

Finance Committee MEETING MINUTES

April 30th – Multi-Board Meeting Virtual Meeting

Paul Flaherty, Rick McGuire, Nick Ensko, Jonathan Calianos
Note members of Upton BOS, Mendon BOS, Mendon Finance and
MURSD School Committee members were present

1 The meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by Paul Faherty.

2
3 Sean Nicholson, chair of MURSD School Committee made the following statement:

4
5 *Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.*
6 *c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of*
7 *people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Upton will be conducted via remote participation to*
8 *the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar*
9 *option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions*
10 *of the meeting as soon as possible following the same.*

11
12 Dr. Maruszczak gave presentation about the district's plan for FY2021. Highlights include the
13 following:

- 14 • Challenging times for everyone
- 15 • Last few weeks have been reviewing budget possibilities
- 16 • March 9th SC passed budget to align with strategic plan
- 17 • At this point, MURSD is cognizant of a large override at this time
- 18 • Want the best for the students; what can be done with the budget for survival. Keep in
- 19 place what district currently has for students
- 20 • Certified \$38,961,160 for 2,546,401 increase (7%)
- 21 • Consideration of \$37,133,486 an increase of \$718,727 (1.97%) to provide level services
- 22 for all students
- 23 • Potential savings include supplies, heat, snow removal, subs, maintenance OT, workers
- 24 comp & unemployment, athletic transportation, misc accounts and potential of regular
- 25 and SpEd transportation savings due to renegotiations for this FY and freeze the rate for
- 26 FY21 and possible FY22.
- 27 • Reductions in FY21- eliminate proposed new positions (4.0 FTE); all supplies level
- 28 funded; no tech refresh; regular transportation in negotiation; increase school choice
- 29 appropriation; salary/COLA for all employees-reflective of crisis (expectation of a 1 year
- 30 rollover vs a full negotiation session for a new 3 year contract); utilize savings from
- 31 FY20 to offset FY21
- 32 • Assumptions – Chapter 70 and Reg Transportation will be level to FY20
- 33 • Local operation assessment: Mendon \$10,197,621 (decrease of \$773,214); Upton
- 34 \$12,223,378 (decrease of \$969,436) for a recertified budget (excluding debt)
- 35 • Still many variables but this starts the conversation; important to have and be transparent
- 36 to continue the best possible education but cognizant of the current crisis.
- 37 • Next SC meeting will show more of the details.

41 After the presentation, Sean Nicholson asked for comments:

42
43 Derek Brindisi– override of \$200,000 is more palpable in comparison. Municipal budget
44 anticipated to be adjusted in November for State Aid. Upton has strong stabilization and free
45 cash so feasible to ‘weather the storm’. We included the additional monies for BVT in the
46 override. Need consultation with BOS to determine funding sources.

47
48 Paul Flaherty – MMA is anticipating budgets not certified until November.

49
50 Mendon Finance Committee new override is \$120 on average increase for Mendon taxpayers
51 and will need plan to adjust once the voters have the chance to vote

52
53 Steve Matellian – too early to tell what impact COVID-19 will have on our finances. Looking to
54 see how taxpayers are adjusting to the current crisis.

55
56 Derek Brindisi – recommending to decrease the ballot question to the new amount. BOS will be
57 reviewing dates for Town Meeting and Town Elections on Tuesday.

58
59 Mendon Town meeting is scheduled for June 1 and election is June 9. Notified to vote by mail
60 for the election. Limited Town Meeting with social distancing due to no quorum required.

61
62 Mendon FinCom meeting next Wednesday. Looking to maintain the dates so know by mid-June
63 what voters are thinking.

64
65 Kim Newman want to support school and see if there is any room for the amount and it will
66 probably need an override. Concerned about having Town meeting in June at this point.

67
68 Jay asked what is the bottom amount for the schools. Kim is stating the original number is good
69 and looking to pass budget as submitted. Derek is looking to pass budget as submitted. Any
70 decisions made in May 2020 will have consequences in May 2021. Need to be mindful of any
71 cuts in May 2020 since cuts will probably be made in November. Derek feels comfortable with
72 the original amount of \$300,000.

73
74 Jay asked if Towns are realizing any savings: Derek states we are not seeing any savings at this
75 point. Small savings in energy cost for library, all other buildings have been opened. Mendon
76 is in similar situation.

77
78 Paul Flaherty, we do not want to ‘lay off’ employees due to only saving 2/3 of salaries due to
79 unemployment. Financial impact for the next couple of years. Jay agrees and concerned that if
80 school can survive FY2021, what the impact could be for FY2022.

81
82 Mendon FinCom Heather Hallcock – Jay lots will need to happen to ensure FY2021 will happen
83 as anticipated. Thus, many unknowns for FY2022.

Upton is monitoring unemployment numbers for the town. Monies have been appropriated for individuals in need however there has only been 6-10 people looking for assistance. Thus, at this point we are not seeing a true need.

Mendon- it was commented there are residents ‘underemployed’

Upton deadline date for ballots – need to print new ballots.

Jay reiterated an override is a good possibility for FY2022. Mendon FinCom concerned about override for 2 years in a row.

Brett Simas is looking for strategy to allow best options to support the school. Is there a possibility of taking funds from stabilization?

Dr. Maruszczak – more work is needed to be done to accomplish what is being proposed. Making a decision of what is reasonable given the state of the economy. This could be worse than 2008/9/10 but looking to keep the status quo.

Next steps: SC will need a new certified budget – need to post a SC meeting to recertify the budget at a different amount.

Budget will be posted to website once determined.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm

Roll Call Vote:	Paul Flaherty	Aye
	Jonathan Calianos	Aye
	Rick McGuire	Aye
	Shawn Craig	Aye
	Nick Ensko	Aye

Next meeting to be determined

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly A. McElreath