

The Cape Elizabeth School Board held a Workshop meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the Cape Elizabeth High School Library and Learning Commons. The meeting began at approximately 6:30 pm.

A video recording of this meeting will be available online as part of the workshop meeting materials. <https://goo.gl/Nbzyjk> All budget information can be found online at - <https://sites.google.com/a/capeelizabethschools.org/budget>

Heather Altenburg     Kimberly Carr     Susana Measelle Hubbs     Elizabeth Scifres     M. Nasir Shir     Hope Straw     John Voltz

*Ms. Carr was unavailable to attend.*

CEEA representatives Win Philips and Sonia Medina were present.

### **BUDGET WORKSHOP - MINUTES**

Cape Elizabeth School Business Manager and Town Comptroller, Cathy Messmer, reviewed school 'Budget Highlights FY18-19' against the 'Appropriation Budget Master Report' document.

Final health insurance costs for FY19 should be available in early April.

It was noted that the current school budget is subsidizing the cost of a custodian used for non-school department facilities.

Town auditors recommend a Fund Balance as a percentage of the budget in the 1%-3% range.

Superintendent Colter said that he and Town Manager Matt Sturgis met recently with Town and School Facilities Director Perry Schwarz. Mr. Schwarz expressed concerns with the quantity of projects and the ability for one person to provide the necessary oversight. He would like to modify his original request for a maintenance mechanic to instead become a 'Project Manager'. (Reference budget page 37 - 'Priority Items Not Included in Initial Budget FY18-19')

Ms. Scifres commented if there were priority items not in the proposed budget by school administrators then those costs will need to be off-set and not added on. She expressed her interest in seeing what a proposed budget with a 5.5% tax increase (or approximately half of the current proposal's increase) would look like.

Mr. Voltz wished to provide a clearer picture of priorities for the proposed budget, so administrators would have a more concise starting point for any changes; and how do we handle the engineering study. His priority items would be Middle School social worker and district school resource officer (SRO).

Ms. Measelle Hubbs wished to retain the proposed social worker, SRO, world language teacher, and the engineering study.

Ms. Scifres expressed her desire to retain the proposed SRO, and perhaps reductions to the social worker position and prioritizing the scope of the engineering study would accomplish some goals.

Mr. Shir said he agreed with Ms. Scifres in focusing the engineering study, specifically on the Pond Cove/Middle School Cafetorium proposal, and a SRO would be his priorities.

Ms. Straw said she too supported SRO position and itemizing architect/engineering fees; not as knowledgeable about the social worker position needs and would appreciate more information from Principal Eastman.

Catherine Messmer reported that the architectural/engineering fee, as proposed, would result in a 14.2% increase to the taxpayer.

Ms. Measelle Hubbs supported Ms. Straw's desire for keeping the architect/engineering proposal cost separate from the proposed school budget.

High School world language teacher and CEEF representative, Sonia Medina, reported it's looking like the proposed literacy/world language position could happen without any increase to the budget. She also spoke in support of the role of social workers in schools.

Ms. Straw reminded everyone that the FY19 proposed budget increase is very low. Our state representatives have made a choice to push the funding of public education to the local taxpayers.

In a straw poll, the Board expressed their desire to retain the following from within the list of 'Priority Items Not included in Initial Budget FY18-19':

- 2 PC lunch/recess aides (~\$16,518)
- HS part-time Ed Tech III (~\$8,400)
- MS Social Worker (~\$43,714)
- SRO (~\$50,000)
- architect/engineering fees should be separate and not off-set any proposed school budget/staff position

The next School Board Budget Workshop will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 in the High School Library.

*Adjourned*      8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard P. Colter  
Interim Superintendent of Schools