



APPROVED BY THE BOARD JANUARY 10, 2017.

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 20, 2016**

Attending Board Members: Lauren Berrizbeitia, Kathy Olwell, Miriam Stoll, Mark Barlow, Susanmarie Harrington, Anne Judson, David Kirk, Mark Porter

Administration: Superintendent Yaw Obeng, Senior Director Nathan Lavery

Guests: Monika Ivancic, Amy LaChance, Jamie Garvey, Mike Fisher, Joanna Grossman, Jane Yager, Karen Ruben, Nancy Margolin, Sharon Hayes, Jeff Wick, Linda Walsleban

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. *Motion (Kirk/Barlow) to approve agenda- unanimous*

3. Presentation on FY2018 Budget (see detailed slideshow on BoardDocs)

-Reviewed stakeholder input process.

-Talked about budget requests.

-Looked at budget pressures.

-Example of state formulas that hurt Burlington.

-Budget highlights: looked at expenditures and revenues.

-Reviewed budgeting process:

1. Adjustments to reduce spending (3% from Central Office),

2. Mandatory increases,

3. New investments: sustainable finance and facilities, equitable climate and culture, inclusive teaching and learning, staff increases due to enrollment (+1.0 FTE on elementary level, +1.0 on middle level, +2.0 FTE on high school level)

-Collective bargaining agreements: all contracts are pending renegotiation, so the funds necessary to support these agreements are still unknown. Each 1% increase equals about \$500,00 more in spending.

-FY 18 Expenditure Budget Summary: preliminary increase of 5%, not including contract negotiations.

-Tax Estimates: several variables are unknown at this time.

-Budget Development Timeline.

4. Public Comment/Board Reflection:

A. Comments and Questions from the Public

- Monika Ivancic: teacher, advocated for full-time librarians at every school district
- Amy LaChance: teacher, concerned about plan for libraries, asked for restoration of librarians (certified teachers)
- Jamie Garvey: parent (SA), concerned about loss of library services at SA and IAA, equity concerns about the loss in those schools, reinstate full time librarians
- Mike Fisher: parent (Champlain-PTO), asked for more details, thankful for responsiveness
- Joanna Grossman: parent (Champlain- PTO), talked about importance of social workers
- Jane Yager: parent (SA), concerned about librarians
- Karen Ruben: parent, asked about any caps set by the State, concerns about equity, asked for generous funding of the school system due to its importance to a healthy democracy, thankful for efforts to improve communication of the budget, offered to help get budget passed and raised money
- Karen Ruben read statement from Signe Daly: listed several concerns, including paraeducators, librarians, importance of equity, direct service/support, infrastructure improvements, a new high school, need for policy governance and sustainability
- Nancy Margolin: community member and former librarian, concerned about meeting requirements/standards to the minimum, advocated for librarians
- Sharon Hayes: teacher/librarian, advocated for library services
- Jeff Wick: parent, concerns about having enough sections of classes to meet demand, overcrowded classes
- Linda Walsleban: community member, asked for more details about the budget, sooner rather than later
- Michelle Clark: parent/staff, talked about son's experience and how District responded to needs of students and added a section of history
- Jessica Bilodeau: parent (Flynn-PTO), what are all of the options for tax rate raises, consider the impact of various options and consequences, asked about the "mod percentage" in insurance premiums.

5. Budget Discussion

Board members and administration discussed the budget presentation. Asked and answered some clarifying questions about the budget presentation. Advocated for continued sustainable growth while respecting community's ability to pay. Discussed impact of unknown economic factors on state and federal level. Talked about short-term versus long-term growth. Expressed concerns about equity and social justice. Talked about importance of basing decisions on student needs and requests. Acknowledged how the budget more clearly reflects staff input and strategic planning.

Board will hear more detailed presentation from Administration at next Board meeting (Tuesday, January 10 at 7 PM) and will engage in an in-depth discussion about revenues, expenditures, and estimated impact on tax rates.

Motion (Kirk/Barlow) to amend the agenda to bring forward a matter from ITC- unanimous

6. Motion (Barlow/Olwell) to recommend that the Finance Committee include in the FY18 budget debt service payments sufficient to cover \$4.0 million of new debt in FY18-unanimous

8. Business Office Reports (Senior Director Nathan Lavery)

- A. Cash Flow Report - see attached document
- B. Warrant Review - see attached document
- C. FY17 Variance Report - see attached document
- D. Other Business

9. Adjournment

A. Motion (Kirk/Olwell) to adjourn at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Cina