



Georgetown School Committee
Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:30PM
Virtual ZOOM Meeting
Special Session Minutes

Barbie Linares, Chairman
Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk
Pamela Lundquist
Suzanne MacDonald

Virtual Attendance:

Barbie Linares	Superintendent Jacobs	Joe Bonavita
Michael Hinchliffe	Suzanne Sutherland	Doug Dawes
Cheryl Lachendro	Jack Tiano	David Twiss
Pam Lundquist		Mike Farrell
Suzanne MacDonald		

This meeting was conducted using ZOOM Technology. Chair Linares called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

1. Call To Order:

Barbie Linares - present
Michael Hinchliffe - present
Suzanne MacDonald - present
Cheryl Lachendro - present
Pamela Lundquist - present

Joe Bonavita, Board of Selectmen Chair called their meeting to order at 6:33PM.
Doug Dawes – present
David Twiss – present
Joe Bonavita – present

4. Audiences

c) Other

- Board of Selectmen

Chair Linares started the meeting with explaining that the Board of Selectmen were invited to join due to the information she received regarding the Budget.

Chair Linares stated that the reason she reached out to Mr. Bonavita was to discuss the budget issue we are having. FinCom notified the School Committee that they were given a 2.5% increase over last year's budget. We were requesting approximately 4.8%. She went on to say that there was a meeting over a month ago with the purpose was to answer any questions the FinCom may have had regarding the budget. The meeting lasted about an hour and there was very little discussion regarding the budget binder that was presented. Since there were not questions asked, they were unaware such a large cut was coming. This has caused the School Committee concern, which is why the Chair has reached out to the Board of Selectmen to ask if anything can be done or if they have any recommendations.

The Chair invited the Budget & Finance Subcommittee along with the Finance Director and Superintendent to speak regarding this. Member Hinchliffe added that we thought we were following the FinCom instructions to submit the budget that we needed. He explained that the relationship that the School Department has with the FinCom has always been good and he does not want to jeopardize that, but he questions why did the guidance we received change without prior notice? Wayne Snow is the FinCom liaison to the School Department and was present at Budget & Finance Subcommittee meetings when the budget book was being discussed. We are now looking at \$364,000 shortfall and even with a level services budget, we are still \$200,000 short. He explained that not only will these budget cuts affect our core services. Since the town meeting is delayed due to the COVID restrictions, maybe a meeting can be scheduled with the FinCom and School Department to discuss the budget cuts. Mr. Dawes responded that the Board of Selectmen has no authority to ask the FinCom to reopen the discussion regarding the budget. Chair Linares stated that she understands their position and is not asking them to override the FinCom. She is asking if there is anything they can do or possibly set aside a warrant to help them find the money, which they have done in the past when we needed the help. The Chair added that the process was very different this year. Mike Farrell added that the FinCom felt all the information was there and the School Department gave them enough information to make a decision. He also said that there are also other departments that need to make cuts. Member Hinchliffe explained that we have already made cuts to the maintenance line, technology hardware line, special education contracted services, have cancelled the new uniforms for athletics, we were planning on offering virtual high school curriculum opportunities, which has now been cancelled and were planning on moving a salary from the revolving account to the budget, but as a result now will move it back.

A motion was made by Doug Dawes to adjourn their portion of the meeting at 8:04PM. David Twiss second. A roll call vote was made.

David Twiss – yes

Doug Dawes – yes

Joe Bonavita – yes

So voted (3-0). Motion carried.

5. Administrative Reports

a) Superintendent's Report

- COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Jacobs announced the information she received from the Commissioner's Office today. The expectations are changing. She will be speaking with the North Shore Superintendents Round Table committee to discuss how their districts are handling the changes. She added the Commissioner suggested we provide structure in engaging students. There will also be no grading, but the students will receive credit or no credit. There will be another meeting on Monday which the Superintendent hopes will clarify the expectations. This should begin in April. The Superintendent added that this does not need to be all computer work but should include arts and some form of movement/exercise.

She said that the schools are almost finished with the deep cleaning. Once that is done, the custodians will be on staggered schedules and will work on projects around the schools.

She said that they are working on coordinating a Rolling Rally for April 1st. Once more details are available, they will be announced.

As far as teacher expectations, teachers are working in grade levels providing outreach and enrichment opportunities. She said that every teacher in their grade level should be providing the same packet of information to the students. She added that since conferences are cancelled, parents can schedule a conference a week after report cards go out. More information will be sent out.

New Business:

a) School Choice

The Superintendent explained to the committee that there are 4 school choice students graduating this year. FY21 will have 2 graduating and FY22 there will be 10. She is recommending not opening any elementary seats. Kindergarten registration is currently open and she recommends waiting until August 1st to re-evaluate the kindergarten enrollment numbers. Also, we have not heard if any teachers will be enrolling their children. The Superintendent is recommending continuing school choice and is requesting a vote to open ten 9th grade seats for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION: Cheryl Lachendro (S. MacDonald second) motion to approve the opening of ten school choice seats in the 9th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist – yes

Motion carried (5-0)

b) Baker Adams Process and Timeline

The Baker Adams Scholarship process and timeline has been presented for the committee's review and approval. Suzanne MacDonald said she may opt out since her son may apply. There has been over \$500,000 in scholarships awarded from Baker Adams. The Superintendent's office will forward the application link to the Guidance Department for them to distribute to the seniors in their scholarship packet.

MOTION: Suzanne MacDonald (M. Hinchliffe second) motion to approve the process and timeline for the Baker Adams Scholarship, as presented. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist – yes

Motion carried (5-0)

c) Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline

It was decided that due to the COVID restrictions, the Superintendent does not need to provide the binder with as much information as usual. Since this is so time consuming, it was suggested that less evidence can be provided and also can be scanned as a pdf. A change was made to the timeline and the Superintendent evaluation will be conducted in public session at the May 28th meeting.

MOTION: Suzanne MacDonald (P. Lundquist second) motion to approve the process and timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation as presented. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist – yes

Motion carried (5-0)

d) School Committee Self Evaluation Process and Timeline

The School Committee reviewed the timeline for the School Committee Self Evaluation process.

MOTION: Cheryl Lachendro (P. Lundquist second) motion to approve the process and timeline for the School Committee's Self Evaluation as presented. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist – yes

Motion carried (5-0)

MOTION: Pam Lundquist (S. MacDonald second) motion to adjourn at 9:02PM. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist – yes

Motion carried (5-0)

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Weiss, School Committee Secretary*