

Harvard School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Saturday February 29, 2020
8:30am

Members present: Suzanne Allen, SusanMary Redinger, Shannon Molloy, Sharlene Cronin, John Ruark, Linda Dwight. Members absent: Maureen Babcock

John Ruark called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

SusanMary Redinger recited the vision statement.

Discussion on the use of additional Devens funding for FY21 budget

SusanMary Redinger proposed, but no vote was taken, that the school committee allocate additional Devens funds towards the FY21 school budget to bring the school budget to a 2.5% increase. She proposed that additionally, the committee put parameters around the use of Devens funding for long term planning to avoid having the school budget exceed 2.5% increase for the next few years. A closer look at numbers reveals that Fin Comm asked the schools to reduce below 2.5%. The proposed changes include using Devens funds to get to 2.5% this year and potentially in future years. Asking the taxpayers for an override while the Devens reserve is over \$1million is not a responsible use of funds. There was a proposal to draw the Devens fund down to \$450K over the next few years.

After a discussion on the topic all members present agreed that it is appropriate to use additional Devens reserve to fund the FY21 budget. Details of how to allocate these funds and what cuts to make (or not make) to be made at a future meeting. Additionally, committee members agreed that the school committee would reach out to DEAC to consult on defining parameters on how to most appropriately use Mass Development funds and should consider defining parameters on how to most appropriately use Devens funds now and in the future.

Approval of Minutes

John Ruark made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Budget Subcommittee minutes dated February 24th as amended.

SusanMary Redinger seconded.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes dated September 24th and 30th, October 21st, November 18th, December 16th and January 6th and 27th.

VOTE 4/0 with 1 abstaining.

Adjourn 8:59am