

*Northbridge School Committee
Budget Subcommittee*

Date: *Thursday, October 1, 2009*

Time: *6:35 pm*

Location: *Administration Building*

Minutes

Present: *Mike LeBrasseur, Mike McGrath, Fred Beauregard, Karen Kittredge and Sue Brouwer*

Board of Selectmen in attendance: *Joe Montecalvo, Tom Melia, Jim Marzec, and Dan Nolan (not in attendance Charlie Ampagoomian)*

Others attendees: *Superintendent of Schools, Susan Gorky, School Business Manager Melissa Walker, Town Manage, Ted Kozak and Town Accountant, Neil Vaidya.*

Call to Order: *Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm*

Discussion:

Mike McGrath welcomed the members of the Board of Selectmen and thanked them for attending our subcommittee meeting. Mike referenced the difficult financial times currently facing both the town and the school department, and indicated the importance that our boards work together to address the fiscal challenges ahead. He stressed that our objective would be that this is the first of many more similar meetings in the future.

Mike LeBrasseur reviewed the school department's current financial situation, its reliance on revolver accounts, future projected use of revolver funds, other actions that have impacted the school's funding, and actions that the school administration and school committee have put in place to best position the school dept. to deal with the financial challenges today and in the future.

The discussion then focused on the upcoming Town Meeting, and the Town Manager's intent to request a reduction in the School Department's appropriation for its FY10 budget. The Town Manager indicated his need to balance the budget, and cited the school's receipt of stimulus money which could be utilized to offset an appropriation reduction of \$285k. Among the options discussed was a sharing of the burden and having the schools contribute approximately \$130k back to the town (after reducing \$25k in health insurance reimbursements identified by the schools).

Selectmen adjourned and departed at 8:10 p.m.

After the Selectmen left, the Budget Subcommittee continued its meeting and further discussed the options. It was agreed that Supt. Gorky would speak with the Town Manager to get further specifics about possibly sharing the cost of the budget deficit, and

she would provide a recommendation to the School Committee on moving forward with a specific motion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Sincerely,

*Michael LeBrasseur, Chair Budget Sub-Committee
School Committee Member*

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