

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday – November 15, 2010
Flynn Building – 7:30pm**

Present: Joan Carlton, Tammie Dufault, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson (arrived 8pm), Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Robert Stein and Chuck Woodard

Opening Comments

The meeting was opened at 7:33pm.

Item 1: Approve Meeting Minutes

The committee was asked if they had any comments or suggested changes for the September 20, 2010 minutes. Jim Rao had previously emailed his changes.

VOTED: Motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Jacobson).

The committee was asked if they had any comments or suggested changes for the October 25, 2010 minutes.

VOTED: Motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Jacobson).

Item 2: Transfers and Other Business

Cluster Transfer #11-01: Transfer #11-01 is being requested by the Recreation Director for \$13,000. The transfer will allow the town to allocate a portion of the employee benefits for the Park & Grounds employee to the Enterprise Fund.

VOTED: Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jaime Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Jacobson).

Item 3: Review Preliminary G4 Report

John Brackett, SPS Superintendent, Scott Carpenter, LS Superintendent, Susan Iuliano, SPS school committee, and Radha Gargeya, LS School Committee made the presentation. The committee members were provided with a copy of the G4 report.

Susan Iuliano thanked the Finance Committee for their time. She apologized to the committee for the delay in getting the report out to them. She stated that this is a very preliminary report, and informed the committee that the group will provide further detail at the December meeting. She encouraged the committee to follow up at any point with questions.

Radha Gargeya reviewed what the G4 was and explained some of the purposes and goals of the group. He stated that it is a collaboration of four school systems: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Sudbury Public Schools, and the Town of Lincoln and Wayland School Systems. The primary purpose is

to maintain the quality education that is being provided to the students. The group is also looking at how they can improve and maintain the services that are currently being offered.

John Brackett encouraged the committee to read the entire report once they have a chance. He stated that the schools will not find a million dollars in savings with any of these changes. He stated that the benefit of this group is that it opened the dialogue between the four school districts. They have learned what each is doing, and have learned what does and does not work. He stated that although there are similarities with each of the communities' makeup, there are major differences within the four organizations; such as schedules, hours, and the different school calendars that each work off of.

Scott Carpenter emphasized that looking and trying to create savings for four school districts is a very time consuming project. He stated that the group will be meeting with the town managers next Monday, since the towns have a role in some of the services/tasks that the group is looking into.

Scott Carpenter reviewed the five primary areas that the G4 will be looking into:

- 1) Professional Development
- 2) Metco – will use the shared Metco Director position as a model
- 3) Payroll - SPS & the Town of Sudbury currently share, LSRHS is looking at outsourcing.
- 4) Human Resources – SPS & LS are sharing expertise
- 5) Technology- schools are running systems understaffed & it is vital to the schools' mandated reporting

Jim Rao questioned the group if there was anything they would have done differently. John Brackett stated that he would have brought the town in sooner and used more outside consultant support. Scott Carpenter agreed with John Brackett. He stated that each cost center provided ideas, but it becomes somewhat threatening when you are used to having the positions.

Chuck Woodard questioned how much would be saved with LS outsourcing their payroll functions. Scott Carpenter stated it would be a small amount. The outsourcing resulted in the restricting of one salary employee. He stated that they will be bidding for contractors at the start of the calendar year. John Brackett informed the committee that the Town of Sudbury is concerned of the liability, because of the mandates reporting issues. Susan Iuliano stated that they should have had the town involved in the payroll discussion earlier on. She stated that they hit a juncture where outsourcing was not the way to go. She stated that LSRHS hit a time where they would need to invest in new software, since there is no longer much support offered for their current system.

Robert Stein stated that the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF) provided specific cost saving recommendations, but received significant push back from the cost centers that would have been affected by their recommendations. The Consolidated Working Group was then formed, which led to the G4. He stated that the G4 will try to accomplish the same goals as the BRTF. He stated that he has looked over the report a couple of times since receiving it. He asked if the group could show one penny in savings now, based on the information in the report. Susan Iuliano disagrees with his remarks. She stated that the G4 formed by discussions that were started by the superintendents. The G4 did not take over for the BRTF or Consolidate Working Group. The group has done preliminary work and she stated that there has probably been some small savings, but nothing that has been quantify. She stated that they have saved in some areas and improved services in other.

Marty Ragones applaud the effort of all those involved. She encouraged that the group get the town involved in the discussions. Radha Gargeya asked that the committee to please take the time to read the report and to provide feedback back to the group.

Item 4: Overview of proposed Noyes project

John Brackett, SPS Superintendent, Jeff Beeler, SPS School Committee, and Mike Melnick, Permanent Building Committee reported on the proposed project. The committee members were provided with hand-outs describing the proposed project, describing the issues with the roof, windows and boiler, and the projected schedule and funding requirements.

Jeff Beeler informed the committee that the Noyes School is the largest within the K-5 system. The school was built in 1951, renovated in 1970, and had interior renovations completed in 2000. He reviewed the history and the problems with the school's roof, windows, and boiler.

Jeff Beeler informed the committee that this is a one-time funding program being offered, and that they will have a strict schedule to follow in order to receive the funding. There have been many meetings to discuss this project. The Board of Selectmen and the SPS School Committee have voted unanimously to support this project.

He stated that if this project was to be approved, the town could expect the Massachusetts School Building Authority (SBA) to reimburse 35.42% of the cost. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.4 million. They are hoping to have firmer estimates by the end of the week.

The FinCom was informed that the schools are expecting to hear from the SBA as to whether or not the project has been approved by November 17th. They are expecting a favorable response. If the project is approved, then approving the funds for the project by the town would need to be received within 90 days of us receiving approval from the SBA. The town is currently looking at holding a Special Town Meeting on January 18th and the Special Election on January 25th.

Item 5: Public comments

There were no comments from the public

Other Business

Tammie Dufault recommended a change to page 6 of the FinCom's Rules and Operating Procedures. She recommended changing the wording "then support the majority view" to read "then respect the majority view".

Marty Ragonis informed the committee that the FinCom has provided their minority views at the Annual Town Meetings in the past.

Jim Rao recommended that the proposed changes be circulated and that the committee can have a follow-up discussion at a later date.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:28pm.