

Mr. Doggett commented the highest paid employees are getting covered while the lowest paid are paying for theirs. Mr. Kozec explained that his wife received a 28% increase in health care but only received a 1.25% increase in pay. Ms. Collyer suggested them making their comments at a School Board meeting.

LAUNCHPAD

Ms. Collyer offered to sit with Ms. Faria after the meeting to review Launchpad since she was absent from the previous meeting when this was discussed. Ms. Faria agreed depending on the time the meeting adjourns. Ms. Collyer explained Launchpad to Ms. Faria and stated all submissions should go through the Chair. Ms. Faria asked for the answers to last year's questions to be added so as not to repeat the same question. Mr. Kozec said he believes a copy of those questions could be found in the budget book. Ms. Faria requested they be provided to her electronically. Ms. Collyer said she had requested that and will follow up.

The Committee discussed the working documents on Launchpad and clarified what the comments are that are included in red. Ms. Collyer stated we have the proposed budget vs actual budget for. Fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Previous history in the budget book was only actuals. Ms. Collyer said we should be getting a monthly update on the budget so we will know what is going on. Ms Collyer mentioned all the line item transfer detail done over the prior two years has been provided.

The committee discussed the working docs in Launchpad with regards to updating and editing and how it could be difficult to understand when editing is being made by different people. Ms. Collyer suggested that Committee members who want to make their own spreadsheet can do so by putting their name on it and downloading it so others won't fiddle with it. She also stated that all requests for clarification or more information be sent to her to submit to the Administration. She will keep a master list of Questions and Answers on Launchpad.

Ms. Collyer will put up the form for making comments.

MISSION AND GOAL SETTING

A motion was made by Mr. Kozec to accept the Mission and Goals. Seconded by Mr. Swasey.

The Committee reviewed the Mission statement.

Ms. Faria stated she is not prepared to vote on this because she just received access to these documents today.

Ms. Collyer explained the words listed at the top are the five points she presented as her overall thoughts a month ago and are the main points for reference. They are not part of the proposed Mission Statement.

Ms. Gannon asked for clarification on what the word “appropriate” means in the Mission Statement. Ms. Collyer explained it meant as the Budget Committee deems appropriate. Ms. Gannon suggested the wording in RSA:32-1 which says the Budget Committee to assist the voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds. Ms. Faria agrees because to leave the wording as it is leaves a lot to interpretation.

A motion was made by Ms. Gannon to amend the Mission Statement to remove the word “appropriate” and change it to “consideration of”.

VOTE: 5-0-1 (Swasey opposed) Motion carries

Ms. Faria indicated the wording “funds education” is a broad term and open to interpretation. Mr. Doggett feels this is succinct in his opinion.

A motion was made by Mr. Swasey to amend to the word “consideration” with the words “prudent consideration” as stated in the RSA. Seconded by Mr. Kozec

Ms. Gannon doesn’t understand why the Committee doesn’t just use the wording of the RSA.

VOTE: 4-2 (Gannon, Faria opposed) Motion carries

The Committee took a vote on the original motion.

VOTE: 4-1-1 (Faria abstained, Gannon opposed) Motion carries

The Committee reviewed the Budget Committee goals.

Ms. Gannon stated the word “understanding” is a broad term and said that we are investigating.

A motion was made by Ms. Faria to amend #1 goal to read “understand the funding needed for successful delivery of education”. Seconded by Ms. Gannon.

VOTE: 2-4 (Kozec, Collyer, Swasey, Doggett opposed) Motion fails

A motion was made by Mr. Doggett to remove the word “successful” from Goal #1. Seconded by Ms. Gannon.

Ms. Faria believes the word successful belongs in the Goals.

Mr. Doggett asked do we determine what is successful. Ms. Gannon agreed. Ms. Gannon stated we have no authority, power, or way to influence success or failure and how it is determined. Mr. Kozec agrees with Mr. Doggett and Ms. Gannon.

VOTE: 6-0 Motion carries

A motion was made by Mr. Swasey to strike the word “develop” in Goals #2 and use “prepare” from the RSA. Seconded by Ms. Gannon. VOTE: 6-0 Motion carries

Mr. Doggett to replace the word “with” in Goals #3 “to the citizens”. Seconded by Mr. Kozec
(No vote was taken on this motion and no withdrawal made.)

Mr. Doggett explained the reasoning behind the word “to” and said we are making it available to them.

Ms. Gannon would suggest striking the words “in an effort to gain support” and to just keep the word “community”. Ms. Faria agrees with that suggestion and said it is our focus to try to get people to support it.

