

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

Minutes of the Budget and Warrant Sub-Committee

September 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

(Meeting held via the Zoom Technology Video Conferencing Platform)

Attendance: Members Attending: Stephen Rubinstein (Stow), Joseph M. Gleason (Lancaster)

Member(s) Absent: Rich Eckel (Stow)

Non-Members Attending: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent, Nashoba Regional School District and Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager

10:02 a.m. Call to Order:

At 10:02 a.m. Chairman Rubinstein called to order the meeting of the Nashoba Regional School District Committee's Budget and Warrant Sub-Committee.

Approval of Minutes:

None.

10:03 a.m. Organization and Election of Chairperson and Secretary:

MOTION: Chairman Rubinstein moved (Joseph M. Gleason seconded) to ratify the results of the election of Chairman and Secretary to the Budget and Warrant Sub-Committee which occurred on August 25, 2020.

Results:	Chairman	Stephen Rubinstein (Stow)
	Secretary	Joseph M. Gleason (Lancaster)

VOTE: In Favor: S. Rubinstein, J. Gleason. Opposed: None
Motion passes 2-0.

10:04 a.m. Determination of Budget and Warrant Sub-Committee Meeting Dates and Times:

MOTION: Chairman Rubinstein moved (Joseph M. Gleason seconded) to establish the Wednesday morning of the Wednesday one week (1) prior to the District Committee's second monthly meeting as the standing day/date upon which the Budget and Warrant Sub-Committee would meet to review all financials pertaining to the

District and to review any and all pertinent budgetary matters attendant to the District in advance the District Committee's meeting as aforesaid.

VOTE: In Favor: S. Rubinstein, J. Gleason. Opposed: None
Motion passes 2-0.

10:06 a.m. New Business – Update of FY21 Budget and COVID19 Impact:

Chairman Rubinstein recognized Superintendent Brooke Clenchy to provide an update on the FY21 Nashoba Regional School District Budget.

Highlights of Superintendent Clenchy's presentation included an overview on how the current COVID-19 pandemic and the District's decision to implement a bifurcated educational platform (i.e. Grades K-8 in an in-person hybrid format and Grades 9-12 in a full remote format) in addition to the implementation of a full remote academy option for those students and parents in Grades K-8 undesirous of in-person hybrid learning is impacting the FY21 budget.

Superintendent Clenchy represented that staffing and technology are the areas in which the budget is seeing the greatest impact. Fortunately for the sending communities some limited financial relief was/is being provided under the (federal) C.A.R.E.S. Act. It was represented, however, that whatever learning format the District opts for in the *near future* be it continued hybrid learning or a return to full in-person learning the remote learning academy will need to be sustained at significant cost to the District.

Relative to overall staffing needs the District is holding its own though one (1) additional teacher was needed in Stow at the Grade K-8 level.

At the District's middle schools staffing matters have proven somewhat easier to address given the consistency of the current curriculum while at the high school it was reported that staffing requirements are (currently) stable. Notwithstanding the foregoing the Personnel Department has had to address in excess of seventy (70) requests for leaves and accommodations as a result of the C.A.R.E.S. Act.

As for non-teaching positions, the administration has begun to shift custodial staff and extended learning staff assignments to meet current requirements of the hybrid learning format.

In regards to substitute teachers it was reported that this is an ever-increasing line item in the budget. Further, it was related that Business and Operations Manager

Patricia Marone and Human Resources Manager Ann Marie Stoica are dedicating significant time to reviewing ongoing staffing needs.

As for food service this is an area that may see possible cuts in the future. At present, however, the District is able to provide breakfast(s) and lunch(es) for all children through to December 31, 2020 at no cost to the child and/or family.

Bussing is another area that will see some potential impact in regards to transportation contract modifications and a possible overall reduction in expenses to cover transportation costs especially if the District is forced to return to a full remote learning model.

As for the delivery of educational services via live streaming across the District Superintendent Clenchy articulated a reluctance to engage in live streaming of said services due to not only the high cost of the delivery of these services but also due to potential issues of liability.

10:45 a.m. Chairman Rubinstein recognized Business and Operations Manager Patricia Marone to provide an update on grant funding.

Business Manager Marone indicated that there has been some mis-information circulating through the District in regards to grant funding, but that at present grant funding for the District is just under Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) through December, 2020.

Business Manager Marone further reported on the current Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Account level and did report that there may be a need to tap into the Excess and Deficiency Account to address any budgetary shortfalls.

10:55 a.m. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chairman Rubinstein moved (Joseph M. Gleason seconded) to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: In Favor: S. Rubinstein, J. Gleason. Opposed: None
Motion passes 2-0.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of October, 2020



Joseph M. Gleason (Lancaster)
Recording Secretary