

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday – November 17, 2008**  
**Flynn building – 7:30pm**

**Present:** Chair Chuck Woodard, Jaime Gossels, Tobj Gozdeck, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Sheila Stewart, and Debbie Zurka

**Item 1: Approve Minutes:**

Chuck Woodard stated that he had previously emailed his recommended corrections for the 9/15 minutes. Marty Ragonas submitted changes to be made for the first two paragraphs of Item 7 from the 9/15 minutes.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the September 15 and October 23, 2008 meetings with the understanding that the suggested corrections be made. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

**Item 2: Transfers & Other Business:**

There were no transfers to be voted on.

**Item 3: Budget Hearing Schedule:**

Chuck Woodard had emailed the preliminary schedule to the committee members earlier in the week. Bob Jacobson pointed out that the year needs to be changed from 2008 to 2009.

Sheila Stewart asked what date the CPC should plan on making the presentation. It was agreed that the 8<sup>th</sup> would work.

Chuck Woodard informed the committee that the same format as last year would be followed. He and the Town Manager will arrive early on the first night, and make a presentation to be shown on TV before each budget hearing.

**Item 4: LSRHS Liaison Report & Discussion:**

Bob Jacobson reported as the liaison to LSRHS. He stated he would run through the responses to the questions quickly, and that committee members can ask questions as they arise.

The following are some of the major points discussed:

- Enrollment is 18 students higher than last year. This is 11 students higher than what was projected. The senior class saw the largest increase. The same number of students is expected next year.

- 90% of the school's computers are at least 5+ years old.
- Collective bargaining has not begun as of yet.
- Everything that was discussed at the Annual Town Meeting has taken place.
- There were no reductions in athletic programs. There were meetings with parents, and it was agreed upon to increase the fees to make up for the shortage. The fees are now as high as we can probably go.
- There are currently 1,640 students enrolled at LSRHS, of which 91 are Metco students.

Judy Belliveau explained what a Charter School is. There is currently 1 high school student who is enrolled in a charter school, and is expected to continue in the charter school. Maureen Valente explained in more detail as to how the State handles charter schools.

Bob Jacobson informed everyone that the LS school committee would be holding a meeting and possibly taking a vote to adopt Section 18. If they do not take a vote tomorrow night, than it is scheduled for the next meeting. Jack Ryan recommended that the FinCom attend the school committee meeting tomorrow night. The Section 18 discussion is the first item on the agenda and the meeting is scheduled to start at 7:30pm.

A poll was taken of the FinCom, and it was unanimously agreed that the School Committee should support the adoption of Section 18.

**Item 5: Town Departments Liaison Report & Discussion:**

Debbie Zurka reported as the liaison to the Town Departments. Each committee member was provided with two hand-outs.

The following are some of the major points discussed:

- The gasoline line item is already predicted to be overspent. By law, the town must go out to bid on this item.
- The cost of road salt is 40% up from the FY09 budget estimates. The cost of the salt includes fuel charges.
- Town reports will not be distributed to every house in FY09, but will be available online.
- There are two new hires in process. The town needs to replace the Zoning Board clerk who is retiring, and a firefighter who passed away.
- The DPW and Engineering Unions are the only ones that are settled for FY10. All other contracts will expire at the end of FY09.
- All departments have been asked to anticipate a 5% reduction in FY09 spending come January 2009. Some departments will need to layoff staff to comply.
- A part-time clerk position in the Treasurer's Office has been eliminated in FY10.

**Item 6: SPS Liaison Report & Discussion:**

Bill Kneeland reported as the liaison to SPS.

The following are some of the major points discussed:

- The elementary schools saw an increase of 40 students, while the middle school saw a decrease of 30 students.
- The staff cuts resulted in the total FTEs changing from 413.37 to 390.2. The cuts were across various areas of the school. Of these FTEs, 106 are associated with SPED.
- The school department has sent out a memo explaining the implications of the cuts. All kindergarten assistants were cut.
- One of the indirect impacts is that the teachers cannot interact as well with students at a very young age.
- High quality young teachers are voluntarily resigning to take positions elsewhere, because their position could be the 1<sup>st</sup> to be cut in the future since they are new in Sudbury.
- Collective bargaining has not begun.
- Increased fees have been implemented in all areas. The fees have been increased for bus transportation, sports, and all student activities.

**Item 7: Adjourn:**

Chuck Woodard reminded the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:52pm.**