
- Time:** **7:00 pm** School Committee Meeting
- Members Remote:** Fleishman, Parlikar, Brezski, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Levy, Mayor
- Students Remote:** ~~Nabeshima, Shen, Sawhney, Weissell, Feng, Currid~~
- Staff Remote:** Toby Romer, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Renee McCall, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, Jill Murray, General Counsel, Steven Rattendi, Director of IT and Library Services
- Other Staff/Presenters:** Sean Mannion, Director of Finance

The School Committee held a Special Meeting to discuss the FY23 Budget on April 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, the Chair and vice chair being present. There were no minutes presented for approval.

The chair opened the meeting and asked Dr. Fleishman for his update before continuing with the FY23 Budget discussion.

Dr. Fleishman is pleased to announce that the district has hired Casey Ngo Miller as the new Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services. Casey comes to Newton from Brookline and she will be introduced to the Committee next Monday night.

Chair Olszewski informed the Committee that Liam and his team has provided a full accounting of COVID expenditures as well as late breaking funding news which we will discuss and then the Committee will take a straw vote on the FY23 Budget. Related materials were received and placed on file.

Dr. Fleishman, Liam Hurley and Mayor Fuller explained that over the last 24 hours they have worked collaboratively to identify COVID expenses that were not previously identified that can be covered under ARPA as well as other expenses the City can cover.

FY23 Budget Update

Chair Olszewski thanked the Mayor for her generous support, and is pleased with the direction and feeling more comfortable. The Dr. Fleishman and Liam Hurley then related the specifics of the additional funding from the City:

\$1,100,000 additional COVID costs
410,000 1X funds for maintenance
 \$1,510,000

96,000 Reserve for COVID
67,400 EDCO liability
 \$ 164,510

\$1,674,510 TOTAL from Mayor Fuller

The Chair asked what would be preserved/restored with the additional money. Dr. Fleishman said the following would be recommended:

- Restore Elementary academic support
 - o Literacy intervention teachers and math intervention aides
- Middle School Teams – make sure there are no 3-teacher teams
- Partial restoration of Curriculum and Instruction leadership
- Restore counselors at middle and high schools

The total bottom line will be presented at Monday’s meeting.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Chair Olszewski asked for a motion for a straw vote which will be an indicator of the Committee's comfort level with the budget.

Motion: Davis
2nd: Prenner

The Chair asked if there were any more questions or further discussion.

One member has a question regarding the total number of FTE's lost after the influx of additional funding and one member was uncomfortable taking a straw vote after a significant change and short presentation.

The Chair stated that the straw vote was an indicator of the members comfort level regarding the FY23 Budget based on all of the information presented to date, not just the new information presented tonight.

Yes = 4 (Olszewski, Davis, Prenner, Mayor)
No = 3 (Levy, Shields, Parlikar)
Abstain = 2 (Brezski, Shen)

Members then expressed their concerns and asked for additional information for Monday's meeting including:

- Priority list if additional funding was provided (in \$500k increments)
- What cuts remain
- Structural deficit and financial health
- Year to year budget planning is problematic
- Procedural process regarding a budget larger than allocated by the mayor
- Middle school restorations

The Chair acknowledged that the Committee has asked central staff to put together a lot of information for Monday's meeting, but hopefully it will get us to a place we're comfortable with for the final vote.

The next meeting is Monday April 11, 2022. The Committee will continue its discussion, and possibly vote on the FY23 Budget, or schedule an additional meeting on Tuesday if needed. The agenda items are Lincoln-Eliot Project, Stipend MOA's, High School Field Lights, and continued FY23 Budget.

Tamika thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting @8:46 pm.

Lisa Mazzola Date: August 26, 2022,
School Committee Secretary

Documents and Closed Captioning transcript for this meeting are available [here](#) (or copy and paste: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfojwwbHeNjI3DPe27JwF75kFYTxUK7O>)
Video recording is available [here](#).