

Budget Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

The video recording of this meeting can be found at the BETV YouTube site [BAC Recorded Meeting 3/9/23](#)

### **BAC Meeting Packet 3/9/23**

**1. Welcome:**

Mr. Delaney opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Comments:**

Mr. Delaney opened the meeting up to public comment.

Izzy Higgins – Ms. Higgins is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Standish. To hear Ms. Higgins full statement please refer to minute marker 0:53 of the 3/9/23 meeting.

Ben Bussiere – Mr. Bussiere is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Hollis. To hear Mr. Bussiere's full statement please refer to minute marker 03:50 of the 3/9/23 meeting.

**4. Rules for Public Comments at BAC Meetings:**

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 4 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Rules for Public Comments.

**5. Ground Rules & Norms:**

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 5 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Ground Rules and Norms.

**6. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion by Mr. Burns seconded by Ms. McDonald

**To approve the February 16, 2023 Budget Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.**

All in favor and motion carries.

**7. Continue with Preliminary ED 279:**

Mr. Brockman continued the 2023-2034 Preliminary ED 279 discussion from the previous meeting as well as including the state statutes related to closing a school. The school closing statutes can be found on pages 10-13 of the 3/9/23 meeting packet.

Areas on the ED 279 that impacts MSAD 6 are a reduction in attending students and an increase in state valuations. Mr. Brockman noted that there is a shifting of state funding to local funding which is determined by the mil rate expectation.

Also of note is that the district just received an updated ED279 today (3/9/23). Mr. Brockman will need more time to review in order to incorporate changes in future packet information.

Questions/Discussion:

- Ms. Stiles would like to know where legal fee expenses are budgeted. This is a budgeted line that is located within Category 40/Recurring costs.

The full discussion can be viewed at minute marker 08:20 of the 3/9/23 BAC meeting.

[BAC Recorded Meeting 3/9/23](#)

**8. Review of Revised Baseline Budget:**

Mr. Brockman continued a review of the baseline budget beginning on page 29 of the meeting packet and can also be viewed at minute marker 18:20 of the recorded meeting.

Mr. Brockman briefly reviewed the initial draft of the baseline budget (does not include supplemental requests) which came in at an overall baseline increase of 2.83% and an overall increase to local assessments of 6.32%.

After having made reductions to the baseline Mr. Brockman reviewed the Baseline Revision 1.0 which shows an overall baseline increase of 2.15% and an overall increase to local assessments of 3.42%.

Within the evening's presentation Mr. Brockman was able to share on screen a draft Baseline Revision 2.0. noting that this revision was not in the packet and is a draft. This district has not received what health insurance rate increases are for the next school year.

Questions/Discussion:

- Ms. Havu at minute marker 29:08 inquired if salaries for outside placement (contracted staff) are budgeted within the salary lines. These expenditures are not budgeted within salary lines and a significant amount of this type of expenditure is funded through grant funding outside the general fund budget. Ms. Havu also inquired about the budgeted amount for substitutes and if those dedicated funds are all expended on paying for substitutes. Mr. Brockman responded that there is an increase in the substitute line budget to help address the inability to attract substitutes. Any unexpended funds are moved into the fund balance at the end of the year and will be used to offset future tax increases.
- Ms. Creutz at minute marker 33:25 noted that teacher negotiations would be beginning in the 2023-2024 school year and were there any salary concerns in the baseline going into next year and also have the negotiations been taken into consideration? Mr. Brockman responded that while this is a good question, he really couldn't go into any details as it would pertain to future negotiations.
- Mr. Leach at minute marker 37:00 had a question on the balance forward and wanted to know what was the lowest the fund balance has been. Mr. Brockman directed Mr. Leach to the historical data which shows a fund balance of 1,784,755 in 2019-2020. If the fund balance is too low it could impact the district's ability to cover short falls in revenues should they occur.
- Mr. Bussiere at minute marker 50:17 would like to know what exactly 80 Misc. Benefits on page 32 of the packet refers to and was it considered sick time/FMLA? Ms. Pooler responded that this is a life insurance item.
- Ms. Higgins at minute marker asked if accumulated unused staff sick time was paid out if an employee leaves the district? Yes, depending on the contract, a portion of sick does get paid out.

**9. Begin Review of Supplemental Requests:**

Mr. Gleason reviewed the instructional supplemental requests on pages 40-41 of the meeting packet. This discussion begins on minute marker 1:08:35. Mr. Gleason shared with the committee that given the meeting cancellation last week, he has since been able to reduce some of these requests by reallocating existing resources.

BEHS 1.0 Ed Tech III request: Mr. Gleason will try to utilize a full-time substitute position to fill this need.

BEHS Ed Tech III McKinney Vento: Currently this position is funded one-half through local funds and one-half through general funding. Mr. Gleason state's that there is a need in the district for this position and will be bringing it forward as a request to be fully funded through the general fund budget (an additional \$20,000) for 2023-2024

BEHS 1.0 TLC RREV Teacher request: Currently this position is grant funded. Mr. Gleason plans to utilize current resources for next year so there will be no additional impact in the general fund budget.

Hollis 1.0 Classroom Teacher: Mr. Gleason feels that the school can readjust current resources and will remove this request.

Hollis 0.6 Ed Tech / increase is hours: Mr. Gleason would like to make this existing 0.6 position into a full-time Ed Tech position and feels there is a need for this at Hollis Elementary.

SPED 8.0 Pre-K Expansion: This request involved increasing the current program from 4 days a week to 5 days a week and will add 2 additional Pre-K classrooms. Mr. Gleason has been able to gain some start-up cost funding for the Pre-K expansion through the state.

SPED 2.0 BCES Special Education Teacher: Mr. Gleason feels these are needed position to address increasing student needs. He noted that these positions may or may not be located at BCES and will be determined at a later date.

SPED 1.0 BCES: Sign Language Interpreter. Mr. Gleason shared that there is a student need for this support and the district currently has to pay a contracted service for this support.

DISTRICT – New Math Program: Mr. Gleason shared that since moving to a standards-based system the previous math program was found to be inadequate. A portion of the new math program will be funded through grant funds.

#### **Questions/Discussion:**

- Mr. Leach at minute marker 1:21:45 inquired if adding additional Pre-K students would increase our enrollment numbers and as such, state funding. Mr. Gleason responded that yes, that would be accurate.
- Mr. Burns at minute marker 1:22:36 asked for clarification on the budgeting for the Pre-K expansion. Mr. Brockman was able to show the committee on screen that he has created a revenue line to show any state fund received pertaining to the expansion. This will allow it to be tracked separately.
- Mr. Leach at minute marker 1:28:32 asked if there would be an opportunity to have Sign Language taught to students. Mr. Gleason and Ms. Napolitano reported that currently, there are students receiving some sign language learning opportunities at Buxton Center Elementary. Mr. Gleason felt this to be a great option as an additional language course addition for students and would look further into it.

#### **10. BAC Schedule and Budget Timeline:**

The BAC has agreed to add an additional BAC meeting for ***Thursday, March 23<sup>th</sup>***

**Next meeting:** Will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at Central Office

Moved by Ms. Stiles; seconded by Mr. Pendleton

**Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.**

All in favor and meeting is adjourned