

Finance Committee School Choice Funding Sub-Committee September 2, 2021 @4:00 pm

Zoom meeting Present: Bob Groves and Susie Mosher

Minutes from 8/16/2021 approved as amended.

At the 8/16/21 meeting Susie was tasked with drafting a proposed statement to accompany the information packet. Susie's draft:

The Finance Committee's sub-committee for School Choice Funding has researched spending policies from area towns, (Hadley, Union 38, and the Amherst District). We would like to forward this information packet to Shutesbury Elementary School officials for their review and to enable them to draw up their spending policy for Shutesbury. This policy can guide their FY23 draft budget.

If school officials would like a discussion with the Finance Committee, we would be happy to meet.

Bob did not agree with the sentiments so he drafted his own. Bob's draft:

The Finance Committee's sub-committee for School Choice revenues has researched policies and budgets from area towns, (Hadley, Union 38, the Amherst District, Leverett and Pelham). All towns use a portion of School Choice revolving fund to support their annual budget.

School Committee should develop policy of how to support SES budget with Choice revenue. Policy may include keeping funds in reserve in Choice revolving account against sudden decline in Choice revenue.

Sub Committee also researched and read guidance from Mass DOE on School Choice.

We would like to forward this information in a packet to Shutesbury Elementary School officials and Shutesbury Finance Committee for their review and to enable them to draw up a policy for Shutesbury. This policy can guide their FY23 draft budget.

If school officials would like a discussion with the Finance Committee, we would be happy to meet.

Find attached copies of School Budgets of Leverett and Pelham and statement of choice policy from Hadley. Also attached excerpt and link from Mass D.O.E. guidance on School Choice.

We discussed the philosophical differences. Susie wants our statement to reflect that this policy is in the hands of the school committee. Bob wants our statement to reflect the role of the town in the financial matters including the school budget.

We looked at some possible edits. Susie will make a second attempt. If Bob agrees then we will send the materials out to the Fin Com for their next agenda, 9/7/21.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35. Minutes submitted by Susie Mosher