

CIP/Finance Sub Committee Meeting
2/4/20
Superintendent's Office
Meeting called to order Mr. Lee at 7:09pm

Present

Gene Lee
Stacey Metternick
Michelle Horgan

Also Present

Vincent Leone
Julie Kukenberger

1. Debrief from Joint meeting

Gene Lee remarks that he thought it went well considering the budget increase over last year. Though it was par for the course. Dr. Julie Kukenberger was taken aback at the attitude from the Hamilton Town Manager, Joe Domelowicz given the level of collaboration. Stacey Metternick remarks that both towns are at their limits and question when is the spending going to stop? Mr. Lee remarks that since he has been in the system, deliberate actions by town people/elected officials have been neglectful of the schools. Unfair for towns to blame schools for the state of the District. No way to cut the budget and expect the schools to thrive. Community needs to decide if they want a quality school district, they need to support the District financially. The District is the largest entity, employer in both towns.

Ms. Metternick brings up the issue of 70 OOD placement. Explains the District needs to hold Ms. Bucyk accountable for the rising ood. Needs to be held accountable

Mr. Lee counters that the former administration needs to held accountable for high OOD. Dr. Kukenberger states there are legitimate cases for OOD. However, many parents unilaterally place students and sue District for costs which needs to stop. She is investigating why this is happening? She states the District needs to implement defensible programs. Ms. Metternick states we need to stop families from moving into town so they can get an OOD placement. We need to focus on GENED. SPED is taking funding from GENED. Dr. Kukenberger states the District has two options. Create programs or relocate. District is working on creating defensible programs and reworking our space to meets the needs of all of our students. Ms. Horgan asks how much support do we get from Beacon Hill? Dr. Kukenberger states that Hill and Tarr work closely with NS superintendents to help area districts with more money.

Ms. Mettenick requests that we start the process earlier so we can research and refine before the joint meetings. Dr. Kukenberger defends the FY21 Budget timeline. Ms.Horgan suggests moving forward, the WG has refined budget materials before joint FY22 meeting. Dr. Kukenberger suggests WG sets the timeline for the budget process for FY22.

Discussion shifts to refinement of the budget. Dr. Kukenberger presents what has been deleted /referred from the budget. Mr. Lee comments it is criminal to cut the items. Ms. Metternick asks

why the TA Salary seems high. Mr. Leone states it includes health insurance and salary. Ms. Metternick suggests that OPEB responsibility be shared with teachers and included in teacher contract. Dr. Kukenberger states the Neg. sub committee is addressing it already. Deferment and reductions brings the budget to 9.44. Ms. Metternick asks about circuit breaker from the State. Mr. Leone explains the District was written up for misrepresenting circuit breaker expenses in 2017. Our circuit breaker will be less due to the reprimand. Mr. Lee asks what is our strategy moving forward? He suggests we need to get the updated budget to the full School Committee asap. Ms. Metternick stresses the importance for everyone to understand how the cuts/deferments will impact the District.

Mr. Lee turns discussion to Capital Plan and states it is SC's responsibility to put forth a thoughtful plan. Prioritizing elementary and school facilities study and educational plan needs to be expanded. Mr. Leone will draft a new motion for the debt to be approved at tomorrow's night SC meeting.

Dr. Kukenberger will provide slides for Mr. Lee to explain to SC tomorrow.

Mr. Lee thanks Mr. Leone and Dr. Kukenberger for their hard work on the FY21 budget refinement.

Ms. Metternick makes a motion to approve amended minutes from 12/11/20

Second by. Ms. Horgan

In favor Ms. Metternick and Ms. Horgan

Abstaining Mr. Lee

New Business

Dr. Kukenberger is exploring the possibility of moving the District office to a new location. She is going on Friday to look at a building in Hamilton, near the post office.

Ms. Metternick would like to talk about the MOU at next meeting

Mr. Lee schedules the next meeting for 2/11/20 to discuss strategy for communications. Also suggests scheduling a joint meeting for 2/25 or 2/26. March meeting set for 3/3.

Ms. Metternick motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:58

Mr. Lee seconds

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Horgan