

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the RTM Education Committee
Monday, February 12, 2018

Place:

Darien Town Hall, Room 206

Start Time: 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lucy Fiore, Janet Grogan, Jay Hardison, Patrick Keane, Young-Sup Lee, Carolina McGoey, Ann Reed, Peter Riordan, Clara Sartori, Sandra Savage, Bill Smith, Ed Washecka, Theresa Vogt

Members Absent: Barbara Thorne

Members of the Public: Shelly Skoglund (CDSP), Beth Lane (CDSP), Stacey Tie (CDSP and F&B).

Jack Davis from F&B was a guest speaker.

Call to Order:

Ann Reed called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:30 p.m.

Motion to Approve a change to the agenda and have Jack Davis speak at the beginning of the meeting:

- Clara moved to approve the change
- Jay Hardison seconded the motion
- The motion was passed unanimously

Motion to Approve Minutes from Meetings on 1/8/18 and 1/29/18:

- Jay called to change 1/29 minutes with regard to a potential meeting with the Board of Education to include the following quote from Ann Reed: “And then I’ll ask about the meeting with the Board of Ed, Jay, to see when we can set that up.”
- On 1/17 minutes, Young-Sup Lee asked that the reference to the need for the MMS Guidance Counselor was a question, not a statement.
- Ed Washecka made a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings as amended
- Jay Hardison seconded the motion
- The amended minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda:

1. *Presentation on the Budget approval process by Jack Davis, Chair of the RTM Finance and Budget Committee Jack Davis talking about process:*

Jack Davis spoke to how the RTM Education Chair and F&B Education Vice Chair Education always communicate during budget season. He also spoke at length about the Budget process as it relates to the development of the Superintendent’s budget and how it becomes the Board of Ed budget, then the Board of Finance (which includes the BOE and Board of Selectmen) budget and finally the Town budget after approval from the RTM. He also discussed F&B’s approach to keeping the lines of communication open with members of the Board of Education and members

of the Board of Finance. He suggested RTM Education Committee members develop similar methods of communicating with members of the Boards of Education and Finance.

2. *Ann Reed reviewed the modifications made to the Superintendent's proposed budget as it was discussed at a special meeting of the Board of Education on February 7th.*

3. *Discussion of Potential New questions for the Board of Education:*

- Members discussed substitutes and teacher sick days. Morale was also mentioned;
- Looking for a better understanding of the bidding process for contracts and capital projects;
- FTEs at MMS and when we will see attrition at that school with relation to the teacher contract

4. *Other business:*

Jay Hardison spoke to a previously discussed potential meeting with the Board of Education. Ann Reed commented that she had a conversation with the Board of Education regarding this practice and told the committee that while an invitation was not formally extended, the BOE stated that at that time it was not their budget to comment on and likely would have declined such a meeting. Clara Sartori explained that such a meeting would be difficult for the Board to agree to at that point as one or two members attending is not representative of the BOE and too many members attending could potentially constitute a quorum and therefore a meeting for their Board.

Ann Reed reminded members that she contacted members individually to gauge their interest in a meeting. A majority of members did not see the need for such a meeting.

Janet Grogan and Clara Sartori suggested we defer to Ann Reed as the chairperson on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Lucy Fiore made a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Carolina McGoey seconded the motion
- The motion passed unanimously
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Vogt
RTM Education Clerk