

NORTHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2021 6:00 PM

VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

PARTICIPATING FINCOM MEMBERS: Lois Stearns, Jack Spanbauer, Bernhard Porada and Tony Matteo (7:07pm)

FINCOM MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Campbell and Sue Kaczinski

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alexander Meisner, Heath Cummings, and Barbara "Bee" Jacque

PVRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Julie Burke, Co-Chair, Northfield Rep; Reina Dastous, Northfield Rep

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN VIDEO CONFERENCE: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Jonathan Scagel, PVRSD Superintendent; Kevin Burke, PVRSD Principal; Megan Desmarias, NES Principal; Tanya Gaylord, PVRSD Finance Director; Ariel LaReau, PVRSD Curriculum Coordinator; Sandra Wood, Town Secretary; Beth Walker, FINCOM Secretary; and Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

This meeting was broadcast live via Facebook and on BNCTV

FINCOM called their portion of meeting to order. The Selectboard called their meeting to order.

Stearns read the following statement as per the agenda:

"Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL, C30A. s20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Northfield Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation. These minutes will be posted on the Town of Northfield Website as soon as possible after the meeting"

• **INTRODUCTION**

- All those present introduced to one another
- Stearns had sent questions via email to Scagel ahead of time in hopes it would be helpful in what the PVRSD members could be prepared to answer.

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FY22 PVRSD BUDGET**

- Discussion as to if enrollment is down, why does assessment go up?
 - Factors such as union contracts & fixed costs, state mandated costs and increase to transportation costs.
- Discussion on Capital projects
 - No major capital projects at this time. In 3-5 years the roof may be reviewed to see how it is; last year an engineer confirmed it to be in excellent condition.
- Discussion on Assessment; increase of \$236,578 for Northfield
- Discussion on school choice – in and out of district
- COVID funds received will be used for summer programs, after school tutoring, HVAC Ventilation
- Meisner inquired about student morale
 - 4/5/2021 Elementary students back full time
 - 4/26 Pioneer students back full time
 - Survey that went out a couple weeks ago had an 89% return rate of students; percentage has actually increased and is about 94% per Scagel
- Laroue announced that PVRSD was granted a \$100,000 community career and technology grant that will be used to utilize community partnership. Such possibilities include an outdoor classroom, bio-med learning and ropes course. Laroue also advised that there is a new ELA curriculum, social/emotional, anti bullying workshops and support.
- Brief discussion on the positives of bringing in world language at the Elementary level
- Scagel discussed Innovation Center that includes robotic lego's, engineer design, laser cutting/CAD projects, 3D printing and banner printing
- Stearns advised PVRSD members that the FINCOM voted to support the PVRSD FY22 budget
- Scagel and Julie Burke stated they would be at Annual Town Meeting
- Stephanie Winslow, was recently appointed to fill the vacancy for the 3rd Northfield representative of the School Committee. She could not attend tonight's meeting but Julie Burke wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the seat had been filled.
- MCAS scores, per Scagel, PVRSD has second highest scores in Franklin County
- All parties involved in this meeting would like to work together in the future and suggestions were made as to how often and when they should meet again to keep everyone updated on budget issues.

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A motion was made by Spanbauer, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the FINCOM portion of the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

Submitted by:
Bethany Walker
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 5/10/2021
Approved By: Janice R. Campbell