

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2019
Planning Board Room, Seekonk Town Hall

PRESENT: Matthew Salisbury, Chairperson
Michael Brady
Derick Medeiros
Phillip Yan
Normand Duquette

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Superintendent Rich Drolet
School Business Manager Jill Brillhante
School Committeeperson Erin Brouillette

Mr. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of February 6, 2019 and February 13, 2019

Moved approval of minutes of February 6, 2019 as corrected Mr. Medeiros, second Mr. Brady (4-0-1, Duquette)

Moved approval of minutes of February 13, 2019 as corrected Mr. Medeiros, second Mr. Brady (5-0)

FY 2020 Budget – School Department

Dr. Drolet introduced himself to the committee, then introduced Jill Brillhante, school business manager. Dr. Drolet began with a narrative of the budget process. Capital improvement requests were explained. Discussion on items took place. Dr. Drolet expanded on new positions and the special education budget. Discussion on in district vs. out of district special education programs took place. The committee asked questions about the supply line items, Ms. Brouillette explained the increases. The principal at Aitken consolidated all the supply lines into one school wide account, different than presented at Martin. Discussion on textbooks happened. Dr. Drolet explained additions to curriculum including civics at the 8th grade level and financial literacy at the high school. Schools are transitioning away from MacBooks to ChromeBooks and eBooks. Mr. Medeiros asked about reduction in salary at Aitken and it was explained that there was a retirement and it was determined that the position would be eliminated. Air condition project will budget a sum of money each year for window units, starting with second floor at high school and the next year second floor at middle school. No estimate on operating cost of units. The SEA is in year 1 of a three year contract. Ms. Brouillette explained that the contract does not call for COLA increases unless employee is at top step, employees below top step will only get the step increase. The residency officer position was explained. Middle school guidance counselor position was explained. Mr. Salisbury asked about future plans for other buildings, Dr. Drolet commented that sooner or later the conversation about newer buildings has to take place. Ms. Brouillette explained that the budget also includes the lease payment for the modular classrooms at Aitken and Martin.

The committee asked a variety of questions about school populations, vocational schools, and transportation; Dr. Drolet answered and explained a variety of questions.

Future Meetings

Committee discussed options for next meeting,

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:00 PM, Seekonk High School Media Center (Quad-Board Meeting)

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 6:00 PM, Planning Board Room, Town Hall

Moved adjournment 7:45, Mr. Duquette, second Mr. Medeiros (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Derick Medeiros, Clerk