



**Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Community Room, Scituate Public Library  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
7:00 pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Jerry Kelly, Vice Chair; Anthony Antoniello; Patrice Metro; Elise Russo; Jamie Gilmore; Sean deLacy; Mike Westort

**Committee Members Absent:** Lincoln Heineman, Chair

**Also in Attendance:** Theresa Nielsen; Mark McKeever; Frank Middleton, Esq; Tim Lopes; Ron Griffin; Superintendent; Paul Donlan, Director of Business & Finance; Tom Hickey, South Shore Vocational

**Not in Attendance:** Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator (entered the meeting at approximately 7:15); Nancy Holt, Finance Director

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jerry Kelly**

**A motion to accept the agenda was made by Jerry Kelly, seconded by Elise Russo; Unanimous vote (6-0)**

**A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 1/31/19, was made by Jerry Kelly seconded by Jamie Gilmore; Unanimous vote (6-0)**

**South Shore Vocational- Tom Hickey**

**Budget:**

Scituate projected increase is 2.8%, which is a variance of \$22,969 from the prior year.

**Governance: \$105,000**

Non-resident tuition higher and is used as an offset, tuition is set by the State

- Marshfield
- Hingham
- Pembroke
- Duxbury

Regional Transportation is higher \$489,000; two payments will be received from the State and will be used to off set expenses.

- Revenue is more than off-setting the increase and we are asking for \$92,444 less in District Assessments

- Regional agreements from 8 towns.
- Scituate share of operating costs: 7.75%
- Debt service: 7.58%
- Capital Costs: 7.14%
- Scituate FY 20 Contribution: \$642,060

Transportation is based on receiving 70% from state: Scituate transportation assessment: \$16,996

Scituate's enrollment is in mid 40's and has been for the past few years

### **Mike Westort entered the meeting at 7:12 PM**

Capital requests:

- Field upgrade, currently only have 2 fields
- Funding for stabilization fund, \$12M for item upgrades, original roof and windows and still on septic system. The school was built in 1962 and they do not have enough space. MSBA [Mass School Building Authority] still has not accepted them into program, but will be prepared if they do
- Flooring abatement in cafeteria and locker room renovation

Personnel Needed: 1 part-time employee \$25,000 for a 10-12 hours a week, working on programs

*Patrice confirmed that they only have one baseball field and one football field and inquired about softball. Tom said they have to take the goal posts down to use the softball field. He said they also only have one gym and they having been renting out the U in Hanover.*

*Patrice asked about bleachers and bathrooms in their field area. Tom said they have bleachers for the football field and a modest 2 or 3 row stand for baseball. The students built a concession stand and they are currently renovating a barn and making it into a locker room. They do not have bathrooms.*

*Patrice asked if they were competitive with similar schools, Tom said they are to scale, they do not have lights. They need to extend the bleachers and make them ADA compliant and they do not have turf. He also said that they play in a lower sports division, based on the MIAA.*

*Anthony asked what courses were offered, Tom said they have carpentry, manufacturing, metal/welding, auto, HVAC, electrical, design, cosmetology, computer and a few others*

*Jamie pointed out that they will be reduced to half the size for students after graduation, Tom said the chart did not include incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.*

*Jamie asked how they sell their product to Scituate, Tom said that Scituate is a good partner, a lot of students and families come to their presentations.*

Tom said we would like to better communicate that students can come in after grade 9 if they want to. He would also like to offer summer programs or split day programs in the future.

Tom said that half of the graduating class goes to a 2 or 4 year college and that the rest go directly to work or to the military.

Patrice asked what the graduation rate was, Tom said it was in the high 90%

Tom said he stays in touch with graduates to learn how he can continue to improve the program.

