



Town of Concord

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2022

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

**Agenda:** <https://www.concordma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/04072022-9581>

**Present:** Ms. Christine Reynolds [chair], Ms. Mary Hartman, Mr. Parashar Patel, Ms. Dee Ortner, Mr. Greg Guarriello, Ms. Kathy Cuocolo, Mr. Ray Andrews, Mr. Dean Banfield, Mr. Don Kupka, Ms. Peggy Briggs, Mr. John Hickling, Mr. Eric Dahlberg, Ms. Lois Wasoff, Mr. Brian Taylor, Mr. Amrith Kumar [scribe].

**Others present:** Kerry Lafleur, interim Town manager; Teri Ackerman, Select board; Concord Public School (CPS) Committee; Superintendent Dr. Laurie Hunter; Jared Stanton School finance director

### **Open Meeting**

At 7:01 pm Ms. Reynolds called the meeting was called to order with a roll-call vote.

### **Warrant Articles**

After discussion, Ms. Hartman made a MOTION which was seconded by Ms. Ortner that the Finance committee vote affirmative action on Article 24 as printed in the warrant. Ms. Reynolds called for a roll-call vote, and the vote was unanimous.

After discussion, Mr. Taylor made a MOTION which was seconded by Mr. Kumar that the Finance committee vote affirmative action on Article 25 as printed in the warrant. Ms. Reynolds called for a roll-call vote, and the motion passed with twelve votes in favor and two abstentions.

Ms. Reynolds welcomed the Concord Public School Committee and set the context for the discussion relative to the CPS budget and its growth trajectory. Mr. Patel reviewed a slide presentation about the CPS FY 2023 Budget, the remaining gap from the Finance Committee's budget guideline and the Finance Committee's desire to understand why the guideline could not be met. The Superintendent reviewed areas of the budget which would need to be adjusted to meet the guideline. She stated that she was not comfortable reducing the budget, due to the impact on student facing services. During the discussion, Mr. Patel and members of the Finance Committee reiterated that the goal of the guideline process was not to manage the budget line items, but rather to set a guideline for total spending – the line-item allocation was up to school management. A lengthy discussion ensued and at 9:24 pm, the School Committee adjourned and left the meeting.

After discussion regarding the meeting with the School Committee and whether to consider a compromise position reflecting both the CPS budget gap and the Guideline underage of the Concord Carlisle Regional high School. Mr. Kupka made a MOTION that was seconded by Ms. Briggs to authorize Ms. Reynolds to approach the School Committee with the proposal that the Finance Committee could endorse a budget that is \$172,000 above the guidelines contingent upon the School Committee closing the remaining budget gap. Ms. Reynolds called for a roll-call vote, motion passed with nine votes and four abstentions.

At 10:29 pm, there being no further business, a MOTION to adjourn was made by Ms. Cuocolo and seconded by Mr. Kumar. Ms. Reynolds called for a roll-call vote and the motion to adjourn was adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amrith Kumar