

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Committee Present:

Leigh Martin, Sean Nicholson, Phil DeZutter, Vikki Ludwigson, Kerry Laurence

Administration Present:

Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Maureen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
John Clements, Co-Principal, Nipmuc Regional High School
Mary Anne Moran, Co-Principal, Nipmuc Regional High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Sean Nicholson.

Chair Nicholson read the following statement: *Consistent with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A, S. 20 and Regulation 940 CMR 29.10, which allows for remote participation in certain circumstances under the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law Regulations, the Mendon-Upton Regional School Committee will be conducting this meeting remotely. In this particular case, all six members of the Committee are participating remotely and virtually through videoconferencing. This is consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 10, 2020, which eased the requirements of having a meeting in a physical space open to the public and having a quorum of the Committee physically present. Any and all votes will be conducted by roll-call votes. Per usual, this meeting will also be livestreamed and recorded.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to approve the agenda.

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Vikki Ludwigson, yes
Kerry Laurence, yes

II. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Revised FY2021 Operational Budget

Dr. Maruszczak presented a revised FY2021 operational budget due to the COVID-19 crisis:

- Recertification would be \$1,827,627 less than the amount certified on 3/9 due to FY20 savings and lesser requests
- Items for savings include supplies, heat, snow removal, substitute teachers, maintenance OT; Workers Comp; Athletic Transportation; misc accounts; Regular Transportation and SpEd Transportation

- Reduction include eliminate 4 FTE from the original request, level fund supply accounts, no technology refresh, regular transportation in negotiation, increase school choice appropriation, salary/COLA for all employees – reflective of crisis utilize savings from FY20 to offset FY21
- Assumptions: state funding will be *level* to FY20; Local operational assessment for Mendon will be \$10,197,621 which is a decrease of \$773,214 and Upton will be \$12,223,378 which is a decrease of \$969,436
- This is reflective of the economic situation at this point and requesting a large override would not be in the best interest for our communities.
- Increase to Mendon is \$521,820 and \$250,00 will be within prop 21/2 level limit and \$271,820 for override
- Increase to Upton is \$502,261 which is \$300,000 from within prop 2 1/2, and \$200,000 override
- Based on an average home value of \$425,000, tax impact in Mendon 114.49/year and for Upton 71.58/year
- Dr. Maruszczak recommends to move forward with this strategy
- It was noted Upton would be discussing new budget on Thursday and Mendon would be discussing it today.

Recertification of FY2021 Operational Budget

Motion #1 On motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson to set the operational budget for the **Mendon-Upton Regional School District** for the **2020-2021** fiscal year at **\$37,133,486**, that consists of general operations within the levy limit of **\$36,311,348**, and debt service outside the levy limit of **\$822,138**.

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
 Sean Nicholson, yes
 Leigh Martin, yes
 Vikki Ludwigson, yes
 Kerry Laurence, yes

Motion #2 On motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to assess the Town of Mendon **\$10,500,884** that consists of the following:

1. Minimum Local Contribution	\$7,725,850
2. Non-Discretionary Charges	\$ 894,700
3. Discretionary Charges	\$1,577,071
4. Long Term Debt Clough/Memorial School	\$ 334,878
5. Long Term Debt Miscoe Green Repair	\$ 68,385

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
 Sean Nicholson, yes
 Leigh Martin, yes
 Vikki Ludwigson, yes
 Kerry Laurence, yes

Motion #3 On Motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson to assess the Town of Upton **\$12,642,253** that consists of the following:

1. Minimum Local Contribution	\$9,124,333
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2. Non-Discretionary Charges	\$1,121,752
3. Discretionary Charges	\$1,977,293
4. Long Term Debt Clough/Memorial School	\$ 334,872
5. Long Term Debt Miscoe Green Repair	\$84,003

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Vikki Ludwigson, yes
Kerry Laurence, yes

Motion #4 On Motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to appropriate **\$\$13,725,374** from State Aid that consists of the following:

1. Chapter 70 Funds	\$12,488,756
2. Regional Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 1,145,848
3. Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	\$ 45,745

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Vikki Ludwigson, yes
Kerry Laurence, yes

Motion #5 On Motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson to appropriate **\$250,000** from the following School District Accounts:

1. Vision Sped Tuition	\$ 75,000
2. Transfer In from Revolving Accounts	\$150,000
3. Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ 25,000

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Vikki Ludwigson, yes
Kerry Laurence, yes

III. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Shelley Cook: Looking for line items subtotal for the modifications. Dr. Maruszczak stated it will be available on website this afternoon.

Paul Flaherty asked about the roll over money from FY20. Jay Byer stated it will be put into School Choice and the funds will be used out of school choice to fund FY21. The amount is estimated to be \$680,000

Paul Flaherty asked if there will be an override next year – Dr. Maruszczak stated the recertified budget takes in account extraordinary circumstances and we may be in the same position next year. Communities will still need to be responsible for the MURSD budget and the needs will still be there in the future. School Committee and district is recognizing the crisis and the implications to the communities. Next year, it is unknown what will happen. It is a reduced request that represents sacrifice by all stakeholders such as employees and the savings realized by having the school being closed for 1/3 of the year. Sean Nicholson emphasized the sacrifice being made to keep the district operational and it needs to be recognized.

Shelley Cook asked if in the new budget, has cuts been made in travel area, such as dues, conference and travel? Dr. Maruszczak stated professional developmental lines have been level funded. These are district wide expenses and dues to the various associations.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

V. Other Matters Not Anticipated by The Committee Within 48 Hours of The Posted Meeting

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Updates Re. MURSD FY21 Budget: May

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Leigh Martin to adjourn

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Vikki Ludwigson, yes
Kerry Laurence, yes

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath