

BROCKTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

David E. Crosby Administration Building
43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 580-7511 Fax: (508) 580-7513

The Honorable Bill Carpenter
Chair/Mayor of Brockton

Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr.
Vice-Chair

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
**Secretary/Superintendent
of Schools**



Committee Members

Joyce J. Asack
Mark S. D'Agostino
Brett Gormley
Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr.
Lisa M. Plant
Judy A. Sullivan
Timothy J. Sullivan

April 5, 2017

TO: Brockton School Committee

FROM: Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr., Chair
Aldo Petronio, Chief Budget Officer

RE: **Report of the April 4, 2017 Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

The Finance Subcommittee of the Brockton School Committee met on April 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre at Brockton High School, Brockton, MA.

Present: Mr. Minichiello, Mr. Petronio, Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith

Also Present: Executive Team, M. Bandis

Mr. Minichiello opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m. and asked Superintendent Smith to begin the discussion.

Superintendent Smith said tonight's meeting would include an update on advocacy with respect to the FY18 budget, current budget figures and proposed budget cuts to date.

Advocacy Update - Superintendent

Brockton did not receive any additional funding from the DESE's review of SIMS data to find any students not on the direct certification list. She and Mr. Petronio spoke with DESE shortly after receiving the news; Mr. Petronio provided handouts (A Tale of Two Cities) showing calculations and explained how the state came to that decision.

The Superintendent said she has written letters to Representative Cronin and Senator Brady requesting their advocacy for 100% charter school reimbursement for another year, Mayor Carpenter sent a letter to DESE in early March with his request as well. She has a meeting scheduled later in April with State Auditor Suzanne Bump where she will talk with her about the large losses in funding Brockton has incurred.



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Finally, with respect to any legal action, the Superintendent said that as a city we first have to do everything we can before considering going into court.

FY18 Budget

Mayor's Recommended Budget Figure - The Superintendent reported she was given an initial figure from Mayor Carpenter and CFO John Condon of \$161 million, based on Schedule 19 costs, which includes a 75% drop in charter reimbursement. With that figure the school district is looking at a budget shortfall of \$16,038,623.

Mr. Petronio prepared a list of non-personnel proposed budget cuts and a budget barometer with current figures. At this time the district has proposed over \$9 million in cuts, bringing the shortfall down to \$6,578,962. The Superintendent pointed out that these projected savings include the approved school moves and the closing of a middle school, she said the budget was looked at page by page before looking at personnel.

With respect to further cost savings, the Superintendent provided a list of budget areas that are under review, including personnel cuts across all levels. She said that not cutting teachers is unheard of in this budget. She has concerns about cuts in federal education funding (Title I, II, and III) but those figures are not normally received until July. Under consideration is expanding walk-out zones to save on transportation costs, the Mayor has already committed to returning any money saved in transportation costs back to the school department net spending budget. She talked about measures to stabilize the budget, including going back to neighborhood schools. This would not be an option for FY18 but discussions need to begin as soon as possible. The Superintendent responded to several questions with respect to these proposed cuts.

Mr. Minichiello made final comments about the good work done in Brockton schools educating children, he said the state has put arbitrary hurdles in front of the district that have hurt Brockton, and as the largest gateway city on the south shore we incur huge costs for the services we provide. He said the school committee may need to file for "immediate injunctive relief" from the courts. Mr. Gormley said he would like to hear more about this.

Mr. Petronio said that Chapter 70 funding has not reflected an appropriate inflation factor since 2015 while costs continue to climb.

Ms. Plant asked to see estimated class sizes.

Mr. Sullivan moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Handouts:

Budget Barometer #2 4/4/17

Tale of Two Cities Brockton

Take of Two Cities Revere

BPS Budget Modeling Tool

Budget Review Areas

FY18 Proposed Budget Cuts

