

Wakefield School Board
Budget Workshop
October 29, 2019
Paul School Library, 6 p.m.
Minutes - Approved

Present: Chair Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair Tracey Kolb, Sandy Johnson, Jen McCawley, Relf Fogg; Principal James Lampron, Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Student Services Director Anne Kebler, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Facilities Manager Joe Williams, Transportation Manager Brennan Peaslee, Administrative Assistant Larissa Mulkern, videographers from Clearview TV and members of the public

Software Upgrade for this year

Motion by Mrs. Kolb seconded by Mr. Fogg to add \$5,000 to Line 317 [Maintenance Software Upgrade] to this year's budget for an upgrade to the school's heating controls software. There is currently \$19,800 available. Members voted all in favor 5-0.

Discussion of proposed FY20 Budget, Version 2

Feasibility Study

Mr. Gregoire proposed taking \$45,000 out of the budget itself and creating a warrant article. The student population projection would be included but subcontracted out by the architectural firm. Discussion ensued with Mr. Fogg recommending the district utilize paperwork done by the former clerk of the works. Mrs. Johnson would like to get a firm price on the study.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to reduce the request to \$30,000 for a feasibility study, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. Members voted 2-3 in favor, with Mr. Fogg and Ouellette in favor and Mrs. Kolb, Johnson and McCawley opposed. Motion failed.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to move \$50,000 from the feasibility study request to a warrant article, seconded by Mrs. McCawley. Motion fails, 2-3 with Kolb and McCawley in favor and Fogg, Johnson and Ouellette opposed; Mr. Fogg makes a motion to reconsider. Mrs. Johnson clarified she did not want this item as a warrant article, but to keep it in the budget.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to prepare the wording for a warrant article regarding a feasibility study, seconded by Mrs. Kolb. Mrs. D'Agostino clarified for the record this motion meant taking the \$50,000 out of the proposed budget. Members voted 4-1 with Mrs. Johnson opposed.

Eversource LED Lighting Project

Members discussed creating a warrant article for this item, a lighting upgrade with LED lighting, for a cost of \$40,000 and grant from Eversource for \$40,000. Mrs. McCawley cautioned against losing out on grant funding for this if its too low on the priority list. Members discussed this request.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to create a warrant article for this lighting project, seconded by Mrs. McCawley; members voted all in favor 4-1 with Mrs. Johnson opposed.

Child Care Center closure/potential transportation needs

Mr. Gregoire and Mrs. Peaslee discussed the possible closure of a child care center and potential reopening of a new child care center.

Mrs. Peaslee distributed a draft transportation plan for bus rosters. Several options were discussed.

Motion: Mrs. McCawley made a motion not to consider cutting transportation to sports over at the Wakefield Ball Fields, seconded by Mrs. Kolb. Members voted 3-1-1 in favor, with Mrs. Johnson opposed and Mr. Fogg abstained.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to support Plan B as presented by Mrs. Peaslee [a new bus route with the hiring of a new bus driver for the elementary school] for 2020/2021 Members voted all in favor 5-0.

Superintendent's Search

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to include \$7,500 in the proposed budget to conduct a Superintendent's Search, seconded by Mrs. Kolb. Members voted 4-1 in favor with Mrs. Johnson opposed.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to keep Line 2510 Fiscal Services proposed budget as written, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Members voted 4-1 in favor with Mr. Fogg opposed.

Motion: A motion to continue the meeting beyond 8 p.m. was made by Mrs. Kolb seconded by Mrs. McCawley members voted all in favor 5-0.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to accept the proposed FY20/21 Budget with changes and amendments, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Members voted in favor 4-1 with Mr. Fogg opposed.

Adjournment:

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Johnson; members voted 5-0 in favor, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:
Larissa Mulkern
Administrative Assistant