

Budget Subcommittee Minutes

Tuesday, November 3rd 2015

Called to order 5:30 pm.

Present:

SC: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Bill Hayner – left at 6:15pm, Jennifer Susse – arrived 5:40pm

APS Staff: Kathleen Bodie, Paula Neville

Other: Richard Fanning (FinComm), Dean Carman, Henry Brush (Arlington Youth Soccer)

No public participation.

Minutes tabled in anticipation of Dr Susse's arrival.

Discussion of Peirce Field Fees:

Ms Neville presented new fee schedule, attached. Fees last updated in 2008. Administration plans to institute new system of oversight with Field Monitors, to better ensure field is kept in safe and appropriate condition. Field fees are increased because of this change in staffing.

Mr Carman had earlier communicated concern over legality of fees via email, attached. He spoke to some of his concerns, including differentiating between formal and informal users, and what was source of trash, etc. He was also concerned about increasing fees for youth sports.

Ms Neville explained that fees were intended to recoup costs of administration of the field rental, not any capital costs.

Mr Brush spoke about the many fees that youth soccer already pays to the town, for other field rental, and his concern that this is just hitting youth athletes again. He felt it would affect other sports (like lacrosse) more because soccer doesn't use Peirce field that much.

Because of the questions about legalities, the subcommittee opted to discuss the legal questions with Town Counsel before bringing any recommendations to the full School Committee, and also to have another meeting with Ms. Neville to answer additional questions about the fee structure.

Comparison of FY16 budget and actuals for principals salaries:

(discussed early because of Mr Hayner's schedule)

Data on principals' salaries were presented, both budgeted amounts and actuals for FY16. Dr Bodie explained that additional funding for principal salary increases was carried in FY16 administration line item, as had been teacher salary increases. Mr Hayner pointed out that SC Policies GCB, GCBA, and GCBB address increases in principal salaries and need for school committee

approval, as does MA Gen Law 71, Section 59B. Other subcommittee members were in concurrence. Decision was made to communicate numbers to SC Chair, for discussion at full SC meeting.

Updates on Budget Calendar:

Secondary principals and Special Education will present on Dec 12th. Elementary principals will present on Dec 19th. The updated calendar will be voted on at the next SC meeting.

Determine how will solicit public input on Budget:

Because Mr Hayner had to leave before this matter was addressed, there was only preliminary discussion of possible ways to solicit public input. An idea suggested was visiting some PTO meetings. For communication about the budgeting process, another suggestion was the creation of a budget blog. Further discussion was held until all subcommittee members were present.

5th grade science camp funding:

Dr Susse raised a concern that some schools have much higher numbers of children requiring financial aid to attend science camp, and that this put a strain on their PTOs. She put forward a proposal to augment scholarship funding currently from PTOs with some funding from administration. She will gather some more data on this and discuss at a future meeting.

Next meeting to be scheduled via Doodle.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirsi Allison-Ampe
Chair, Budget Subcommittee

Attachments:

- Proposed Peirce field fee structure
- Current Peirce field fee structure
- Email of 11/2/15 from Dean Carman, "Legal Concern over Proposed Peirce Field User Fee"
- Comparison of principal salaries – actual and budgeted for FY16

Minutes approved November 18th, 2015