

**WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 28, 2020**

A Remote Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on April 28, 2020, beginning at 7:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present

Chairperson Crowley began by stating this is a public meeting convened under new laws that allows a public entity to conduct a meeting that waives the rules that normally requires a quorum in person. We are conducting this meeting remotely under the authority of the Governor Emergency Order issued on March 10, 2020.

Chairperson Crowley took a moment of reflection on what is happening in our community with the COVID-19.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present

**APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

A motion was made to approve 3.31.20 SC Minutes.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present

A motion was made to approve 4.8.20 SC Minutes.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present

## **CITY COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Concannon acknowledged Alderman Dillon and Chief Ferullo in attendance tonight. No formal report. Mr. Concannon thanked the Woburn Public Schools for everything they have been doing. The City Council appreciates how administration and teachers are doing their best to offer some sort of educational format for our children. The City Council is with the school committee and administration. They will work with the Mayor and school committee to make sure we don't lose any traction and continue to build on the great things we have been doing. Chairperson Crowley appreciates Mr. Concannon's words. She feels the City Council really supports our schools.

## **REPORTS/PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF**

### **WOBURN: STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND GENEROSITY IN CHALLENGING TIMES**

Chairperson Crowley mentioned what Mr. Rogers said when there are challenging times, look for the helpers. She wanted to point to the community and what is being done.

Chairperson Crowley introduced Ms. Jenna Francis — Volunteer Outreach Coordinator and Ms. Elissa Milto — Engaging Resident Volunteers. (SERV)

Ms. Milto and Ms. Francis began by talking about the Woburn Mutual Aid Network. (WMAN) Local community groups working together to connect families that may be encountering issues with local resources. They have been meeting on Fridays to see what the areas of need are and what they can do to all work together. They moved into 5 working groups.

WMAN Working Groups:

- 1.) Food and Shelter
- 2.) Youth and Schools
- 3.) Senior Citizens
- 4.) Immigrants
- 5.) PR & Tech

Connection People to Services:

- 1.) People reach out online or through a phone hotline
- 2.) Information goes into a spreadsheet
- 3.) WMAN matches volunteers and those looking for help

Information available on city and library sites.

Some of the biggest needs that they have been meeting are helping with food delivery, food pantry appointments, identifying financial resources, Chromebook delivery, Easter baskets and Easter dinner delivery, shopping and prescription pickup. Lots of various efforts; people are jumping in and excited to be helping out. WMAN is always seeking volunteers to help meet the needs of our community.

Community Outreach by WPS, supported by WMAN:

- Student Support (Chromebooks and connectivity)
- Financial Needs: SNAP application and P.EBT
- Food Assistance
- Parent Support
- EL Families Support

To Get Help or Volunteer to Help:

Call or text the hotline at 339-298-8153 or

Call 781-935-2244

Ext: 0 English  
7 Spanish  
8 Haitian Creole  
9 Portuguese

Email at [serv@capitalinc.org](mailto:serv@capitalinc.org) or [wmutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:wmutualaid@gmail.com)

Chairperson Crowley, on behalf of the school committee, thanked the Woburn Aid Network for delivering the Chromebooks.

Mr. Kisiel asked how people can get involved.

Ms. Francis said one of the best ways is through Facebook. They have a Facebook page called SERV - SCI Engaging Resident Volunteers.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Elissa Milto began by saying she is the president of SEPAC.

SEPAC is a mandated group whose role is to advise the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities. In addition, SEPAC meets regularly with school officials to participate in planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs.

She knows everyone is working really hard and SEPAC appreciates the work of the school committee, administration, teachers and all staff who are trying to make sure the students are impacted as little as possible by this closure. Everyone is diving in and doing a great job.

Ms. Milto said they noticed how they are trying to make things equitable for students.

She took this time to give an annual overview. Some things may seem negative but really these are just places for improvement. SEPAC knows that everyone is committed to making improvements and their suggestions aren't falling on deaf ears. She went on to talk about a couple of things SEPAC has done this year. They have increased the number of people attending their meetings. They hosted a school committee forum in October to meet the school committee candidates. They hosted meetings where the community can ask questions. They had a winter fundraising event. SEPAC developed a parent online learning survey. In the survey most people mentioned what a burden this is to administration and teachers as well as families and are grateful for everything the schools are doing. One of the striking things was there is not a consistent experience for all the families.

