

Committee Members
John Foley, Chairman
Molly McCullough, Vice Chairman
Dante Comparetto

AGENDA #2
F/O
4-23-19
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410 to conduct the public hearing on the FY20 Budget.

There were present: Mr. Comparetto, Miss McCullough and Chairman Foley

Mr. Monfredo was also present.

Representing Administration were: Mr. Allen, Dr. O'Neil, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: J. Alba, M. Asseth, M. Baranoff, F. Carrioa, S. Consalvo, E. Dumphy, Reverend Encarnacion, P. Frias-Mota, I. Gonzalez, M. Lyons, B. Kaake, S. Kinicki, K. Ksen, S. Kyriazis, D. Margoli, M. McCarthy, K. McFarland, D. McGovern, D. McLaren, Dr. McLaren, T. Novick, R. Nugent, Reverend Payson, E. Quiles, H. Ramirez, J. REyes, R. Rodriguez, K. Santiago, K. Seale and B. Walton

The Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget will include, but not be limited to, discussion of motions c&p #9-2 and gb #7-23.

motion c&p #9-2 (Mr. O'Connell – April 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report at the Standing Committee on Finance and Operation's Public Hearing meeting in April relative to the cost to increase the Table of Organization for Speech Language Pathologists. It was further requested to refer this item to the FY20 Budget.

motion gb #7-23 (Mr. Foley – April 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations' Public Budget Hearing in April on the online grading system and invite members of the CPPAC and other interested individuals to attend.

Background Information – FY20 Budget

The House Ways and Means Committee (HWM) released the initial House of Representatives FY20 proposed Budget on April 10, 2019. This funding will be used in the FY20 Budget that will be released on May 10, 2019.

The House Ways and Means Budget included an increase of an additional \$852,228 in Chapter 70 aid funds, mostly attributed to English Learner funding. There was also a reduction in the charter school tuition assessment based on current enrollments in Charter Schools for next year. The House Ways and Means Budget provides \$1.2 million more in funds next year, representing a total budget increase of \$19.9 million over the current spending level.

Mr. Allen provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed increase from the House Ways and Means Budget.

The FY20 budget will reflect an \$11 million increase for level services next year (inflation costs to maintain the same number of positions and programs next year), leaving \$8.6 million to address chronic foundation budget underspending and the district's new Strategic Plan. Due to the significant underfunding of positions, services, and programs, the allocation of the new funds are also very challenging as the needs far exceed this level of funding

Comments from the School Committee

Mr. Foley

- reduction in K-2 class sizes
- more social and emotional learning support for students
- support teachers in the classroom setting

Miss McCullough

- need for community to fight for more funding for the Worcester Public Schools
- need for additional school psychologists, adjustment councilors and wraparound coordinators

Mr. Comparetto

- more wraparound coordinators to be licensed as social workers
- hiring of a Chief Diversity Officer
- More money from City

Mr. Monfredo

- additional funding for the Foundation Budget
- smaller K-3 class sizes
- reading on grade level programs
- more funds for Social and Emotional Learning
- additional AP classes

Mrs. Seale

The Speech Language Pathologist case load for the system is slightly below the national average. For that reason, there is no need for any additional positions in the FY20 Budget.

Testimony from the public:

Ms. McCarthy

- Monetary support for English Language Learners

Dr. McLaren

- the need for 5 additional School Psychologists and School Adjustment Councilors

Ms. Ramirez

- need for 30 ESL teachers
- support for social emotional learning for students
- more behavior specialists and wraparound coordinators
- more partnerships with community and parents

Ruth Rodriguez

- use of testing money for testing for student needs
- the use of federal funding for ELLs

Mr. Frias-Mota

- need for more School Adjustment Councilors in the schools
- request to not use teachers as interpreters

Reverend Encarnacion

- 30 more ESL teachers as bilingual ESL teachers and more guidance counselors and diversity staff
- social and emotional resources for students with behavioral challenges
- reauthorize the funds to ACE and the Southeast Asian Coalition and LEI
- more grants from DESE for districts serving English Language Learners and immigrant students

Ms. Asseth

- more equity in the schools
- more wraparound coordinators

Ms. Kinicki

- more councilors in the schools for ELL students

Ms. Gonzalez

- fewer SROs in schools
- more ELL training
- notification of ELL meetings
- reduction in school safety budget

Mr. Lyons

- provide parent transportation to/from school meetings
- provide more instructional supplies for teachers

Reverend Payson

- use of video conferencing technology

Ms. Kaake

- support for the Promise Act
- attendance at Boston Common Rally for more state funding – May 16, 2019

Mr. Dumphy

- online external grading system

Mrs. Novick

- funding for all students to take AP Exams

FILE motions c&p 9-2 and gb #7-23.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.
Clerk of the School Committee