

## Minutes - Regular Meeting January 29, 2018

Pursuant to notice January 29, 2018 at the Al Merritt Media and Cultural Center at 5:30 PM

Members Present: Mr. Doyle, Mr. Hayman, Mrs. Presser, Dr. Cammarata & Mr. Sjoberg

Others Present: Mrs. Tremblay, Mrs. Borseti, Mr. Geary, Mrs. Mauro, ten members of the community, one member of the press.

5:31

Mr. Doyle opened the meeting at 5:31

5:32

### 1. School Budget FY19 Presentation

Mrs. Tremblay presented the recommended School Budget for 2018-2019 to The Committee.

Mrs. Tremblay reviewed the Mission Statement and District Strategy and said the roadmap to success is the District Strategy. The recommended School Budget for 2018-2019 represents a 4.5 % increase from the 2017-2018 budget. Highlights included:

FY19 Priorities - Continue to move our district forward while fiscally responsible

- Preserve class size and instructional groups
  - When class size becomes too big it becomes a difference between managing the group instead of teaching the group
- Preserve full time instructional staff
  - staff who work with teachers; school psychologist, OT or PT staff
- Preserve professional development opportunities for continued educator growth
  - Helps build leadership capacity; commitment to be better today than yesterday
- Preserve extra curricular opportunities
  - Drama, music and athletic programs

The breakdown allocation is 87% salaries, 7% out of district special education tuition and transportation costs and 6% for additional items. The recommendation includes only one staffing request for an additional first grade teacher at Summer Street School to keep class size within the recommended guidelines.

Mrs. Tremblay said to keep within the 4.5% budget increase eliminations and/or reductions include:

- Elementary schools academic tutor hours reduced
- Middle school academic tutor hours reduced; eliminate part time media center aide position
- High school eliminate guidance clerk, nurse's aide and media center aide part time positions

Mrs. Tremblay reviewed increased Special Education Costs such as:

- Increased out of district tuition and transportation
- Loss of grant funding
- Circuit Breaker percentage down

During the Technology update portion of the presentation Mrs. Tremblay outlined the Educational Technology Assessment which included an infrastructure assessment. Main points included the need for an infrastructure upgrade throughout the district which is included in the capitol budget and contracting with Retrofit to maintain systems which was able to be done by not filling a vacant position.

Mrs. Tremblay further stated the reduction in staffing is a difficult decision to make because it involves people. The overall reductions show each operating budget reductions. If the budget needs to be trimmed further that would mean a loss of teaching positions.

6:31

### 3. Public Participation

Mr. Doyle reviewed the protocols regarding public participation.

Mrs. Crystal Bates read a [statement](#) to The Committee to address concerns regarding the removal of the Preds Program at Summer Street School. Mrs. Bates stated she was representing the Preschool families. Some of the concerns were:

- Vital need for extended day care

- Implications for children on IEP's
- Timing and communication

Mrs. Bates requested the following in her closing statement:

- an open meeting before the next School Committee meeting on February 6th to brainstorm creative solutions to reinstate PREDS
- Preschool communication issues
- Creation of a Special Task Force to explore the rising school population

4. Matters for Action none

6:38

Mr. Doyle MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:38. Mrs. Presser seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor

Respectfully submitted

Diane Borseti

School Committee Secretary

Documents referenced:

School Budget 2018-2019

Mrs. Bates statement