At this point we lost connection with Ms. Milto.

Chairperson Crowley moved on to the next agenda item and if Ms. Milto comes back; we can certainly recognize her at that point.

### **BUDGET 2021-INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION ON BUDGET**

Chairperson Crowley began the discussion by stating the school committee is charged with developing a budget based on the academic and educational needs of the students and the growth of the district. The Mayor offers us a recommendation as to what the city can afford based on revenue from the city. At this point the Mayor indicated to the school committee that the revenue for 2021 is in a bleak situation given the lack of taxes for the hotel/motel tax. We don't have a specific number from the Mayor. We do have a comparison of that of the budget of 2009;

this is anecdotal from meeting with the Mayor. Generally speaking we have always gotten an increase of 3.25% — 4%. Chairperson Crowley was told a level budget would be aggressive. Chairperson Crowley said the Superintendent will present the budget from the standpoint of leadership that developed a budget that this is a healthy year because that is what our leadership deserves; to be heard on what the education system needs. The committee will then discuss what the budget will look like.

Dr. Wells wanted to clarify that the Mayor gave Chairperson Crowley no number and that a level funded budget would be aggressive for next year.

Chairperson Crowley said that is correct, and she wants to go forward and do what we do because there are two major stressors here. One is there is a projected shortfall in revenue and two is that there is uncertainty in state funding. What might be an idea is to build a budget for now and see where the chips fall. She anticipates it might be a good idea to break into subcommittees because it is so complex. The leadership spent hours and hours and the public needs to hear what the district's needs are moving forward.

Dr. Wells said we only have two weeks, if we try to build a budget that is unrealistic it takes more time. Chairperson Crowley turned it over to the Superintendent.

Superintendent Crowley said before he begins he would like to let Ms. Milto continued with her SEPAC presentation; she is now back on.

Ms. Milto continued. In general parents are looking for more communication from the Special Education department. This is especially crucial right now as parents would like to have a better idea of what degree services will be implemented and how they're going to support their children. Beyond this crisis SEPAC is suggesting a quarterly newsletter and community office hours so parents and families can feel more connected to what's going on. There have been so many new policies and services that have started this year, and she feels parents would be excited to hear of all the positive ways our district is changing. It is really exciting to see the schools working towards the strategic plan and parents would like to know more about that. During this period of school closure administration and school committee members have been very transparent about things that are ever-changing and parents really appreciate this. Moving forward we would like to continue scheduling regular conversations outside of subcommittee meetings so that SEPAC is a resource to the administration and school committee. Based on the survey results there was some confusion among parents based on the IEP meetings. Most of that is being addressed. There is still a subset of families who had annual meetings sometime before the school closure and were not able to get through the full agenda. These families were told that these meetings would be continued but still have not been given a continuation date. This concerns Ms. Milto because this means children are sort of in a holding pattern. Things are very difficult for children right now but this additional uncertainty about what life might be like when they get back to school is going to be really difficult. Ms. Milto implores the school to make sure that all the meetings are completed before summer vacation to give families closure on this year. Another thing that has been talked about with Ms. Ryan and Dr. Baldassarre is program descriptions, and they have assured us that they are currently working on these, and they are going to be posted soon. Program descriptions are important because they provide crucial information to parents about students who are currently placed in programs as well as those who are considering programs for their children as they transition. Those descriptions include entrance and exit criteria as well as the services available in each program.

SEPAC has asked that these be posted and believe that they will be. Transitions are difficult usually but these descriptions are especially important right now since families are not able to visit the programs. These descriptions are going to help them become informed and act as equal members of their children's team. It is also difficult for SEPAC to offer advice on the programs if they don't have any basic information about them. Looking forward, elections for SEPAC are going to take place in June, nominations will be placed in May and new people are welcome to the board. The next SEPAC meeting is May 12th and elections will be June 10th both meetings are at 6:30 PM and the ZOOM information will be on the SEPAC website. Ms. Milto thanked the committee for inviting her to speak.

