

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday- September 22, 2009  
7:30pm – Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School**

**Present:** Chairman Chuck Woodard, Joan Carlton, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Bob Stein, and Sheila Stewart

**Opening Comments**

The meeting was opened at 7:34pm.

**Joint Meeting**

The committee held a joint meeting in conference room A300 with the LSRHS School Committee to discuss the recent contract settlement with the LS teachers' union. The committees reviewed the set of questions that the FinCom had previously submitted to the school committee.

Radha Gargeya, school committee chairman, informed the public that a copy of the contract settlement and a copy of the questions & answers being reviewed tonight are available on the LS school website ([www.lsrhs.net](http://www.lsrhs.net)). He also read from a statement listing the goals of the most recent contract settlement.

Mark Collins gave an explanation regarding the savings that will be achieved due to the changes regarding the health insurance premiums.

It was explained that the Early Retirement Incentive has been eliminated from the newly settled contract. Due to when the employee must submit their paperwork to receive the Early Retirement Incentive and when it is actually paid, the savings of eliminating this benefit will not be seen until FY11.

Bob Stein asked a question regarding the wording for employees being offered sabbaticals. Mark Collins explained that the only way sabbaticals can be removed from the contract is through negotiations. Scott Carpenter, LS Superintendent, explained that some employees have applied for sabbaticals, but none have been granted recently. The wording in the contract now reads "may be granted".

Bob Stein asked another question regarding the contract and if it still allowed for the children of employees who live out-of-town to still attend the school. Scott Carpenter explained that it is still in the contract, and that this is a standard benefits that is offered by most schools.

The committees agreed to take questions from the audience. Rick Johnson, Sudbury resident, further questioned why two teachers were being offered and paid the Early Retirement Incentive since the benefit was eliminated from the new contract. They applied for the benefit under the contract that expired on August 31, 2009.

**The FinCom took a break at 8:45pm, before moving to the House Conference Room Suite to continue their meeting.**

**The FinCom reconvened at 8:47pm.**

**Item 2: Approve Minutes**

The committee was asked to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting. The committee was informed the Jim Rao and Chuck Woodard had previously emailed the suggested corrections.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting with the understanding that suggested changes will be made. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and second by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

**Item 3: Transfers & Other Business**

There were no transfers for the committee to take action on.

The committee will need to decide which members will be part of the Budget Working Group this coming budget season. The committee will also discuss their budget schedule at the October meeting.

**Item 4: Final BRTF Report**

Marty Ragonis provided the committee with a handout hi-lighting some of the major points of the report. She stated that the final report has been released, but that momentum to implement many of the report's recommendations seems to have waned. She would like to see more follow through as well as updates on the status of the various committees that were formed to follow up on several of the BRTF recommendations. Chuck Woodard suggested having someone from the BRTF come to one of the future FinCom meetings, and the FinCom can make it a point to focus on this report. Bob Jacobson suggested watching the website to make sure that work is being done on the recommendations that the task force suggested.

As the BRTF report is quite lengthy, Chuck Woodard suggested preparing a short summary of the report that taxpayers might be more open to reading. This summary could help to highlight the suggestions in the BRTF report and stimulate additional public discussions.

**Item 5: School Administration Consolidation**

Jim Rao informed the committee that the working group has not yet restarted and that an exact date for their next meeting had not yet been set. The working group was originally targeting to have an article ready for the next annual town meeting.

Chuck Woodard suggested inviting Larry O'Brien to the next FinCom meeting, to give a review of where they are in this process.

**Item 6: Annual Letter to Cost Centers**

Due to changes being made to the budget process that were discussed at the last night's meeting, a couple of changes need to be made to the annual letter that goes out the cost centers. Chuck Woodard reviewed some of these changes with the committee.

**Item 7: New member orientation**

All committee members were provided with a copy of the FinCom's Rules and Operating Procedures. The new members were asked to review this information on their own.

**Item 8: Liaison Assignments**

Chuck Woodard reviewed the liaison assignments for the upcoming year. He explained the purpose of the liaison to the new members.

**There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:41pm.**