



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for February 9, 2022

The Finance Committee Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Present: Jennifer Finch(chair), Mike Derse, Charles Oliver, Eric Ward, Don Ludwig, Ethan Pride, Carolyn Luescher

Town: Tim Bragan (Town Administrator)

Selectboard: Stu Sklar, Rich Maiore, Kara McGuire Minar

Parks and Recreation: Bob O'Shea, Kevin Mitrano

Harvard Public Schools: Linda Dwight, Eleni Burns, Jenn Toth, Robin Benoit, Scott Hoffman, Robin Benoit, Ingrid Nilsson, Josh Myler, Chris Boyle, Melissa Miland, Chris Boyle, Sharlene Cronin

Harvard School Committee: Shannon Molloy, Sharlene Cronin, Suzie Allen, Abby Besse, SusanMary Redinger,

Others: Patrick Harrigan, Joan Eliyesil, Marty

Public Commentary: None

Motions taken: None

1. Bob O'Shea shared updates on Parks and Recreation budget.
 - a. Small increase for beach director so they can hire someone.
 - b. Stepping back from the field maintenance (week whacking of brush) of ball fields.
 - c. DPW needs to take responsibility for field maintenance.
 - d. Bob provided an amended budget.
2. Review of the Town of Harvard's School Budget via a presentation given by Ingrid Nilsson.
 - a. An 4.41% Omnibus increase from FY22.
 - b. Recommended using \$4,261,820 from non-general funds
 - c. Shared that there was a loss of 3 academic years for our students due to Covid.
 - d. Increases are due to COLA (cost of living adjustment) for staff
 - e. Increase in staff for tutors and additional kindergarten teachers
 - f. Will be using ESSER/ARP grants (ESSER – elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund)
 - g. Heavily dependent on Devens contributions
3. Review of long-term commitment to our students via presentation given by Sharlene Cronin
 - a. Staff is at the top of the pay step
 - b. Social emotional toll from Covid is still unknown
 - c. The Bromfield School is an aging building
4. Questions
 - a. Additional academic support has not been effectively measured.
 - b. Needs of students for additional social support increased by 2%
 - c. STARR (Short Term Assessment and Rapid Reintegration) program – increased due to hospitalization of kids, has driven up the student population needing support.
 - d. 10th grade students are more like middle school students due to less time in the school.
 - e. Increased need for adjustment in school counselling. Outside support has become more difficult to find.
 - f. Some students advanced academically during the time out of the school.
 - g. Increase in staff by 8 (some covered by ESSER grants) concern about long term cost of increased staff.
 - i. Instructional director
 - ii. Health teacher for the middle school
 - iii. Kindergarten teacher
 - iv. 3 HES learning assistants
 - v. TBS science teacher
 - vi. TBS English teacher
 - h. The Bromfield School will undergo a further building assessment to understand the needs of the building.
 - i. Water bill will increase for the schools.

Upcoming meetings: Feb 16, 2022 - 7pm - Zoom link will be available on the agenda when posted.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolynn Luescher