No questions were asked.

Chairperson Crowley thanked Ms. Milto for her fantastic presentation. The school committee appreciates input from the SEPAC. She then turned back to the Superintendent's presentation of the Budget 2021.

Dr. Crowley is taking an optimistic point of view. He understands Dr. Wells, and we have to have some real conversations in quick time. That being said Dr. Crowley started with our vision for Woburn Public Schools. Our students and staff are problem solvers. He thanked everybody in the Woburn Public Schools that we have already talked about who have made so many contributions to our kids and community over the past 5 weeks and went on to give an update on WPS. Our food service continues to deliver meals on Tuesday and Friday. Seven days worth of food is delivered twice a week. Our outstanding food department is providing that to our students. We are entering phase III of extended learning. We are going to see more structure. Over 100 pages of guidance was issued from DESE last Friday night and will be shared within 24 hours. Continue to check the WPS website.

Back to Budget.

Dr. Crowley used the slide from his last budget presentation. Essentially for the folks that have seen it, our budget is value driven. We are looking to provide a consistent and rigorous curriculum with equity for all students. We had over 100 requests submitted and have had discussions with principals, department heads, and curriculum coordinator leadership team meetings. Dr. Crowley, Ms. Sprague, Dr. Baldassarre and Mr. Elia met many times going line by line through the budget to identify any potential ways to save money. We do know the impact of COVID-19 will have a profound effect on our local revenues. We don't know yet what that means in the city of Woburn or the state of Massachusetts. We do know now our return to school date is tentative in September. Phase 4 is to plan for that return. The other thing we need to think about are any savings from the closure that we could utilize during the summer or fall to help support some of our students. We asked for input, and we have a three-year staff projection and all of these positions were requested for this year. There are two big buckets; Special Education and ELL.

#### FY 2021 Requests:

BCBA

SPED NURSE (2) 1:1

SPED TEACHER (5)

SPED PARA (2)

SOCIAL WORKER SPED

SPED COORDINATOR (ELEM/SEC)

.3 EL COORD  
3 EL TEACHERS  
DIGITAL COACH  
AP GOODYEAR  
ADJ COUNSELOR — MALCOLM WHITE  
MATH — WMHS  
.3 SPANISH/FRENCH — WMHS  
.3 PERFORMING ARTS

When we are talking about Special Education, you are talking about a significant amount of money. To give some perspective it is more than the Police Department and Fire Department combined.

FY 2019 Woburn Police Department Budget:	\$9.5 million
FY 2019 Woburn Fire Department Budget:	\$7.7 million
TOTAL:	\$17.2 million

FY 2019 Woburn Special Education Budget: \$18.4 million

#### SpEd Requested Staff SY2021

These requests are made to provide mandated Individual Education Program (IEP) services to our special needs students. Should these positions not be filled it will be hard to meet our legal obligations as outlined in our IEP service grids. The SpEd Coordinator position is not mandated, however, necessary to strengthen our programs, communicate with staff and families on complex cases.

#### BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst)

Integral component of programming for students on the Autism spectrum. Right now we have 1 BCBA for all of Woburn Public Schools. We are paying contractual services to meet these needs, and we are suggesting that we take the contracted line item and put it into our budget, so we would then be able to build capacity internally.

#### SpEd 1:1 Registered Nurses (4)

Right now we project four students with severe medical needs enrolling as of July 1, 2020. Each requires a 1:1 RN throughout the day for safety. If this is not provided, students will need to be out placed in a setting with this level of care (cost of tuition and transport approx. \$120k each). What we are seeing in the district is the number of students is not necessarily growing largely but the number of profound needs is.

#### Early Childhood and Special Education Teacher and Paraprofessional

Our enrollments are growing. We identified 137 students that when they turn 3 will be coming to WPS.

#### Early Childhood Team Chair

Potential of 137 students being referred from early intervention. All of these students require meetings. We also have over 200 existing students.

### RISE Special Education Teacher and Paraprofessional

The number of students with Autism has increased dramatically. There are mandated instructional grouping requirements. They have severe communication and behavioral needs. If we build good programs in Woburn, we can maintain our students in the WPS.

### ACE Special Education Teacher

Therapeutic Program at Kennedy Middle School. Current Special Education Teacher services grades 6, 7, and 8. Enrollment has increased. The current Special Education Teacher can no longer meet the instructional needs of the current population with the curriculum across three grades.

### Elementary/Secondary Special Education Coordinator

The SpEd needs across the district require administrative support with the increasing levels of complex cases. SpEd's students require year round planning. Students often go out of the district when their needs could be appropriately met with creative in-district support. Most districts have this position. We are looking to create a level of support for Ms. Ryan.

Dr. Crowley transitioned to our EL needs.

Over the last five years the number of EL students has increased greatly; at Malcolm White, Altavesta and Joyce in particular. Many students arrive during the year without speaking any English.

### English Learners Request FY 2021

.25 EL Coordinator

5 EL Teachers

The EL Coordinator position is currently a ¼ time position, in place for half of the 19-20 school year.

Based on ever-increasing enrollment numbers for EL students, these teaching positions are necessary to maintain an equitable student/teacher ratio across the district.

### Additional Requested Staff FY21

Assistant Principal — Goodyear

Mr. Kessar is often pulled away from his staff.

Digital Coach — Tech  
effectively.

Instructional Coach to use technology more

Adjustment Counselor — MW

Over 300 students, very challenging.

Math - WMHS

.3 Spanish/French — WMHS

.3 Performing Arts — WMHS

STIPENDS — Ms. Callanan would like to see a stipend for Best Buddies and DECA built in.

Current Arts position is ½, pending enrollment in new courses. This position will need to increase in relation to enrollment.

We know the budget is going to be tough. We know there's a lot of variables still, and we don't know the target number we are looking at. We need to put all the cards on the table and think creatively about how to meet the needs of our students.

#### Factors for SC Consideration for FY21

Transportation — Woburn has always provided free transportation and no user fees.

Preschool Tuition — We need to take a look at this.

Consolidation/Other Expenditures — At the administrative level we are looking at our instructional and educational line items.

RIF — What we don't want to do is to get into a position to RIF people in order to make a budget work.

Without anyone's doing the COVID-19 has knocked everyone for a loop. This puts the FY21 budget in a whole different category, and we are in a new reality.

Questions from the committee:

Mr. Lipsett commented that given the unfortunate possibility of RIF (reduction in force), one of the big issues over the past fiscal year has been class size up against contractual limits. He asked Dr. Crowley to speak to how close we may be to those contractual limits. To what extent if we ever had to consider a reduction in force would we be able to, given the contractual limits there? Dr. Crowley said we need to be really careful. We have always used a buffer of 5, if a class size was contractually 28 we had 24 kids we would not think to do anything in that class. He thinks we need to maintain that. Ms. Sprague said she has been tracking the enrollment especially at the elementary where typically there seems to be a lot of flux here and there. Right now we seem to be in pretty good shape. We might have one class that comes close to that but there are the possibilities in certain schools to shift teachers from one grade to the next to take care of that to still stay in the 5 or in many cases, greater buffer. We are looking at a number of different options too. If a group is close in 5th grade and it's a newly enrolled family to our district, a possibility of attending a neighboring school if they have open seats and then go on to the same middle school as their home school. We are thinking of all the options that we possibly can. One of the biggest questions that we have right now is kindergarten enrollment, that was something we were in the midst of. Some schools were able to complete their enrollment others are pending and that is being moved online. We are waiting to see those numbers to see if there is a possibility of shifting teachers. If a school has 3 kindergarten classrooms this year they might not need the same number because the enrollment may be low but again we need to be careful as Dr. Crowley mentioned because we don't want to get to September and realize we need to hire someone now.

Mr. Lipsett said that was exactly the reason behind his question because we had to do that a couple of times this year. Especially in this current climate any consideration of this kind of thing has to exhaust every possible avenue.

