

Board of Finance
Minutes Special Meeting
Monday, February 29, 2016

Present: Jim Blackketter, Maureen Brady, Ed Epstein, Mark McWhinney, Mark Sebeti

Public and Invited Guests: Bruce Adams, Florence Budge, Patricia Chamberlain, Paul Cortese, Cynthia Hochswender, Gabe Lefferts, Rita Limbos, John Mauer, Lynn Mellis Worthington, Jonathan Moore, CiCi Nielsen, Dana Slaughter.

Vice Chairman Mark Sebeti called the special meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at Kent Center School.

Mrs. Brady made a motion to invite Board of Education members Paul Cortese, CiCi Nielsen and Dana Slaughter into the meeting. Mr. McWhinney seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Board of Education and Board of Finance members introduced themselves.

Mr. Sebeti said he feels most issues between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education stem from a lack of communication. Mr. Sebeti said he believes it is the desire of the Board of Finance to hear from a member of the Board of Education during budget season and two to three other times during the year so the Finance Board has a general understanding of the school board's financial matters. Mr. Blackketter and Mr. McWhinney said they agree. Mr. Cortese asked for an explanation as to why the Board of Finance would need to see the Board of Education's monthly financial analysis once there is an approved budget? Mr. Sebeti said it is similar to the Finance Board receiving monthly Board of Selectmen budget reports from the town treasurer. Mr. Blackketter commented the Board of Finance is looking for anomalies and is not trying to micromanage the school board. Mrs. Nielsen commented the Board of Finance is welcome to attend Board of Education meetings.

Mrs. Brady suggested it would be helpful if the Board of Education minutes could be emailed to the Board of Finance chairman. Mr. Cortese said this is something maybe the school board could work on.

There was discussion about the Five-Year Capital Plan and the process for the school board to submit requests for the plan and, more specifically, the \$850,000 proposed for the KCS building improvements project. Mr. Epstein said his issue is that he does not want someone who is not a member of the Board of Education giving the Board of Finance information regarding capital requests. Mr. Cortese explained he made himself chairman of the KCS building committee, commenting that no one came to building committee meetings, having Selectmen on the committee meant money was not steered to projects for the school and there is no state statute that says a Selectman has to be on the building committee. Mr. Cortese added that the Board of Education appointed John Mauer to the building committee and that Mr. Cortese then asked Mr. Mauer to present capital requests only to the Board of Finance. The consensus going forward is the school board would provide the Board of Finance with its Five-Year Capital Plan requests as

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voted on by the school board and reflected in its meeting minutes with a copy also to the Board of Selectmen. There is an understanding that the Selectmen would not make changes to the Board of Education's capital requests but would have the financial information which could assist the Selectmen in their decision making. Mr. Cortese said he couldn't commit to meeting the November deadline for capital requests but could provide the information in December.

Mr. Sebetic confirmed that the Board of Finance has removed the \$850,000 from the Five-Year Capital Plan for KCS building improvements in FY 2022. Mr. Cortese said the school board is putting money in its operating budget for an architectural assessment of the school building, adding that the Board of Finance could expected to have a new figure for building improvements for the capital plan by December.

Mr. Blackketter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Lesly Ferris
Board Clerk

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