

Milford School Budget Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016

Present: Beth Kriss, Ethan Aho, Jennifer Siegrist, Mark Cooney, Rick Wood, Rob Canty, Rob Halstead

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:41pm
- II. Joint Meeting with the School Budget Committee and the Town Budget Committee
 - a. Both committee's talked to their process and current standing. The town has not voted on their numbers yet, but did provide an overview.
 - b. We discussed warrant articles. The town will have some warrant articles that failed last year and will be up for vote again. There was some discussion around the school's more general warrant article with a long list of improvements vs the town's approach of each large item getting a vote (ie – sidewalk plow).
- III. After the Town Budget Committee joint meeting was done at 7:28, we took a short recess and started in again at 7:34pm.
- IV. Public comment
 - a. A Mr. Thompson spoke to the budget committee regarding student teacher ratios in response to a previous meeting he had watched. He was concerned with the committee's talk regarding decreasing staff to follow the school's guidelines. That this could lead to higher student to teacher ratios than other towns in the state. This led to a short conversation with the committee and Mr Thompson. He also followed up by recommending a way to increase revenue and services by allowing a 2nd half day of kindergarten to parents that wish to pay for that service. Thus allowing a full day of kindergarten by professionals while generating revenue for the school.
- V. No old business
- VI. New business
 - a. The committee spoke at length regarding what documents to have at the coming Jan 19th bond and budget hearing. Rick Wood will continue down a path he has already started for the documents and we will vote on January 19th to present it at that meeting. We will meet at 6:30 that day to give us time to vote before the 7pm meeting starts that night.
- VII. Housekeeping

- a. Minutes were tabled. Ethan Aho was requested to send all outstanding minutes via email to the members so a vote can be made on Jan 19th.
- b. Jennifer Siegrist read a draft of the committee's position for the school bond warrant article. Mark Cooney and Jennifer Siegrist will continue to work together to create a final version.
- c. The committee was reminded to send in a short bio via email.

VIII. Public comment

- a. Ron Carvel spoke twice regarding the proposed budget number. He stressed that the School Board worked very hard to get to the number they have and they feel it is a very good number. He is concerned that if the final number is less than the current proposed number by the School Board, it could have effect on our core business: providing education.
- b. The school Superintendent also spoke to the committee. He stated that he looks through multiple lenses at the budget and worries that sometimes things can't be reduced to numbers. He urged the committee to accept the School Board's proposed number. This public comment led into a conversation between multiple of the committee members and the superintendent expressing thought processes.

IX. At 9:04pm Mark Cooney motioned to end the meeting and Rob Halstead seconded. Vote unanimous to end meeting.