The meeting was held in the Superintendent’s Office, King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street, Norfolk, MA 02056

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Francomano at 7:36 am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick Francomano and Jim Killion
Absent: Ken Dow

VISITORS PRESENT: Dr. Liz Zielinski, Superintendent, Mr. Larry Azer, Director of Finance & Operations, and Tracey Malloy, Norfolk Resident and member CWG

AGENDA:
Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2018 & March 2, 2018:
Upon a motion to approve as printed recommended by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mr. Killion. All in Favor.

FY’19 Budget Update:
Mr. Azer presented the FY 2019 Budget update as of March 7, 2018. Mr. Azer noted that after further negotiations, the expected healthcare increase is now at 2.56% (estimated additional savings of $70K). The transportation bid came in at 4.33% increase versus 10% budget projection resulting in additional $47K savings. The district has also been notified of additional retirement resulting in $20.9K additional savings. The estimated total budget increase incorporating all the above changes is now 5.11%.

FY’19 Special Education Budget:
Mr. Azer noted no significant Special Education Budget changes from previously reported budget. The estimate is currently for 60 out of district placements in the FY’19 budget. Mr. Francomano requested special education cost breakdown by student as previously distributed in prior years. Mr. Azer also noted that the budget includes a 3% placeholder for special education tuition and the Vanpool contract is up for bid next year as the 3- year contract is in the final year of contract. Mr. Azer summarized that the FY’19 budget as presented reflects level services except for the new Special Education Program estimated to cost approximately $90K.
Mr. Azer recommends to vote this budget number of $32,889,194 and notes that the district will continue to work towards additional savings. Governor’s budget is not final, but not expecting significant major changes. Mr. Azer continued to note the underfunding at the State level. Transportation, Circuit Breaker and Charter School funding levels remain below what the state should legally be reimbursing.

Upon a motion to recommend budget as presented to the full school committee by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Francomano. All in Favor.

Ms. Malloy questioned the current and expected balance of Excess and Deficiency funds? Mr. Azer noted that E&D funds were certified at $941K last year and using $300K in FY’18 budget and expecting to use additional $300K in FY’19 budget. Mr. Azer is estimating the balance of E&D to be $341K at the end of the year.

Special Education Mileage Reimbursement:
Mr. Francomano asked how many students are impacted by the special education mileage reimbursement policy. Mr. Azer responded currently eleven students are reimbursed for mileage and he is estimating a $15K increase to budget if the district changes the policy from DESE rates to IRS rates. Mr. Azer also estimated that if the same eleven students are driven by Vanpool the cost estimate is approximately $200K.

Upon a motion to recommend to full school committee to change special education mileage reimbursement policy to use the IRS rate for reimbursement beginning in FY’19 by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mr. Killion. All in Favor.

Upon a motion by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Francomano the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 AM

The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be at 7:30 AM in the Superintendent’s office on Friday April 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wolf
Recording Secretary