

Budget Committee  
Minutes  
April 4, 2013

Present: R. Barnes, T. Beard (arrived late), J. Burk, B. Cummings, S. Heinrich, G. Krupp, M. Malzone, L. Mooney, V. Pellegrino, C. Skarda, R. Swonger and School Board liaison A. Schneider

Excused: C. Guagliumi

B. Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 6, 2013 as corrected.

Second: G. Krupp. MOTION PASSED: 9 – 0 – 3 (J. Burk, M. Malzone and V. Pellegrino abstained.)

**Review of the 2013 Budget Process**

B. Cummings said the purpose of the meeting was Committee comment on the 2013 budget process and schedule.

Discussion included the following:

- The process felt rushed.
- The School Board should finish their review earlier in January so the Committee can have more time.
- There should have been a separate meeting for presentation of warrant articles.
- Department Head budget presentations could have been made during joint School Board/Committee meetings.
- Administration likes having Department Heads meet with the Committee.
- Sending questions to the Department Heads (via Superintendent) before their presentation at School Board meetings was helpful, though School Board members want those questions raised after School Board questions.
- Liaison meetings were helpful.
- The liaison process may work better if the liaison teams had been able to schedule liaison meetings earlier in the process.
- The School Board should schedule a meeting between the Budget Committee work session and the Budget Committee Public Hearing. This way they could address any issues that might come up.
- The Budget CD could contain several prior year budgets for comparison.
- The Committee was set up as a check and balance and is underutilized.
- It might be helpful to have a Committee meeting in November or December to discuss upcoming capital projects.

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B. Cummings said that he and T. Beard would present the Committee comments to the School Board.

**Other**

B. Cummings stated that M. Malzone and R. Swonger were not running for re-election and thanked them for their service on the Committee.

**Public Participation**

Anthony Pellegrino (Amherst Road) thanked the Committee for its time and concern for the School District and the taxpayers of Merrimack.

T. Beard arrived at this time.

T. Beard made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

B. Cummings adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.