

**WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 30, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on April 30, 2019 at the Joyce Middle School Conference Room, 55 Locust Street, Woburn, MA beginning at 7:00pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Crowley-Present, Mr. Demers-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Not Present  
Mr. Metters-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairman Mulrenan-Present

There was a moment of silence for Mr. "Red" Rosander and Mrs. Mary Jo Fralick.

**APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

A motion was made to approve the SC Minutes of 4.10.19.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representative Ryan Qualey was present to report.  
National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held this Thursday- 7:00pm at WMHS.

Dr. Wells made a motion to suspend the regular order of business to let  
Mayor Galvin address the committee tonight.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Mayor Galvin spoke of his strong commitment to the schools.  
The funding for the schools increases on an annual basis. The city continues to fund the budget. No one is happy about the current situation; there will be no pointing fingers. We will work together to find a solution. This is not a funding issue, this is a budgeting issue. Dr. Wells asked the Mayor if he has given the school committee a bottom line to work towards. Mayor Galvin responded yes he has; 5.5 percent and also said it would be prudent to set up a \$500,000 stabilization fund. This will have to be approved by the city council. If there were some extraordinary expenses in out of district tuition the school department could come to him and he would present this to the city council and they would decide whether to release the funds or not. This is something that has been done before and it certainly seems like the right time to reestablish this. Ms. Crowley thanked the Mayor for coming up with this figure it is truly appreciated.

The Mayor said we want to keep the progress moving forward. He wants to make sure this is sustainable and does not want to be in this position next year. He commended Dr. Crowley on the hiring of Ms. Sprague and Dr. Baldassarre.  
Mr. Metters asked about sustaining this budget.

Mayor Galvin said the stabilization fund was set up 4 years ago and in hindsight it would have been a good idea to keep this going. We need to keep the circuit breaker account going with the uncertainties of out of district tuition.

Mr. Metters asked the Mayor about the usual 3.5 percent increase and is this changing due to the extreme circumstance this year. Mayor Galvin said absolutely.

Mr. Metters said there are two extreme issues and he is appreciative of the cooperative efforts.

Ms. Chisholm appreciates the support of the schools in the city. She had a question on the stabilization amount of \$500,000. This is for an emergency fund after this budget is done.

Mr. Demers thanked the Mayor and wanted the Mayor to know the school committee will make sure this will not happen again. They are committed to making sure this does not happen again.

Dr. Crowley commented that obviously the last few weeks have been quite a challenge and thanked the Mayor for his support.

A motion was made to return to regular order of business.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Jennifer Scribner of Bacon Street thanked the School Committee and Administrators for providing an excellent education to our students.

She spoke of the community being informed of the budget shortfall. Historically she feels the school department has been underfunded.

A motion was made to accept Ms. Scribner's letter in the permanent record.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Ms. Courtney Glazer of Quimby Ave. spoke of how wonderful of a community Woburn is. One area she sees for improvement is the school system; she feels we are still behind other communities.

A motion was made to make Ms. Glazier letter a part of the permanent record.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

### **CITY COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Concannon was present, no formal report.

### **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF**

Dr. Crowley started by thanking community members for being here tonight.

He said we are going to get through this. He spoke of the vision for Woburn Public Schools.

We are dedicated to the success of all students. We have objectives which are; equity for all students, increasing our professional practice for all staff and a consistent & rigorous curriculum for all kids. Dr. Crowley feels at the end of this process we will be in line with what we said we wanted to do.

