

Called for the purpose of Superintendent's presentation of the proposed budget to the School Committee

Members Present: Ms. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Kelly, Ms Nolan, Mr. Osborne and Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair

Handouts presented:

- Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget and PowerPoint Presentation Draft
- Memo dated March 13, 2014 re: CPS Support for Level 3 Schools (on file in School Committee Office)

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

The Mayor acknowledged the Co-Chairs of the Budget Sub-Committee and thanked them for their leadership as well as thanking the Superintendent and his staff for bringing the proposed budget before them tonight.

The Chair invited public comment on the matter before them.

The following individual was heard:

- Jeff Perkins, Antrim St., re world language budget

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted to close public comment. The Mayor explained that tonight's format would be to hear the presentation of the proposed budget and to formulate questions in preparation for further dialogue at the Regular Meeting of March 18th and at a Special Meeting on March 25th, if necessary.

The Chair turned the meeting over to Dr. Young for his presentation to the School Committee on the FY2015 proposed budget. Dr. Young thanked the Chair and the Members and indicated that a tremendous amount of work has been done in bringing forward some excellent ideas for the Members' consideration.

The Superintendent walked the Members through the following PowerPoint presentation, explaining the decision-making that went into creating the budget (copy on file in the School Committee Office).

Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget:

FY15 General Fund Budget \$156.7 Million (increase of \$5.7 million over FY2014 Budget)

Superintendent's Proposed Budget

- Responds to enrollment growth (projected increase of 15.5%)
- Continues favorable average class size
- Takes direction from School Committee Budget Guidelines
- Supports strategic objectives
 - Refine the upper school program
 - Create an aligned curriculum & instruction system
 - Develop inclusive schooling across the district
 - Develop effective educators & instructional leaders
- Budget Savings
 - Eliminate 4 clerical positions and offer early retirement incentive
 - Special Education Out of District Tuition Account – Estimated tuition savings resulting from decline in students in out of district placements
- Budget Expenditures by Category
- General Fund Staff Allocations By Program Area
- FY2015 Budget Approval Process – Next Steps
 - March 18, 2014 Public Hearing on the Budget
 - April 1, 2014 School Committee Vote to Adopt FY2015 Budget
 - May 2014 City Council Hearing on School Budget

The Superintendent summarized each of the following Budget Initiatives and Adjustments:

- FY 2015 Strategic Objectives
- Student Support for Accelerated Math Pathways
- Upper School Library Media Specialists
- Breakthrough Greater Boston STEAM Summer & Afterschool Program
- Curriculum Development-Multiple Areas
- Math in Focus Implementation
- Response to Intervention Program Support
- District Support for Level 3 Schools
- Grade Structure Change at King Open School
- Spanish Teacher at Fletcher Maynard Academy
- Positive Classroom Management
- Implementation of Family Engagement Recommendations
- Reorganization of the Office of Student Services
- Leadership Development
- Cultural Proficiency Training
- Today's Students/Tomorrow's Teachers
- Additional Teachers for English Language Learners
- Additional Kindergarten Classrooms
- Special Educators
- King School Grade 3 Mandarin Teacher
- Salary Accounts
- Non-salary Accounts

Dr. Young distributed a memo to the Members detailing the CPS Support for Level 3 status schools: Kennedy/Longfellow and King Open. (copy on file in School Committee Office)

Dr. Young explained that no funds were being allocated for elementary world language at this time reasoning that there was not enough time in the short 6-hour school day to adequately provide a high quality world language program given all the other things that need to happen. He invited the Members to approach the elementary schools as they did for the upper schools in taking a more holistic and detailed look and to consider forming a similar task force to investigate the elementary schools to see where world language would fit in. He suggested that this could be addressed when meeting on the new goals during the summer retreat. He is hopeful that part of the conversation would be a second try in thinking about a different process to commence discussion on lengthening the school day.

The Superintendent asked that any clarifying questions or concerns on the budget be sent to Ms. Spinner in advance of Tuesday's meeting so that they may prepare and do any necessary research. He addressed the Members concerns on public awareness and noted that it is his intention to have every question answered in a public setting.

The Mayor added that further questions can be asked at Tuesday's meeting and it will be determined at that time if the March 25th Special Meeting will be needed.

So that the City Council, the School Committee and the Superintendent's Leadership team can have an opportunity for discussion and overview of the school budget initiatives, the Mayor invited the Members to the following:

Informal gathering with the Superintendent's Leadership Team and the City Council
Monday, March 24, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Mayor's Office

Joint Roundtable/Working Meeting (City Council and School Committee)
Monday, March 31, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Sullivan Chamber, City Hall

The Co-Chairs of the Budget Sub-Committee, the Superintendent and the Chief Financial Officer were acknowledged by the Mayor and the Members for their work in this budget process.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Osborne, it was voted to adjourn (7:25 PM)

Adjourned
Judith T. Martin
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee
to the School Committee