

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
**Public Hearing Meeting**  
High School Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, January 23, 2017

PRESENT: Maryanne Sullivan, Chairperson  
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, Vice Chairperson  
Eileen DeSisto, Finance Secretary  
Timothy Bonfatti, Recording Secretary  
Francine Kelly, Secretary

Jeffrey Marsden, Superintendent

ABSENT: Christopher Morrison, School Committee Member  
Chris McGrory - Student Representative

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Ms. Sullivan welcoming everyone. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to open the meeting to a Public Hearing Meeting; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.** After the vote, Ms. Sullivan asked for a role call of School Committee members in attendance for the audience.

Superintendent Marsden welcomed everyone in attendance for the proposal of the FY18 School Budget. Superintendent Marsden thanked everyone involved in the budget process and presented the audience and School Committee with a slide show presentation. Superintendent Marsden outlined detailed information and breakdowns of how the FY18 budget was determined. Superintendent Marsden's presentation reflected key factors and driving forces for the recommendation of a 6.32% increase, noting the slightly lower projection than the 6.75% originally proposed. Superintendent Marsden noted that the biggest driving force of the FY18 budget increase comes from the market correction for teacher salaries. Superintendent Marsden went into detail showing our teachers salary scale as compared to many surrounding districts teacher salary scales. Superintendent Marsden further detailed the comparisons of Medfield to many other school districts showing per pupil expenditure, net school spending, tax rates for surrounding school districts and most notably, how those taxes are distributed throughout these towns. Superintendent Marsden pointed out that the Medfield School District is still on the lower average of student expenditure as compared to many of these districts. Superintendent Marsden continued with his presentation, reminding the School Committee of the iPad line item decrease in spending and fees as requested by the School Committee members at the January 9, 2017 meeting, and continued with examples and breakdowns of the distribution process that will be used for the 6.32% budget proposal. Superintendent Marsden noted that there are many things you can not predict that run up the costs of the budget and although it is a long way from completion, feels confident that this is a good budget projection for the Medfield School District for FY18. Ms. Sullivan opened the meeting to the audience for questions. Many short conversations and comments were made including; a brief explanation of the Special Education FY18 budget staff increases, the need to support the Special Education FY18 budget, the continuation of Kindergarten fees, and class sizes going forward. Resident, Jerry Potts thanked Superintendent Marsden for such a thorough budget presentation. Ms. O'Shea Brooke questioned

whether there may be a chance for an override if the FY18 budget proposal of 6.32% is reduced when presented to the Warrant Committee. Superintendent Marsden commented that there has been little conversation around an override but feels certain they can work with the Warrant Committee to make the numbers work. Ms. DeSisto asked for clarification of the monies from the Chapter 70 funding with Superintendent Marsden noting that this money will not come through until May or June and those figures in the FY18 budget proposal are just estimates based on years past. Mr. Bonfatti suggested to Superintendent Marsden that the School Committee, for the next few meetings, should look at the budget priorities driven by the Strategic Plan. Ms. Sharon Tatro, member of the Warrant Committee, clarified the upcoming Warrant Committee schedule of meetings inviting all to attend. Ms. Tatro noted that they will be meeting with the School Department on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at the Public Safety Building to give their recommendations to the School Committees FY18 budget proposal. Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone for their input and thanked Sharon Tatro for speaking and helping to clarify the Warrant Committee's schedule noting how important it is to work together with so many competing factors of a Town Budget. The School Committee thanked Superintendent Marsden for his presentation. Ms. Sullivan commented how much easier it is to understand the budget process with this type of presentation as compared to years past, commending Superintendent Marsden for all his hard work in putting this presentation together. Ms. Sullivan further thanked Susan Tatro from the Warrant Committee for her participation and input at tonight's meeting. Ms. Sullivan asked for a vote to close the open meeting at 8:55 p.m. and asked the School Committee for a vote to approve the 6.32% budget increase; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous in favor of the 6.32% budget proposal increase. The vote was unanimous to close the public hearing meeting.**

Ms. Sullivan opened the School Committee meeting and read the agenda for the evening.

**Executive Session:** There was no Executive Session.

**Public Input:** NONE

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ms. O'Shea Brooke to approve the School Committee minutes for January 9, 2017; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**

**New Business:**

- **2017-2018 School Calendar (II)** - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the draft of the 2017-2018 School Calendar noting the additions of professional development days, early release days, and last day of school asking the School Committee for a vote to approve. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; First by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**

### **Old Business:**

- Donations (III) (SP 3) - None

### **Superintendent's Report to the Committee:**

- Director of Student Services Search - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that a lot of quality candidate applications have been received. He is hoping that the screening process will begin before February vacation with an appointment in March. Superintendent Marsden outlined timelines and process of the screening process and those who may be involved in the selection process

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items.

### **Adjournment:**

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2017

Minutes approved by the School Committee: February 13, 2017

Respectfully Submitted:  
Francine Kelly, Secretary

### **EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:**

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, January 23, 2017
- Minutes for January 9, 2017
- Draft of 2017-2018 School Calendar
- Memo from Mark G. Cerel, Town Counsel -Bay Circuit Trail status update.
- List of questions from the Warrant Committee regarding FY18 School Budget proposal
- Slide presentation from Superintendent Marsden - FY18 Public Hearing Budget Proposal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mD4ggEwEii8>