

Approved April 1, 2019

**Advisory Committee Meeting  
Faculty Dining Room, Wellesley Middle School  
Monday, March 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from the Advisory Committee included Jane Andrews, Julie Bryan, Todd Cook, Rose Mary Donahue, Mary Gard, Bill Maynard, Paul Merry, Dave Murphy, Lina Musayev, Betsy Roberti, Tom Skelly and Andrea Ward.

**6:32 p.m. Citizen Speak**

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

**6:32 p.m. Discussion re: Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

1. Possible Amendments to Article 8, Motions 2 and 3

Town Meeting Members Elizabeth Lange and Jenn Fallon presented motions to amend Article 8, Motions 2 and 3, that they plan to make at this Annual Town Meeting. The proposed motions read as follows:

*To amend Article 8, Motion 2 by increasing the 2019-20 Wellesley Public Schools budget to the initially requested amount of \$49,214,442 (from \$49,059,555) (to permit the Wellesley Public Schools to hire a full-time Library Director and to permit the Wellesley Public Schools to purchase a software license for all the elementary schools for their math curriculum), and updating line totals as a result.*

*To amend Article 8, Motion 3 by allocating an additional \$154,887 from free cash to cover the additional funds to be allocated to the Wellesley Public Schools budget, changing the total allocation from free cash from \$2,340,000 to \$2,494,887.*

Ms. Lange and Ms. Fallon explained that the purpose of these motions is to increase the School budget from the 3.5% increase over FY19 contained in the current version of Article 8, Motion 2 to the 3.65% increase that the School Committee (SC) had originally voted. They noted that two items would be lost without those additional funds: a Library Director position and the “Dream Box” software that is part of the math curriculum. Ms. Lange and Ms. Fallon explained that without the Library Director position, there would be no administrative individual to advocate for proper layout/design of the new Hunnewell Library or to coordinate innovation within the curriculum; that services across grades/schools will be unequal without the Library Director position; and that an important part of the math curriculum will be lost without the Dream Box software license (which represents \$40,000 of the requested funds).

There was a question as to whether the SC had definitively stated that the cuts from a 3.5% budget would come from these two items, Library Director and Dream Box software: Yes.

There was discussion among Advisory members regarding the proper wording of the motion. Advisory members wondered in particular if adding the additional funds to the Schools “instruction” line in the omnibus budget (the \$49 million figures cited in the amendment to Motion 2) was the right location, given that some of the funds were for software licensing. Ms.

Lange and Ms. Fallon were urged to share their motion with Town Counsel, the SC, the Moderator and the Town Clerk to make sure the motion language is appropriate.

There was a question as to why the SC had decided to remove these items from the budget if they are so compelling: SC had to prioritize and make cuts somewhere.

There was a question as to how much input the Library Director would have in the design of a new library at Hunnewell: At present there is no advocate within the School administration for all the libraries; afraid that choices will be made against the library.

An Advisory member commented that the Library Director position is actually central to supporting project-based learning; somewhat of a misnomer to call it a “library” position; however, there is the overarching question of what expenses can be deferred to another year; there are a lot of things on the list this year.

There was a comment that the SC couldn’t find someone to take the Library Director position at the 0.6 FTE slot it was originally assigned, which is why it wanted to increase the position to 1.0 FTE.

## 2. Possible Use of CPC Funds for Article 22, Sprague Turf Fields Replacement

Barbara McMahon, Town Meeting Member and Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), spoke to Advisory.

Ms. McMahon understood that Advisory had a question at its last meeting as to whether Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds could be used to help pay for replacement of the Sprague turf “carpet” being proposed in Article 22. She explained that, unfortunately, one of the few things specifically spelled out in the CPA as a prohibited use of funds is the purchase of the turf carpet. The Town has known this ever since it constructed the turf fields originally, and the CPA has not changed since then.

Advisory thanked Ms. McMahon for coming and explaining this.

### **6:45 p.m. Adjourn**

Todd Cook made and Rose Mary Donahue seconded a motion to adjourn at the adjournment of tonight’s session of Annual Town Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.