Ms. Cormier asked Dr. Crowley the positions he is looking for are in any order of priority. Dr. Crowley responded they were in some order due to legal mandates that is why he ranked them that way.

Secondly, Ms. Cormier asked how many Special Education students are there in the district.

Dr. Baldassarre said there are roughly 1000 Special Education students. There are 80 out of district placements. At any given point we could have students who are in temporary out of district placements; for example 40 day assessments, so we could have 95 students out of the district.

Ms. Cormier asked how much out of that \$18.4 million is for out of district tuition.

Dr. Baldassarre answered approximately \$8 million for tuition and that does not include the out of district transportation. The cost for an out of district student when you take into account the cost for transportation averages out to approximately \$100,000.00.

Ms. Cormier commented that ideally some of these positions would be hired to minimize, if possible, kids going out of the district. Clearly there are some savings there.

Dr. Baldassarre said the stronger your in house programs are the less you need outside programming.

Ms. Chisholm asked with just those positions that were presented tonight, what is the percentage of the budget increase. Dr. Crowley said he believes it is about 6%. Ms. Chisholm then asked if we have room in our buildings for these new positions as some of our buildings are really tight.

Dr. Crowley said we would find space. He understands her questions and there is space to house the new positions.

Ms. Chisholm said she will not support fees at all; it is not a moneymaker that people think. At the present time we can't collect lunch money, and we don't have anyone to do that. We would have the people that can't afford it and won't pay and it will end up being more of an issue than it is. She also does not want to see anyone RIF'd if at all possible, that should be the very last thing that we even contemplate. If there are some positions we could merge, maybe. She feels we have to think long and hard especially during these times. She knows it is tough but across the board we all need to muddle through for a year and do what we need to do. It's going to be a tough budget. It's not going to be a pleasant budget. We also have to have reality because this city as a whole is going to be hurt. Our job as a school committee is to fight for our schools, and we will do that. Ms. Chisholm said she is also a resident of this city and a taxpayer. She wants our Fire and Police to be taken care of also. She does not want the school department to feel they deserve an 8% or a 9% increase when the Police and Fire will be level funded.

Dr. Wells asked what the increase would be if we just did the legally mandated positions.

Mr. Elia said he would have to calculate that he would have to talk to Dr. Baldassarre about what is legally mandated.

Dr. Wells asked when these services became legally mandated.

Dr. Baldassarre said we have been using contractors. For example the BCBA is more cost effective to bring that position onto our budget. Dr. Baldassarre offered to go over all of this with Dr. Wells in a subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Wells said we might want to poll parents to see if they want to use busses in the fall. If they aren't planning to, maybe we could go for a year without any bussing or have limited bussing. Looking at surrounding communities Dr. Wells said they are going with 3.5%. To contemplate anything over a 3.5% is a waste of our time. We need to look at what we are legally mandated to do and then work from that.

Ms. Chisholm thinks we need to see if there is any money left over from this year's budget if we can roll that over.

Dr. Crowley said he did ask that question. We can potentially use some savings for capital items such as technology, and we can pay out of district tuition. We would need approval to do that. That was the initial response. We do not have an exact number of what the savings are.

Chairperson Crowley said the Mayor recommends us using unused money on capital.

Ms. Chisholm said we are behind the curve on online learning.

Dr. Crowley said Ms. Judkins is going to price out buying vs. leasing Chromebooks and will do a presentation to the committee.

Mr. Lipsett would like to get a description from the administration of what things might look like in some of our schools if we were not able to these positions; some that are not legally required but desperately needed in our schools.

Dr. Crowley said Mr. Qualey texted him during tonight's meeting. The Joyce has 42 EL students; there is only one EL teacher. These ELL students are at all different levels. Malcolm White has 50 EL students.

Ms. Sprague commented they are not mandated but there is a requirement of service hours for these students. The student with more language needs receives more hours.

Mr. Lipsett said it would be very useful to understand what level of funding is needed; it would be helpful to have that figure for the level of funding needed to support these positions. Last year we saw a big increase in enrollment last summer. He wants to get a sense of where we are with the requirements.

Dr. Baldassarre said Special Education is an operation where you have to spend to save and you have to invest to move the students along. Without investment sometimes Special Education could become more expensive than it would have been if you had made the investment into the internal programs.

Dr. Wells feels the committee is going around and around. The real question is if we have to fund these legally mandated positions and there are positions that are morally required, all of those things sound like things we need then we might have to take a step back and remove some things that administration has worked so hard on. Not having a number makes this more difficult. Once you go through all the things we need and all the things we want it just becomes so much more difficult when we have to go back and say sorry we can't do that. He feels it is really imperative that we work with the Mayor and the Council to determine what exactly we are going to get because otherwise we are just playing a game here.

Chairperson Crowley said just as a reminder this is our budget we can just pass the budget. The recommendation from the city is a recommendation. This is our budget. We do what we do, and we look at the educational value of each request, and we decide what our students need.

Dr. Wells commented we live within our constraints otherwise we would have a budget of 20%. We have to be realistic and not waste our time or our administrator's time.

Mr. Mulrenan agrees with Dr. Wells that we need a number; it is difficult to move forward without a number. We have the needs, the wants, and the obligations.

Chairperson Crowley said we do have a lot of work to do, so she is going to defer budget discussion to the Finance committee. They are meeting tomorrow night, and she asked if Ms. Chisholm could brainstorm and look at things from a different perspective with her subcommittee members. Chairperson Crowley is also going to create a Budget subcommittee consisting of Ms. Cormier, Mr. Kisiel and Mr. Mulrenan to discuss the budget. Both of these groups can look at alternative ways to handle the budget.

Mr. Kisiel asked for the date to submit the budget to the Mayor.

Mr. Elia said it is May 15th.

Mr. Kisiel said we will have a few more meetings before then, and we will work on it.

Mr. Kisiel asked Mr. Elia about Circuit Breaker money.

Mr. Elia said we just don't know what is going to happen with Circuit Breaker or Chapter 70. It is a big question marked.

Mr. Kisiel asked if we formulated a budget and the Mayor agreed to it. What would happen if we use the figure that we have used historically, and we are way off?

Chairperson Crowley said the Mayor said he would always amend the budget or supplement if needed. If our numbers are way off then we have to go back to the drawing board. She has heard nothing about Chapter 70 being cut.

We were directed to make a budget, and we will do the best we can. She thinks the Mayor wants us to create a lean budget because of so much uncertainty. Maybe we just go historically, what does a lean budget look like go 3.5% and that is showing our due diligence and if we have to, there are mandated positions, we have to go to the council.

Mr. Kisiel asked if any possible resources have been looked at.

Dr. Crowley said with Chapter 70 we still don't know. The circuit breaker we've been told will be fully funded. That was what we were told and we filed already. We filed almost 3 million dollars in claims. Out of the Student Opportunity Act we were supposed to be reimbursed 25% of our out of district transportation this coming year, which is a variable we can't count on anything coming from the Student Opportunity Act.

Dr. Baldassarre said in the budget books the members have there is a projected circuit breaker amount that has been used to offset the dollar amount that's being requested. At the close of the year if there is additional circuit breaker available on June 30th, because there are certain students we have in out of district placements who have a 1:1 nurse or a 1:1 para, if there is extra money in circuit breaker this year it will be added into the next year's budget as a revenue source and it will reduce the overall amount of the budget. To the two grants that Dr. Crowley spoke of, We received \$6,000.00 from the EOS Foundation for materials used to distribute food to our students. We received \$10,000.00 from a national grant to purchase 200 market basket gift cards at \$50.00 each. We are working on a protocol for how they will be distributed to families in need throughout the city.

Dr. Wells appreciates Chairperson Crowley forming the subcommittees but with only 15 days left are we making more work for administration. Would we be better served as meeting as a committee as a whole?

Chairperson Crowley is making two subcommittees. All members need to participate. Having a full meeting with 7 different people would be too cumbersome.

Ms. Crowley is just forming the second subcommittee, so they can meet.

You can go line by line with the budget and ask questions. There is a lot to do.

This concludes the budget discussion.

Dr. Crowley thanked the committee for their support and the community for their support and understanding. We will work together and get through this.

