

Advisory Committee
January 30, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

David Murphy called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Bob Capozzi, Tom Engles, Becky Epstein, Marjorie Freiman, Ann-Marie Gross, Laura Hockett, Catherine Johnson, Lucy Kapples, Phil Licari, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi and Rich Woerner.

Citizen Speak

Kelly Friendey and Christine Youngren spoke to the Advisory Committee about their concerns with the increasing enrollments at Hardy School and the need for consideration of additional funding for the school to support enrollment increases.

Approval of Minutes

David Murphy, Chair, asked for a review of the minutes of the January 23, 2013 and January 26, 2013 meetings. A motion was made by Ann-Marie Gross to approve the minutes of January 23, 2013 and January 26, 2013 in omnibus fashion. Laura Hockett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

School Committee Operating Budget

Diane Campbell, Chair of the Wellesley School Committee as well as Wellesley School Committee members, KC Kato, Suzy Littlefield, Wendy Paul and Tere Ramos, Linda Waters, Director of K-12 Student Services, Judy Belliveau, Business Manager, Dr. Judy Malone Neville, Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Wellesley Public Schools, Sal Petralia, Assistant Superintendent and Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent of the Wellesley Public Schools, gave the presentation. The collaborative budget process was discussed including the modeling of three scenarios at 2.9, 4.2 and 4.7 percent. The guidelines established by the School Committee were to meet legal mandates, support achievement of system goals in the most efficient and cost effective manner and sustain the existing level of service, addressing priorities and supporting critical needs as necessary. Administrative goals included alignment of district needs by area: math and science, narrowing the achievement gap, professional development and implementing an educator appraisal system; development of a collaborative and transparent approach and supporting target improvements as outlined in the strategic plan.

The budget approved by the School Committee employs the same level of service as established in the last fiscal year, but consideration is given to changes in mandates and enrollments. Historical budget increases were reviewed with the fiscal year 2014 request of a 4.25% increase over the FY13 budget. The total budget is for \$60,583,158 million. This includes several budget assumptions built into the request such as 1% cost-of-living increase for non-bargaining employees, staffing moved to new levels in the step and lane process, projected enrollments, no changes in fees and offsets, turnover savings, a 65% reimbursement from Circuit Breaker, and changes to special education costs. Advisory Committee members were advised that a collective bargaining cycle was just beginning.

District-wide enrollment projections show a decrease in K-5 students, except at Hardy School, and increases in middle and high school grades. The projected enrollment for Hardy School

shows an increase of about 17 students at this time. This puts several grades near or just above the guidelines for class size.

Questions were taken from the committee members.

Outstanding Questions on Other Budgets

David Murphy, Chair, advised that currently there is anticipated budget shortfall of \$1.7 million which still needs to be addressed. The Board of Selectmen recently passed a resolution that establishes a policy for the use of reserves and this will have to be taken into consideration during the budgeting process. Under this policy reserves are targeted to remain within an 8 to 12 percent level and use of these monies should meet certain criteria. Discussion followed.

Advisory Committee Budget

David Murphy, Chair, gave the Advisory Committee budget highlights including \$8,782 for personal services, \$14,000 expenses and \$175,000 in reserve funding.

Questions were taken from the committee members.

Liaison Reports

David Murphy, Chair, asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports. The upcoming calendar was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Documents: Agenda, Advisory Committee meeting minutes of 01/23/13 and 01/26/13, School Department Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Budget