A motion was made by Ms. Faria to accept Goal #3 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Swasey. VOTE: 6-0 Motion carries

EMAIL AND RIGHT TO KNOW

Ms. Gannon requested this to be added to the agenda because she wanted to get clarifications on what content is allowed in emails from Committee members and what constitutes a quorum.

The Committee discussed the use of emails. Mr. Doggett stated that he has attended four sessions involving the Right to Know laws. He said you can email one person to another...period. He further stated the Chairperson emails should never contain opinions and the minute you hit “reply all” it goes to being possibly a meeting. Mr. Doggett mentioned using ‘bcc’ but to never hit ‘reply all’ unless it is something about a meeting time change.

‘DID YOU KNOW?’ ARTICLE

Ms. Collyer referred to the “Did You Know?” press release. She explained the process will be to have the Chairperson draft an article to go out which will represent what the Budget Committee is doing in general, the Budget Committee will then either discuss the article contents at a meeting or, if done afterwards, it will go out to members who want to read the drafts in an email. Ms. Gannon asked how should the members respond as to not violate the Right to Know law.

Ms. Faria responded by saying it is OK to respond to the Chairperson only, the Chairperson would then send it back out with the proposed changes to the people who suggested them.

The deadline for the Carriage Towne News is by noon on Thursday. Ms. Collyer requested information back from the members by Monday morning.

Motion made by Mr. Swasey to authorize the Budget Committee Chairperson to develop and write the press releases. Prior to issuance, each member will be provided copies then the Budget Committee member can comment and must respond within 48 hours. Seconded by Jack Kozec.

Mr. Doggett stated the “Did You Know?” should be a brief statement of facts, not an editorial.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the draft article will be sent out on a Friday night and members will have until Sunday night to respond.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Pam Brown of the School Board thanked the Committee for their work and understands it is a difficult job. She said if they need any help she would be happy to do a presentation. She informed them she voted against the administrative salary increases and appreciates Mr. Doggett’s concerns. Dr. Brown said she would be sure to correct any school board member or member of the administration who refers to ‘preparing’ the budget and remind them that they are ‘recommending’ a budget, not preparing it. The Budget Committee prepares the budget.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Gannon commented on the issue of who develops, prepares and presents the budget. In the past, Ms. Gannon stated the administrators and leadership team look at their department and determine what they need to deliver their educational services, they then send it to the Superintendent who makes or doesn’t make adjustments and it then goes to the School Board and the Budget Committee at the same time. She added that some districts do this process differently. Ms. Gannon said she is going to be interested to see what it is the Budget Committee is expected to do. She is not sure how looking at this year’s budget will influence the proposed budget. Ms. Gannon will be asking questions on what their role is to be because this is a different process than they have used in the past.

Mr. Doggett responded by saying that hopefully they will have the ability to really understand the budget better than they have in the past.

Mr. Swasey thanked Ms. Brown for her no vote. He is not happy with the increase and doesn’t see the transparency. He believes the issue should not have been done behind closed doors. He added that he will be looking at this budget in depth.

Ms. Gannon believes it is unfair that the administration got an increase when the lowest paid did not. She added that pay raises are not a nonpublic issue. She reminded the Budget Committee that the School Board can make those expenditures as they see fit and that as a Budget Committee they have no authority to make their recommendations actually happen.

Mr. Swasey agreed but added they can shine a light on issues and expose it for the public.

Ms. Faria agrees with Ms. Collyer in that these comments would be best heard at the School Board meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Collyer stated she has spent time working on meeting information from the School Board, asking questions and Mr. Miller will give us periodic updates on the School Board.

Ms. Collyer will defer any further Budget Committee meetings until their first meeting with administrators on September 8th. This meeting will be to meet with the administration and give the Committee an opportunity to ask questions. They will meet with IT, Athletic and Co-curricular, Grounds and Maintenance.

Other upcoming district meetings were announced.

Mr. Swasey asked for a consensus from the Committee that when presentations are made, a PowerPoint is used only for illustrative purposes and he requests paper copies of the presentation provided because he doesn't want people to read to him for two hours. Mr. Doggett agrees because he would prefer to take notes on paper. The Committee was in agreement. Ms. Faria also suggested paper as well as an electronic file.

Ms. Collyer will take some of the Committee guidelines mentioned this evening, send them to the members via bcc through email and ask for feedback from the members. She will then revamp the guidelines accordingly and resend them out again to come up with guidelines for the Budget Committee and Administrators to follow.

Ms. Collyer will follow up to try to get a date for an evening time for a tour of the schools.

ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Mr. Doggett to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Swasey.
VOTE: 6-0 Motion carries**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Linda Mahoney