

# Foxborough Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

Wednesday February 2, 2022

**In Attendance:** Paul Ivanovskis, Dan Peterson, Jack Martin, John Mahoney, Dennis Keefe, Salina Chowdhury, Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein, Eric DeLisle and Mike Brown.

**Minutes:** Taken by Tony Colangelo

**7 p.m. Paul I. – I'd like to welcome our new members Eric and Mike.**

**Agenda Item: Foxborough Public Schools Education Budget.** Dr. Amy Berdos, Superintendent of Schools and Bill Yukna, School Business Administrator are here to present the budget.

**Dr. Berdos** presented the 4 pillars for Strategic Plan for Success. The goal being to prioritize the best needs for students.

**Bill Y.** presented the FY '23 Budget. Presumption of 4-5 retirements every year with \$125,000 in savings because new teachers brought in at a lower salary. Budget increase is \$965,400 (2.5%). 2 qualified special education teachers were added by reducing educational assistance. Grant funding provides resources for 7.2 FTE'S so no other reductions. Brigham & Women's Grant was provided because of relationship with town also because we applied for government funding. IT Department was developed that works with both the town and the schools. Because of the large amount of data needed on both sides we have been under positioned in IT department. About 65% of our teachers are at the top steps of salary range. Plans include to reduce teaching assistants and replacing them with certified specialists. Adding certified specialists, working with our regular educators, provides an inclusive co-teaching model so that students don't have to go out of district for special education. Since 2017 we have had a reduction of about 180 students spread across various levels during the school year.

- **Paul:** have the schools returned money? **Bill Y:** Returned \$470,000 last year. Reduced in many areas because of Covid. This budget is one of the smallest budget increases over the past 10 years.
- **Jack:** are salary increases in a separate budget as the town does? **Bill Y:** we have it all in our budget.
- **Raffaella:** would it be less expensive to contract these services out rather than our specialist? **Dennis:** the markups for these special contracts are incredible.
- **Salina C.:** please provide some examples of staffing adjustments. **Dr. Berdos:** computer science and engineering were reviewed, and sports media is a new one. As for teachers, we have English courses taught at 3 different levels. Engineering, wood working, and home improvement programs are also supported.
- **Bill Y:** Reviewed sources of Revenue. 2 different points. What our taxpayers put in and outside resources. Outside resources are, Revolving Accounts, Grants, or Circuit Breakers. Budget Allocations haven't changed much from year to year.

**Paul I:** Thank you for your budget presentation. You have kept things contained. Any questions?

- **Dennis:** what kind of exchanges do have for HVAC air exchange? **Bill Y:** we have 10 – 60% depending on the weather.
- **Mike:** do utilities budget go up when prices go up? **Bill Y:** we try to set up our contracted price so that it lasts into the future.
- **John M:** any metrics on the health of students compared to other towns? **Dr. Berdos:** we've added emotional screeners to evaluate how students are doing on emotional and social mental health. Every district is up in needs of these needs. **Raffaella:** all kids and families are suffering from Covid- not all need special services – but all are in flux – some students may need extensive counseling down the road. **Dr. Berdos:** yes, we need to decide on which students need this. We will have to prioritize.
- **Dan P:** if special needs child moves into town, can you take care of them. **Bill Y:** yes, we add and cut items within our budget to make it work.

**Paul I.** Minutes for last meeting were not received on time for me to review. We will review these minutes next week. Agenda items for next week include; Council on Aging, Board of Health, Library. **Dan P:** looking for some clarification of some items in the budget from Marie. Paul suggested sending a note to Marie with what you are looking for.

**8:58 pm Paul I. – Asked for motion to adjourn meeting.** Dan made a motion to adjourn and Raffaella seconded. All members voted yes in favor.