

## **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

March 30, 2017

### **I. ROLL CALL**

Town Council members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President  
Michael G. White, Vice President  
Mary E. Meagher  
Blake A. Dickinson  
Eugene B. Mihaly

School Committee members present:

Bruce J. Whitehouse, School Committee Chair  
Sarah R. Baines, School Committee Vice Chair  
Agnes C. Filkins  
Sally F. Schott  
Dorothy S. Strang

Also in attendance:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator  
Christina Collins, Finance Director  
Ken Duva, Superintendent  
Jane Littlefield, Director of Finance  
Erica Dickson, Director of Student Services  
Nate Edmunds, Lawn School Principal  
Carole Petersen, Melrose School Principal  
Samira Hakke, Director of Technology  
Peter Anderson, Director of Buildings and Maintenance  
Denise Gamon, Assistant Clerk

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

- A) Joint Town Council and School Department Budget Work Session and Hearing for FY 2018 was called to order by President Trocki 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Duva gave a Power Point presentation of the School Department Operating and Capital budget, beginning with the Mission Statement and the FY 2018 budget goals. Review of cost fluctuations since adoption of the budget were noted, which include health and dental insurance premiums, heating fuel, transportation, and out of district tuition rates.

The Proposed FY 2018 Operating Budget is \$12,140,553, an increase of \$280,532 or +2.37%. Major costs include contractual obligations, salaries, benefits; State and federal mandates and regulations; tuitions, transportation and plant operations. Budget breakdown follows:

Lawn School	\$3,509,611
Melrose School	\$3,971,863
System wide	\$1,097,387
Out- of-District	\$3,145,513
Retirees	\$ 226,634
Contingency	\$ 189,545

Projected Enrollment:	Melrose School	249
	Lawn School	203
	High School	185

High School Tuition Summary:	General Education	\$2,105,653
	Special Education	\$ 225,619
	Career and Technical	\$ 106,570
	Out of District Special Education	\$ 418,014
	Charter Schools	<u>\$ 28,380</u>
		\$2,884,236

Increase of \$181,314 from FY'17 budget: Tuitions = 23.76% of total FY'18 budget

Student Services: Budget reflects commitment to high standards, high quality programs and services based on student's needs, full regulatory compliance and fiscal responsibility (Special education represents +\$107,562 budget increase +4.24%)

Key Budget Factors include: Federal and State regulations IEP requirements and ADA 504 compliance, Special education salaries and benefits, and out-of-district tuitions and transportation costs. Evaluations/homebound instruction. The proposed FY'18 budget is based on anticipated placement tuition and corresponding transportation costs of known students. Special Education out-of-district placements are:

Pre-K – Grade 8	1
Grades 9 – 12	3
12+ through age 21	<u>2</u>
TOTAL Anticipated	6

Proposed FY 2018 Capital Budget as follows:

Melrose School	\$ 61,200
Lawn School	\$ 30,500
Technology	<u>\$ 15,975</u>
TOTAL Capital	\$107,675

Conclusion: Major unknowns are; Level of funding from federal grants and State of RI, State out-of district transportation costs, future cost of fuel/energy, new students including military enrollment, services required for new students, tuition costs and number of high school students attending schools of choice

Pre-school Tuition	\$ 50,000
State Aid	\$478,188
Impact Aid	\$ 90,000
Medicaid reimbursements	<u>\$125,000</u>
TOTAL	\$743,188

FY 2018 Anticipated local appropriation needed	\$ 11,196,365
FY 2017 Actual	\$ 10,975,649
Increase of	\$ 220,716 (or +2.01%)

Superintendent Ken Duva thanked the Town Council for their support.

No motions were made by the Town Council or School Committee members, but they reacted positively to the presentation. The School Committee will discuss the opportunity at their upcoming meeting on April 20, 2017.

Council President Kristine Trocki thanked everyone for attending this evening.

B) Review of FY 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program

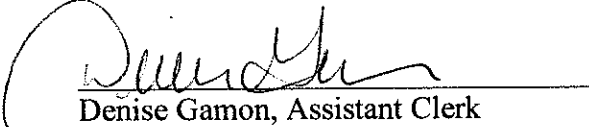
Council Member Dickinson questioned if the East Ferry Project was included in the Operating Budget and Town Administrator Nota stated the project is covered in the Capital Improvement Program, not using tax dollars.

Council President Trocki pointed out funding to the public health service agencies is inadequate. All Council Members were agreement and would like to see these agencies receive more money.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the budget work session was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attest:



Denise Gamon, Assistant Clerk

Copies to: Town Council  
Town Administrator  
Town Solicitor  
Finance Director