

Hollis Brookline Budget Committee Organizational Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM

Members present: Steve Pucci, Greg McHale, Forrest Milkowski, Darlene Mann, Jim Solinas, Dan Peterson, Doug Davidson

Members absent: Ray Valle

1. First order of business was to elect a chair. Doug Davidson nominated Steve Pucci to be Chair, seconded by Jim Solinas. Forrest Milkowski nominated Greg McHale to be Chair, seconded by Dan Peterson.

A roll call vote was taken. Forrest, Dan, and Jim voted for Greg.

Doug and Darlene voted for Steve.

Steve and Greg abstained.

Greg was elected Chair 3-2-2.

2. Forrest moved that we nominate Steve Pucci for Vice Chair, seconded by Greg. Steve was elected 6-0-1, with Steve abstaining.
3. Greg nominated Jim Solinas to be Secretary, seconded by Dan. Forrest nominated Darlene, seconded by Dan. Jim Solinas was elected secretary 7-0-0.
4. Committee Chairman Greg McHale asked for a vote to accept the minutes of Feb 8th meeting as amended. Forest Milkowski made the motion, Doug Davidson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-3.
5. Committee Chairman Greg McHale asked asked for a vote to accept the minutes of Feb 15th meeting as amended. Forest Milkowski made the motion, Doug Davidson seconded. The motion passed 5-0-2.
6. Vice Chairman Steve Pucci introduced for conversation and resolution an issue with regards to posting minutes, data files, PDF's and slides to the Yahoo group. Ray Valle would be contacted by Greg and Jim to assist. It was also noted that copies of the minutes and slides should go to Doris at the SAU office.
7. Greg McHale inquired with the committee on primary objectives of the newcomers and previous members, what set of goals do they have in mind, requested to establish target areas of interest. Steve Pucci commented on process. More specifically, how is the budget committee going to set the path of creating the budget? Establish process to get data monthly. Continue tracking of the unreserved fund balance for the remainder of the year and establish process for the New Year. Also inquired as to if the remaining money will be spent and on what. School Board Representative Dan Peterson commented that the school boards intention at this time is not to spend the balance. Data points were discussed. Dan also commented on the upcoming year and a possible reduction on "healthcare spending" going from 17% projected to 11.5%. That was met with much enthusiasm and more specifics were generally discussed. Doug Davidson would like to see large line item history. He discussed

collaborative efforts in areas of buying power across the district and possibly engaging other cities and towns in a cooperative buying initiative. Also looking at ways across the SAU in areas of large line items to improve on. Jim Solinas and Darlene Mann both commented on gaining a better understanding of the processes used. Forest Milkowski commented on responsibility and no authority as a checkpoint and looking to understand how we can work with the school board to more effectively gain some of that position.

8. May meeting date is Monday the 17th. Ray Valle will bring a possible set of dates to this meeting that would allow the committee to be televised.
9. Homework - Come up with process for data requests, types and frequency.
10. Public input was heard from Marie Degulis . Very pleased to see level of activity, input and enthusiasm. Much more than anticipated.
11. Forest motioned to adjourn. Doug seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Jim Solinas / Secretary Hollis Brookline Cooperative Budget Committee.