

May 3, 2012
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
Room 224
6:35 PM

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Atty. Clark, Dr. Finnerty, and Mr. Nobrega
ABSENT: None

Also in attendance were Deborah Brown, Business Manager, Mary Sahady, Auditor.

Mrs. Brown summarized revenues and expenses for the proposed FY13 budget.

Mrs. Sahady discussed that the increase in FY13 health insurance could be recalculated using 3% instead of 6%. The invoices coming in supported this.

Mrs. Brown discussed psych services and the need to increase for FY13.

There was a discussion regarding capital expenditures and going to bond on those items capital in nature.

Mrs. Sahady noted that Mrs. Brown should be given the opportunity to meet with the Mayor to request capital needs through borrowing.

Atty. Clark asked what the hurdles to borrowing and what the turnaround would be.

Mrs. Sahady indicated that she could not speak to the hurdles but that there is probably sufficient cash flow that could be expended as needed.

For borrowing the City goes to market in June and February, then they can consider S/T and L/T borrowing.

Dr. Finnerty asked if computers are considered capital.

Mary Sahady indicted that they are and there could be an equipment borrowing.

Mr. Nobrega asked if it included copy machines.

Mrs. Brown said yes, some copiers are very old.

Dr. Finnerty asked about the transportation suggestion to increase transportation for students less than 2 miles to improve attendance. For Tuesday's meeting Dr. Finnerty suggested that Dr. Larkin provide written validation on this (or come to the meeting) about the goal to approve attendance.

Atty. Clark asked about net school spending and City Hall administrative staff. Mrs. Sahady indicated that this is direct from the agreement and it has been in place for several years.

Atty. Clark suggested that we make a recommendation to the entire School Committee to look this over. Mrs. Sahady indicated that we will look at this in the fall. With MUNIS coming there will be one combined system so some of the costs could be less.

Atty Clark asked about the Solicitor's Office. Who is solely dedicated to the School Department? What percentages are they working solely for the school department? Atty. Clark asked Mrs. Sahady to ask Atty. Markey to give us caseloads and time and hourly breakdown to determine if it is a true reflection.

Mrs. Sahady indicated that there are three methods of applying the net school spending formula based on DESE. The other methods, if used, would have been higher.

Mrs. Sahady discussed some of the components of the net school spending agreement with the City.

Atty. Clark. said any work we can do ahead of the School Committee meeting to cut we should do. We can have the School Committee make the cuts and we will make the budget book available ahead of time to the School Committee. If they have specific questions they can contact Deb directly.

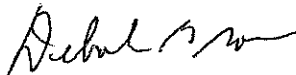
Atty. Clark indicated SRO's should be funded by the City. They are eligible for more grants. Atty. Clark requested an overview of SRO's from Heather Larkin and Peter Cabral. He asked the task and purpose of SRO's, rolls and resp, time in classroom, direct contact with students. He indicated it should be a core mission of police. Does City get a grant for rest?

There was a discussion of what should be the Sub-Committee role to cut principals request.

Voted unanimously on a Motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to request an update from the Mayor on the Maintenance merger for May 14 meeting.

There being no further business, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Finnerty.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah H. Brown", written in a cursive style.

**Deborah H. Brown
Business Manager
Sub-Committee Liaison**