Dr. Crowley walked the committee through the FY20 budget timeline to help contextualize some of the questions that people may have had. We utilized the same timeline as we did last year. We started in early January looking at budget and what the needs would be. Dr. Crowley, Ms. Sprague, Dr. Baldassarre and Mr. Elia met individually with principals and department heads. In February leadership meetings were dedicated to the budget. Our school committee meetings in February were so positive speaking about elementary, middle and high school needs as they aligned to the strategic plan. This also included facilities, technology and special education. This led to the March 27th draft of the budget presentation to the school committee; synthesizing all of the needs. On April 1st Dr. Crowley asked Mr. Elia to get real numbers as it related to out of district tuitions. On April 4th, thinking we were trending in the similar direction as we were last year, Mr. Elia came in and asked us to sit down and gave us real numbers. April 10th was our next school committee meeting at which time Dr. Crowley informed school committee members of the 2.9 million dollar delta. It is not a deficit; it is a projected shortfall. Our deadline initially was May 1st to submit our budget to the Mayor which was the same last year. Mayor Galvin extended our timeline to May 8th. As we move forward for next year, we will do it sooner. Dr. Crowley stated we will not be in this position again.

Dr. Crowley expressed his gratitude to the Mayor for extending the deadline.

He also stated this is not about pitting special groups against each other; this is about all kids in Woburn.

This is not just a Woburn issue. Out of district, transportation, tuition increases and unfunded mandates are increasing. It is his hope the stabilization fund would offset the requested amount. Dr. Crowley commented that our SpEd Budget is more than the Fire Department and Police Department combined.

Since April 10th the collaboration between the city and schools has been exceptional.

The Goal is to Preserve, Protect and Improve and the Supt. believes we are making progress, and wants to continue making progress. We are increasing elementary music and art. We are looking to redesign our special education programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of our students. We are allowing for reallocation in the budget whenever possible. We are looking at ways to improve services for ALL students. Instead of sending students out of district, they can be educated here in Woburn. There are situations for needs that we can't meet. We can meet the majority of the needs but we need to build the capacity.

It is within our budget to appoint one person to coordinate the out of districts. As an administrative group we are going to appoint an out of district coordinator. We are going to explore the possibility of creating a separate public day school at the old Wyman. There is an initial expense but it will be less of an expense to have this in our City.

Dr. Crowley believes the 5.55% budget allocation will allow us to continue progress and growth for all students for FY20. It has been a process to get us to this number. The other number Dr. Crowley shared was the formula the state uses for cities and towns. Some districts fund at less than 100%. Dr. Crowley said 82 or 83 percent of our funding is through the city and 17 or so percent is through the state. Woburn has made a commitment in funding their schools.

Dr. Wells made a motion to accept the budget presented to us tonight with adjustments in the amount of \$65,748,736.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0

Discussion on motion:

Ms. Chisholm asked for all the revolving accounts; their balances and what we used it for. She also asked for a list of all class sizes.

Ms. Crowley asked if we need to take action to set up the stabilization fund before the budget is approved. Dr. Crowley said the stabilization account is outside of our budget. We need to vote to have the stabilization fund set up and the city council needs to approve the stabilization fund.

Mr. Demers asked if the budget adjustment sheet be attached to the budget as a top sheet.

Ms. Chisholm asked for clarification on the stabilization fund.

Next order of business:

Monday, May 6th at 7:00pm - Special Budget Meeting

Vote on the budget and vote on requesting the establishment of the stabilization fund.

A motion was made to table the subcommittee reports until the next regular scheduled school committee meeting.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0

School committee meeting.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

A motion was made to table the correspondence, upcoming events and future agenda items until the next regular scheduled regular school committee meeting.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Subcommittee**

N/A

### **Resource Utilization Committee**

N/A

### **Curriculum and Professional Development Subcommittee**

N/A

### **Policy Subcommittee**

N/A

### **Student Services and Achievement Subcommittee**

N/A

**Communication and Community Relations Subcommittee**

N/A

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A motion was made to go into executive session. No votes will be taken.  
Motion was seconded. Motion passed 6-1-0.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Crowley-yes, Mr. Demers-yes, Mr. Kisiel-Not Present  
Mr. Metters-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairman Mulrenan-yes

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non -union personnel.

A motion was made to return to the regular order of business.  
Motion seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn.  
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean MacLeod  
Recording Secretary