



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 25th, 2016

Acton Town Hall, Room 240 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, Mike Majors, Margaret Busse (Chair), Shuyu Lee, David Wellinghoff (Clerk), John Benson (Associate), Kristen Connell (Associate), Steve Noone, Roland Bourdon, Jason Cole, Doug Tindal (Vice-chair)

Members absent:

Other: Janet Adachi (BoS), Amy Krishnamurthy (School Committee), Brian McMullen, Superintendent Brand

Chair Busse called meeting to order at 7:32

Public participation – None.

Approve minutes – Motion to approve Sept 27th meeting minutes, all affirmative except Jason who abstains.

Presentation on Comparable Communities – Diane Baum presents the results from the report on comparable committees dated Sept 2016. The comparable community included school districts that were of comparable size where consistent comparable performance data was available. We ranked 4th on teacher's salaries against comparable communities. Other communities (e.g. Needham) also do their own comparable school assessments. It would be worth looking at how other communities evaluate this information for future analysis. This data and report can be used as a baseline and improved upon going forward. Can this be rotated each year between Acton and Boxboro Fincoms to build on what has been done? There is another comparable list that has 18 communities including test scores as well as spending. Has there been consideration on comparing what percentage of children attend private versus the public schools?

Discuss ALG/warrant plan format – Steve reviews his memo on the ALG plan and how to insert additional details into the warrant. Would like to use actuals in the warrant. Other towns detail what the cause of change is between years. Anything that explains material to the town better would be helpful. Move the ALG plan contain at least one year of actuals, all affirmative. Doug, Dave, and Kristen to form subcommittee to look at improving warrant format. Peter and Janet may provide support.

Discuss impressions of School District/Dore and Whittier presentation – Committee discusses school capital needs.

Review updated Point of View draft – Reviewed POV draft presentation for upcoming tri-board meeting.

Discuss tri-board meeting – Meeting scheduled for Nov 15th.

Update on subcommittees – Chair looking to schedule Outreach meetings.

Review committee updates – Team members update on respective committees.

Chair's minute – none.

Next meeting November 22.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Wellinghoff
Finance Committee Clerk

Documents referenced:

Report of the Comparative Communities Subcommittee (Sept 2016)
Steve's Memo on Thoughts on the ALG Format.