

# GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting  
Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Superintendent's Office  
Minutes

Members Present: Mrs. Pelavin (Chair), Mr. Swartz, Mr. LaFreniere

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ms. Yu (Business Administrator), Mr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 12:37pm by the Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Swartz to accept the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. LaFreniere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed all the expense report, transfer report and special education finance report line by line. The Committee is concerned about the legal services on Special Education, which is about \$19K over budget. All Special education expenditures have been monitored monthly by the Special education office and the Business office. There are mainly 3 fund sources to support special education, general fund, Grant fund and Circuit Breaker fund. At the end of the year, transfers will be completed as needed.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu gave an update on S. J. Services. All documents were received and reviewed by Mr. Anderson, the Facilities Director. A meeting will be scheduled with S. J. Services during the next couple of weeks to finalize the amount of fines.

The Chair raised a question about Pre-K tuition. Ms. Yu will do an analysis on Pre-K revolving fund and see if we need to raise the tuition to cover the increase of expenses.

On operations, Ms. Yu will conduct an analysis on all repairs in FY18 and report to the Committee in February.

Four donations were voted to accept by the Committee. \$87 from a resident into general fund in support of the override; \$1,000 in voucher for Curriculum Associates; \$1,000 for GHS athletics; and \$500 for the GHS backpack program.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu updated the Committee on the FY20 budget. According to the preliminary estimate, there will be a \$1 million gap. Since Gardner relies heavily on State Chapter 70 Aid, and Chapter 70 foundation formula currently is not in favor of urban districts like Gardner, Gardner will be joining other urban and regional districts in central Mass to attend

the public meeting at Fitchburg State University tomorrow evening. Further discussion on budget will follow in the future few months. Preliminary budget will be brought to the school committee meeting in early March after the State budget comes out in January or February.

#### Adjournment

Mr. LaFreniere made a motion, seconded by Mr. Swartz to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.