

FAYETTE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 2, 2019 - 6:30 P.M. - FCS Library

Budget Workshop Agenda

1. **Call To Order** – Chairlady Wilcox will call the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
 - 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2 Roll Call - Present: Elaine Wilcox, Rachael Holland, and Matt Charland
 - 1.3 Other Attendees: Crystal Rose, George Joseph, and Supt Joe Mattos

2. **Old Business**

- 2.1 **Discussion of the Proposed 2019/20 School Budget**

Supt Mattos distributed and reviewed information on the proposed 19/20 school budget. He stated that he had updated Budget Draft #5 with the following adjustments:

- *Increased School Committee Legal Services by \$4,000.*
- *Decreased teacher salaries by \$13,000.*
- *Decreased grades 9-12 Tuition Costs for Special Education Services by \$30,000.*
- *Increased Unexpended Funds as a revenue source by \$10,000 (total in 19/20 budget is \$30,000).*

Supt Mattos provided a chart of information showing budget costs and revenues for the past 3 years. The increase in local taxes from 18/19 to 19/20 will be \$66,548, which is a 3.3% increase.

Supt Mattos provided some background information and answered questions from school committee members regarding why he was recommending these adjustments. Supt Mattos stated that these cuts will not affect the staffing or the quality of instruction or programming at FCS.

No action was taken on approving the 19/20 school budget as presented. School Committee members recommended that a final vote on the budget be taken at the May 9 FSC regular school committee meeting.

Discussion on April 29 Public Hearing on Fayette Town and School Budget

Also discussed by FSC members were concerns raised by community citizens at the recent April 29 Public Hearing on the Town and School Budgets. Concerns expressed by citizens included the impact that rising property taxes are having on citizens living on fixed incomes. Citizens also raised concerns about the costs for maintaining FCS for 80 students; is this financial sustainable and cost effective.

George Joseph urged school committee members to recommend that some type of study be conducted in 19/20 that would provide Fayette citizens with information regarding costs and pros/cons for educating PK – 5 students. Options that would be studied would include: 1. continue to operate and fund FCS, 2. join with another school district, 3. close the Fayette Central School and tuition all PK-5 students to neighboring school districts, and 4. explore other suitable options for educating Fayette PK – 5 students.

The FSC will discuss this issue at their May 9 school committee meeting under New Business.

3. **Adjournment**

Without objection, Chairlady Wilcox declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Mattos, Superintendent

Any individual, who needs special accommodations to enter the building or assistance to attend this public meeting, must contact the Superintendent's Office at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting. (A.D.A.)