

Budget Subcommittee  
Arlington School Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22th, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

**Attendance**

Subcommittee Members: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Jennifer Susse, Len Kardon  
Administration: Rod MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent, Jose Farez School  
Accountant, Matthew Janger, AHS Principal, John Bowler, APS Athletic Director,  
Steve Angelo, Transportation Director, Julie Dunn  
(Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Michael Mason, CFO absent because of family  
emergencies)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Public Participation**

None

**Minutes** from 01/09/20 moved for approval by JS, 2nd LK, passed 3-0

**Ski Team Funding**

Principal Janger and Athletic Director John Bowler gave the committee background about a request from a group of parents to field an AHS ski team. There has been a desire to have a varsity team for several years; it is the only MIAA sport that AHS does not field. However it is a higher cost, lower participation sport, and there is not spare funding, as sports fees only cover about 30% of most sport costs. In the past it has been suggested to field a club team rather than varsity, but this means members cannot participate in MIAA sanctioned events. Mr Bowler also explained that even if AHS was to create a co-op team with another town, under MIAA rules this could only be a temporary solution. The committee asked Mr Bowler to get an estimate for cost at a future meeting, and decided to continue the discussion at our next meeting to allow ski parents to attend and speak to their concerns. There is no current process for evaluation or approval of new sports.

**Fees discussion: Transportation, Preschool**

Information not available at this time; tabled for future meeting.

**FY21 Budget update**

- MM was going to send out calculation of available funds but has not yet; committee is uncertain how much is available to use for additions
- Also interest in understanding how APS is doing vs 5y plan, for example “this is what we planned to do, this is what we did” for both FY20, FY21

**Financial reporting discussion**

Committee reviewed various reports received from other districts as examples.

Preferences:

- would love to see variance in terms of percentage
- Newton narrative
- Footnotes with explanations of what line changes mean
- Columns as seen in Watertown report
- Potentially more roll-ups (less separate information) but don't have specifics

### **Discussion of changes to Budget Book**

Discussed ASBO criteria, examples.

Preferences:

- Quick facts/Facts and Figures (as in Waltham)
- More graphics
- 5 year plan
- 3-5 year outlook
- Maybe comparison to 5 year plan
- Executive summary
- Add info about capital repair, maintenance work done

Focus on Executive Summary this year.

### **Funds update**

Information not available at this time; tabled for future meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10am.