

Lenox Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9, 2021

Members Present: Dave Carpenter (DC), Kristine Cass (KC), Michael Feder (MF), Mindi Morin (MM), David Neubert (DN), Blaise Gregory (BG)

Guests: NA

Absent: Andrea Pignatelli (AP)

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

KC Kicked off the meeting with a review of June 9th and July 28th meetings. KC motioned to approve the minutes, 2nd by NB and all approved

MF reported on meetings with the school committee with MM and MF. MF pulled data from the state and federal website sand recent information from the school. We reviewed the following:

Per Public Data

735 Students

80 Teachers

\$14.2 Budget Teachers/Staff 85% \$2.1

Average Salary

Assume Teachers= 60% of Total=\$7.2

Ave= \$90.7K

Area=\$73.3K

Student /Teacher

Lenox 9.1 (9.6 reported)

Area 10.5

State 12.2

MF said our “peer” analysis suggested we are out of alignment and proposed a zero-based staffing analysis. By building up staffing from zero, we can analyze our needs relative to neighboring communities and provide our mandated opinion regarding the appropriateness of budget request. Further, this information may be useful to the School Committee as they enter negotiations with the LEA later this Fall.

DC agreed that starting with a zero-based budget is an appropriate way to start, along with peer group analysis to ensure alignment.

KC recommended that we put together a memo to the school’s finance committee. MF will draft this for the committee to review as an advisory and recommending that we are here to assist with that analysis. It was suggested that we send this to Bob Vaughn for review and ask that it be part of the next school committee and be read during the public forum.

DN asked about committee members. BG has completed his paperwork and we are still waiting to hear back from Kerry. John McNinch has approved his seat. KC advised that we have 2 additional spots. She reached out to two people the select board brought to the committee. One has declined and one has asked for additional information. DN and MF may have someone in mind. Additional suggestions are welcomed

KC reached out to Permanent Building committee, and they have not yet had a meeting. DC recommended that we work directly with Chris and have him attend a finance meeting. KC mentioned a previous update on projects that Chris can provide to us.

BG will be reviewing the below departments and will let the committee know which one he will be joining. Although we do not have public safety on our list, DN and KC suggested that we do have a member assist with this department.

KC felt that the community center has a great opportunity, and we could advise them as needed to create additional revenue opportunities. MF suggested we ask for additional funding for Jen Nacht and ask her to use it to help the Community Center broaden their reach.

DN and MF would be interested in liaising with Public Safety..

MM and DC brought up time of meeting and preferred day. We will choose a day and time that is consistent and have these meetings as needed, if one meeting date pops up and we are not needing to meet, we can postpone to the next date. Thursday's at 6pm or 6:30 are preferred since days might be tough.

Member	Permanent Building	Public Works	Genl Govt.	Comm Ctr.	Library	School	Treas,Acct
DN		X	X	X			X
AP				X	X		
KC	X				X		
DC	X						
MF						X	
MM		X				X	
BG							

Meeting adjourned at 8:04

Respectively Submitted,
Mindi Morin, Interim Secretary