

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street
Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Monday, February 11th, 2019
Superintendent's Office
Minutes

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

Members Absent: None

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:35pm by the Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Swartz to accept the January 7th, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Pelavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed all the expense report, transfer report and special education finance report line by line. Ms. Pelavin raised a question on professional services over-spending. Mr. Pellegrino explained that due to shortage of internal educational support, we are contracting out BCBA and psychological services, which drives up the cost on professional services.

Ms. Yu gave the Committee update on new contract with CBS copier services, starting January, 2019, the cost is lowered by about \$1,200 per month. Also, cell phone services with AT&T has been analyzed and updated, and we've seen a decrease in bills. Ms. Pelavin asked about landline services, and hoping to see a reduction in the cost as well. Ms. Yu will look into that with Mr. O'Keefe, the Technology Director.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu gave an update on S. J. Services. S.J. Services has agreed to half of the fines we proposed at the last meeting on January 17th. The rest of \$50,000 is pending S. J.'s final answer. The invitation to bid for the new custodial services was sent to the vendors on the State Contract list, the walk-through was scheduled on February 20th during school break.

According to the Pre-K tuition analysis, Gardner's tuition rates are relative lower than those of other public schools and private preschools, and Gardner Public Schools hasn't increased tuition for many years. With salaries and other related cost increase, the district can only afford to pay about 1.0 FTE teacher's salary from current receipts. Ms. Yu proposed to the Committee for an increase of full day tuition from \$220 to \$250 per month, and half day tuition from \$110 to \$125 per month. The proposal was voted and approved the Committee. Mr. Swartz motioned and Ms. Pelavin seconded. This proposal will be brought to the School Committee for vote on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7pm.

Two donations were voted to accept by the Committee, \$150 from class of 1988 to Athletics and \$100 from Ms. Anne Hurst to support High School backpack program motioned by Ms. Pelavin and seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu updated the Committee on the FY20 budget. With the Governor's budget publicized on January 23rd, showing both Chapter 70 Fund and the City contribution, we are estimating to have a budget gap of about \$521K in FY20. Further discussion on budget will follow in the future few months. Preliminary budget will be brought to the school committee meeting in early March.

Adjournment

Mr. Swartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pelavin to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.