*Jerry asked about incoming freshmen, 60% come from Whitman and Rockland. And how they balance the numbers. Tom said that Scituate has the largest 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, they have a certain number of slots at the beginning of the process, the seats are re-proportioned if not used. Resident students are looked at first. They have to have a score of 60 to be admitted. If they do not get in, they can reapply as a sophomore. Tom said we can spread the word starting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to raise awareness.*

*Jerry asked what keeps him up at night, Tom said that making sure when kids leave they are fully prepared. Tom wants to start a financial literacy course and a civics course. You want to make sure you are part of a graduates success.*

*Mike Westort asked about out of district costs, Tom said it was close to \$17,000 and they are responsible for transportation. Mike said we are on an out of district/in district threshold. Tom agreed. The cost for Scituate could go higher than for out of district tuition in the future due to the State Regulation change.*

### **Review Petition Articles: Termination of Go Green Lease, Tim Lopes**

#### **Background:**

17 years ago he was partners with Paul Nielsen, and they paid rent to Theresa Nielson, they parted ways and Paul kept his business and stayed on Stockbridge Road.

Because her son has a similar business, Tim feels that Theresa has a personal vendetta against him.

He said that in the past 10 years he has received poor treatment from the Nielson family. He has had to get harassment orders to stop Mrs. Nielson because he has received letters, harassment of employees, and incidents with tailgating and purposely driving past his house. He said he had 30 more examples of harassment.

The benefits of Go Green replacing the transfer station for green waste are still in place:

- Open 7 days a week
- Open longer hours
- Pay the town close to \$100,000 in rent
- Town does not have the expense of grinding the green waste and paying to have it hauled away
- Saves the Town about \$150,000

Tim feels that the silent majority supports Go Green, other than the 24 signatures on the petition.

*Anthony said that at times it is hard to get into the area, there is not much space to dump. Tim agreed and said he met with the Town Administrator to fix the problems. He said he is still trying to keep up with last year's winter and that he is inundated with materials.*

*Jamie confirmed that Tim did not charge to take in waste from the Town residents, Tim said that is accurate, unless you have a contractor in which case they would have to pay. You also need a dump sticker to dump green waste.*

*Patrice asked what else he sells, Tim said they manufacture two types of mulch, firewood and loam.*

*Patrice said that the DEP document said that there was on-going monitoring and a request to reconstruct the stock piles, Tim said the person at the DEP had been really helpful and his primary concern is with the initial material that comes in. It should not be in that state for more than 90 days, but it is hard to get everything through the grinder in a timely manner in the winter.*

*Patrice asked if Tim had spoken to him since August, Tim said he came by in November and he was pleased with the progress that had been made.*

*Patrice asked about the fire department coming out to the site, Tim said that he works closely with the Fire Chief and since he purchased the grinder they have had significantly fewer issues and he also said that two of the previous fires could have been arson.*

*Elise asked if he needed a permit, and Tim said he does not need one for mulch. He said he contacted DEP and they told him he did not need a composting permit.*

*Jerry asked if he was maintaining the insurance, Tim said yes*

*Jamie said he thought it was an unfortunate situation and it seemed like it could be a family issue, Jamie asked Tim to assure the Committee that he was trying to keep his business tidy and in order, Tim said he is trying, he said he lives in this Town and he is at work every day, he is not an absentee owner. He wants his children and the Town to be proud of his business. He knows it is not perfect, but the Board of Selectmen feel that his business is an asset to the Town.*

*Elise wanted to know the difference between mulching and composting and why the lease says composting. Tim said it was used as a global term -the green waste is made into something that he can sell. Composting is a different process and dark mulch is in more demand.*

*Mike asked why this was coming to the Advisory Board, Jerry said because it is a Citizen's petition.*

**Patrice asked if we always have to vote on a petition and if all citizen's petitions go to Town Meeting for voting and Jerry and Jim said yes, because with valid signatures it goes on the Warrant.**

### **Budget Reviews:**

#### **Scituate Public Schools – Ron Griffin and Paul Donlan**

Ron started by saying that his presentation is also shared with the public.

Budget Request for FY 20 is \$42M

High level overview of budget:

- Level Services Budget
- 2.9% increase

- Additional services recommended to school \$326,373
- Personnel Services: 515 staff members which is 82% of budget
- Contractual Services
- Materials and supplies 4.5% of budget

Priorities:

- