

Advisory Board Minutes 5/11/2020

Name	Office	Present	Absent	Absent with notice
David Clinton	Chair	x		
Jay Polito	Vice Chair	x		
Jason Frady	Clerk	x		
Bob Carney		x		
Dan Sullivan		x		
Pat Cormier		x		
Peter Larsen		x		
Robyn Healey		x		
Steve Kiley		X		
Chad Wolfe		X		
Matt Mitchell		x		

Dave Clinton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. This meeting is being held virtually over GoToMeeting with public notice and open access to the virtual meeting. School Committee is called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Town Manager Phil Lemnios and Moderator George Boylen, Superintendent Judy Kuehn, members of the School Board are all present.

Presentation of School Department Budget: Judy Kuehn

The budget is to meet the needs of all students. We are strengthening the remote learning capabilities with Chromebooks for students in grades 3-5 and increasing support for vulnerable students. The FY21 budget meets Phil's recommendation. This is a 1.36% increase of FY20. 22.75% of the budget comes from Chapter 70 money from the State. The Town of Hull provides 70.4% of the budget.

Grant Funding has declined each year since 2014. School department is purchasing safety equipment and is applying for FEMA funds and CARES Act funds from Plymouth County. Many things are back ordered right now. Maintenance is ongoing at the school buildings. We are seeing cost savings on things like transportation.

To facilitate team based learning the schools have added adjustment counselors. This has helped keep students in the district instead of other placements. They have cut out of district placements in half. There are 2 counselors at Jacobs, 1 for the program and 1 for the rest of the school. There are also 2 at Memorial Middle School, 1 for the program and 1 for the rest of the school.

School Psychologists do evaluations of students but are unable to complete those remotely. They will be completing those assessments in the fall. Fall tuition for students of the Collaborative will hold steady at \$65,000 per year. Last year the cost of sending students out of district was evaluated and compared to educating students within the district. There are significant cost savings to keeping

students in the district. We have reading specialists to work with students in the district that the Collaborative doesn't have.

The school department is concerned with regression of the students. The schools will use money from the CARES Act to fund reading specialists to do 1 on 1's over the summer.

The Jacobs School implemented a Tool Box for social and emotional development. Teachers have kids use the tools to cope with issues. This will be implemented at the middle school as students move up.

Staffing Reductions

The district is reorganizing the central office staff to hire a Special Education Director rather than an Assistant Superintendent. 1 staff member is reducing from .8 to .6. The Collaborative is not raising tuition. Professional development is being reduced by \$15,000. There will be fewer speakers next year. Summer custodians are being reduced. Supply line items are being reduced.

The final report on the MARS study will be presented at the June 15 School Board meeting. In the fall they will present to other boards.

The timeline moving forward with the results may be impacted.

Article 12 Memorial Middle School Repairs

The project will replace HVAC units, 9 windows in the auditorium, and repair exterior brick work. The cost of the work is \$1,600,000. If we continue to pursue the MSBA funding we have to fund \$400,000 in feasibility /engineering. There are also concerns over delays due to sales tax decrease. The School Building Committee recommends going forward without MSBA funding. If we do continue to pursue MSBA funding, we risk further delays and it could be a couple of years before we get approval. At the time of the closing of the warrant, the committee decided it was best to keep the option of MSBA funding open.

The HVAC work is just a rooftop system. The brick work is tightly defined. The windows are also a known issue.

As presented in the warrant, Question 12A is for funding the project ourselves. 12B is to move forward with MSBA funding. Either option would need a 2/3 vote to pass. All three pieces of the project need to move forward to keep the building in good repair. 12A will be for \$2 million. 12B will be for \$400k just to fund the feasibility. While there are faster and cheaper programs with the MSBA, the middle school project was not eligible for them because the brick work is not allowed under those programs.

Article 28 Land for Skatepark

The Board of Selectmen have not yet voted, but it appears that they will not vote to support a skatepark due to the current environment. The Advisory Board may want to wait to vote on its recommendation until the Board of Selectmen have voted.

Steve Kiley moves to recommend no action on Article 28. No second is offered.

Jason Frady moves to recommend Favorable Action on Article 6. Jay Polito seconds the motion. This article was presented and discussed in open meetings on prior dates.

Aye Healey

Aye Wolfe

Aye Kiley

Aye Frady

Aye Polito

Aye Carney

Aye Mitchell

Aye Larsen

Aye Sullivan

Aye Cormier

Aye Clinton

Jason Frady moves to recommend Favorable Action on Article 12A and Recommend at Town Meeting for Article 12 B.

Aye Healey

Aye Wolfe

Aye Kiley

Aye Frady

Aye Polito

Aye Carney

Aye Mitchell

Aye Larsen

Aye Sullivan

Aye Cormier

Aye Clinton

Since Article 12 is in 2 parts, the will be pulled by bingo ball as 1 article. They will be discussed together and then we will vote on 12 A and then 12 B.

Article 14 will apply to all dogs owned by a person 70 years old and older.

Dan Sullivan moves to recommend Favorable Action on Article 14. Steve Kiley seconds the motion.

This article was presented and discussed in open meetings on a prior date.

Aye Healey

Aye Wolfe

Aye Kiley

Aye Frady

Aye Polito

Aye Carney

Aye Mitchell

Aye Larsen

Aye Sullivan

Aye Cormier

Aye Clinton

Minutes Approval

Bob Carney asks that we include a statement in the minutes that haven't yet been approved. It may be confusing to someone reading the minutes that we discuss some articles and vote on them immediately following the discussion, or as is often the case, we see a presentation and discuss an article in one meeting and then wait to vote on a recommendation at another meeting. Discussion was held amongst board members.

Jason Frady moves to add a statement to the minutes stating that the article was presented and discussed in open meeting on a prior date. Bob Carney seconds the motion.

Aye Wolfe

Aye Carney

Aye Cormier

Aye Healey

Aye Kiley

Aye Frady

Aye Clinton

No Sullivan

No Polito

No Mitchell

No Larsen

Motion to Adjourn is made by Pat Cormier and is seconded by Bob Carney.

Aye Healey

Aye Wolfe

Aye Kiley

Aye Frady

Aye Polito

Aye Carney

Aye Mitchell

Aye Larsen

Aye Sullivan

Aye Cormier

Aye Clinton

Dave Clinton adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.