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SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 25, 2017
SANDWICH TOWN HALL

Members Present: Mr. McGrail, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Ames, Ms. Hall, Mr. Dever, Mr. Rausch, Ms. Cummings

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: Dr. Gould, Ms. Austin, Ms. Wiklund, Dr. Booras, Mrs. Vrontas, Ms. Hill, Mr. Smith,

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mr. McGrail called the regular business meeting to order at 7:07.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC FORUM: None

RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Dever, Ms. Cummings, Mr. Rausch thanked everyone who reached out to the committee members during the budget season/process.

Ms. Ames recognized the 100 club for all the support they provide and offer.

Mr. McGrail and Ms. Cummings thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Harlem Wizards which was organized by the Elementary PTA and the PTSA. Heather Swett and Courtney Livingston were recognized as the primary organizers. It was a very successful community event.

Ms. Hall thanked all the administrators for attending all the budget meetings and also thanked all the Committee Member's families for their support.

Mr. Rausch and other members of the Committee offered congratulations to Jon Nelson on the birth of his baby boy.

ACT ON THE MINUTES of January 18, 2017:

Mr. Rausch moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Hall.

VOTE: Aye: Mr. McGrail, Ms. Hall, Mr. Rausch, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Ames, Mr. Dever. Ms. Cummings abstained. Passed 6-0-1

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **FY18 Budget Discussion:**

Mr. McGrail clarified that the areas of the budget that needed to be covered tonight are Teaching and Learning, Special Education, Athletics, and other ancillary areas.

Dr. Gould read a statement. She thanked everyone who had reached out to her with their thoughts on the budget. She clarified that she had no intention of altering the STEM Academy Model, that in reality she has a desire to make it stronger and better. Part of improving the STEM Academy is the need to increase time in learning in Math and ELA in order to improve the scores. This budget supports that need. She also stated that she had been able to have the conversation with Dr. Booras and Mr. Newton that she had intended when she informed people that the position would not be replaced. Mr. Newton will be working as a consultant next year. He will be focusing on continuing to build connections, lead the Advisory Boards, and support



events and initiatives. Dr. Gould also stated that there has been no change to the SHS Program of Studies. Courses have not been cut, some sections of courses have been cut. She also clarified that there has been no discussion regarding the raising or creating fees during this budget cycle. Dr. Gould also thanked Ms. Hall for her participation in the full budget process. Mr. McGrail read a letter from Mr. Newton. Mr. Newton offered support for Dr. Gould's proposal and stated that he would continue as a part-time consultant. Ms. Cummings questioned the timelines for his involvement and whether or not it is a subject that can be revisited.

Mr. Pierce moved to submit the proposed budget at 2.5% as well as a request for an additional amount of \$125,000 to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Mr. Dever. Brief discussion took place. The motion was tabled in order to finish the FY18 Budget discussion and questions.

Ms. Wiklund responded to questions regarding the Teaching and Learning Budget. She shared a sheet with an overview of the budget and how it was developed.

Ms. Vrontas responded to questions regarding the Special Education budget.

Mr. Murphy, Director of Athletics, was unable to attend tonight. A brief discussion occurred around the weight room and a strength and conditioning program. It is felt this is an area for improvement.

Brief questions were asked on the Central Office, Transportation, Wing, Utilities and Revolving accounts areas of the budget. The cost for utilities at Wing was questioned as there will be only 2 people remaining in the building.

Mr. Pierce amended his previous motion and moved to approve the Superintendent's Recommended Budget in the amount of \$32,502,706 and send it to the Board of Selectmen as the School Committee's recommended budget. Seconded Ms. Ames. **Roll call vote:**
Mr. Dever- Aye. He stated that it had been a very informative week and he has confidence that the STEM Academy will have continued success.

Ms. Ames: Aye

Mr. Pierce: Aye with reservations that we are making the district less competitive than we need to be when other institutions are recruiting our students.

Ms. Cummings: No - She believes that the STEM Director is a necessary role to maintain.

Mr. Rausch: No - It is a change in leadership structure and he believes it will have a trickle-down effect and he also wants consistency.

Ms. Hall : Aye- Ms. Hall believes in Dr. Gould's experience and leadership and faith in the teachers. The budget demonstrates a commitment to the students and adds Math and ELA to the STEM Academy full time, increased arts and an additional health teacher.

Mr. McGrail: Aye He stated that he also has faith in the leadership and teachers. He believes that it is a shame that the budget meant it was teacher cuts versus administrator cuts and feels there is a drive to make the STEM Academy great.

Motion Passes 5-2-0

Mr. Pierce moved to respectfully request an additional \$125,000 (or an additional .5%) to allow ourselves to not just maintain the status quo, but to continue to compete. **Vote: Aye: Mr.**

**McGrail, Ms. Hall, Mr. Rausch, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Dever. Nay: Ms. Cummings and Ms. Ames.
Motion passes 5-2-0**

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR –February 14th is the next meeting with the Finance Committee. Mr. McGrail also talked about the podcasts he is doing with SCTV. His first podcast was on the budget process.

PUBLIC FORUM: None

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Dever quoted John Adams in 1785, “The Whole People must take upon themselves the Education of the Whole People and must be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one square mile without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual but maintained at the expense of the people themselves.”

Mr. Rausch mentioned the Sandwich Soul Open Mic night taking place this Friday.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Dever moved to adjourn at 8:47 Seconded by Ms. Ames. *Vote: Unanimous*

Respectfully submitted by,



Lynn Ann McIsaac
Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING

January 18, 2017 Minutes

Letter from Gil Newton

Statement read by Dr. Gould

FY18 Teaching and Learning Budget Overview by Maureen Wiklund