Chairperson Crowley appreciated Dr. Crowley's presentation tonight. This presentation showed the value behind these positions and the reasoning why the school district needs these positions from his point of view. We are going to have these children return to school not having any

education services for months and a lot of these positions are directed towards emotional therapeutic support for students. She just wanted to point that out but it would be hard-pressed for the district to not fund these positions. She deeply appreciates the school committee listening and asking questions and bringing their own opinion to things. This is not going to be easy, but she believes meeting in small groups is the best way to tackle and get every person's voice out there considering we have two new members as well.

Dr. Wells made a motion that a letter be sent to the Mayor and the City Council President suggesting that they meet with the School Committee Chair to set a firm budget percentage increase for the school committee to work on.

Motion was seconded.

Ms. Chisholm on the motion, do we want to put a date on that. Ask for a number before our next budget meeting.

All in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes.

Dr. Wells made a motion to move item D on the Agenda to the end of the meeting as Chairperson Crowley has a conflict due to her mother being a part-time employee.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Policy Subcommittee**

Mr. Kisiel said they met on 4/27 virtually.

They discussed the following policies:

JJE - Student Fundraising (current policy to be replaced)

GBEBD - Online Fundraising and Solicitations (specific to internet fundraising)

JBB - Educational Equity - (new policy already in the strategic plan)

Voted 3-0 for all three policies to be presented at SC meeting.

A motion was made to put all three policies on the table for 30 days.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes.

Other policies we have on table come off 5-16-20.

They discussed signage around Football field and fundraisers that don't involve the school. We don't want to discourage fundraising but want to bring it under control a bit.

IJOA + IJOA-R - Travel Policies were discussed.

JJH + JJH-R - Field Trip Policies were discussed.

The idea is to combine all four policies. Dr. Baldassarre will work on that.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson Crowley received a letter from Rich Haggerty complimenting commending the school committee on all the work they have been doing.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Wells - maybe get a subcommittee together to look into how we are going to conduct SC meetings moving forward. Looking at another space because we have to spread out. How we can conduct a safe meeting in the future where the public can be involved, but we can also be present face to face.

Dr. Wells — getting the school committee more involved with graduation.

Dr. Crowley spoke to Ms. Callanan and talked about the high school.

Chairperson Crowley — we can have a high school update at our next meeting.

Mr. Kisiel — our student rep is turning 18 this week, and she can attend our next meeting or maybe have both our student reps at the next meeting.

Mr. Lipsett — there is a new initiative to adopt a senior; a community member adopts a senior and then delivers a present.

Mr. Mulrenan — asked about reaching out to the members about good-hearted things going on in our community, lots of tribute videos being made.

Chairperson Crowley will share some positive news at each meeting.

Altavesta children with their parents made kindness rocks.

Dr. Wells asked if we are going to set a date for our next budget meeting.

Chairperson Crowley said our next meeting will be May 5th at 7:30 PM, budget only.

Chairperson Crowley passed the chair to the most senior member Mr. Mulrenan. If there is a technological error Ms. Chisholm will take over the meeting.

## **DISCUSSION ON NON-UNION PAYROLL, PART-TIME EMPLOYEE PAYROLL**

Dr. Crowley spoke to the Mayor, and he is willing to extend the Non-union, part-time employee payroll for three weeks, which will bring us to May 25th.

Dr. Wells had a question for administration. Do we have things these people can work on?

Dr. Crowley answered yes, we started online training, professional development.

Dr. Wells made a motion to continue paying our hourly employees for the next three weeks.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

## **Roll Call:**

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes.

Ms. Crowley came back to the meeting as Chair.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

For the purpose of strategy for collective bargaining with WTA and Nurse Association.

Chairperson Crowley said we will do nurses first so Ms. Chisholm and Mr. Lipsett can attend.

Dr. Wells made a motion to go into executive session.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

### **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes.

Ms. Chisholm and Mr. Lipsett left after discussing the Nurses and did not attend the WTA discussion.

No votes were taken in the executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kisiel made a motion to adjourn.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 5-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean MacLeod*

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