

Whately School Committee Meeting
Whately Elementary School
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Chair Katie Edwards, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Maureen Nichols; Principal Kristina Kirton; The Management Solutions representative Judy Houle; and Superintendent Darius Modestow

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 8:20 am and Judy Houle introduced the budget highlights. She presented an FY20 budget in the amount of \$1,785,184. This is an increase from last year of \$103,925 or 6.18%. This amount reflects what is required from town appropriation. An additional \$402,249 will be funded by other grant and revolving account sources. This brings the total operating budget for the Whately Elementary School for FY20 to \$2,187,433.

Several individuals addressed the Committee regarding the budget and the possible decrease in the hours of the psychologist/counselor. They all voiced their support of Dr. Burch and encouraged the Committee to continue funding the full time Psychologist position.

A motion made by Robert Halla and seconded by Maureen Nichols, to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 8:54 am. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Chair Katie Edwards called the regular meeting of the school committee to order at 8:56 am.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Minutes of February 11, 2019 were approved 3-0-0.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Special Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2019 were approved 3-0-0.

Judy Houle, representative from TMS, presented the Financial Statement.

There were 5 warrants presented totaling \$31,728.73.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business, there were updates on the following:

Backstop and Playground: We are waiting to hear where the new softball field will be located.

School Choice: Discussion on how to advertise Whately as School Choice. Principal Kirton suggested that we create a school choice web page. Other suggestions were additional information on our web page and the students creating a video about the school.

Sprinkler Project: Need update on the project from Brian Domina.

The generator was installed and is fully functional.

There were continued discussions on the final FY20 Budget. On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the FY20 Budget was approved 3-0-0.

Under New Business,

The 5-year Transportation Contract will be voted on at the April 4th Joint School Committee.

Also under new business the 2019-2020 Union #38 School Calendar and the 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Schedule was presented for a first view. The vote will be taken at the April 4th Joint School Committee Meeting.

Under Reports:

Brief discussion regarding the UMASS Clean Energy grant and the pros and cons of solar panels.

Principal - Principal Kirton gave the Principal's Report. She reported on the following:

- Terri Anderson received the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Terri works very hard for her students and has a unique way of bringing the world to WES.
- The PTO Pancake breakfast on March 3rd was a great success. The breakfast was a great opportunity to meet parents and Whately residents.
- Everyone is invited to our annual 6th Grade Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, April 6th. This fundraiser supports the 6th Grade trip to New York City.
- Whately had a great basketball season. We receive three trophies and need to look into an additional trophy case for our lobby.
- The MCAS schedules were created and testing will be at the end of April and beginning of May.

Superintendent - Darius Modestow gave the Superintendent's Report. He reported on the following:

- Contract negotiations for both the Teachers and Instructional Assistants is still underway. The next meeting will be tomorrow night, March 20th.
- We have received 11 applications for the Business Manager position. Three candidates were interviewed for the position on March 18th.
- Bob Lesko and Louise Law have announced their retirements.

There was no Executive Session.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.
Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Proposed FY20 Budget
2. Minutes of February 11, 2019
3. Special Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2019
4. Monthly Financial Report
5. 5-Year Transportation Contract
6. 2019-2020 Union #39 School Calendar
7. 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Schedule
8. Principal's Report
9. Superintendent's Report
10. Monthly Enrollment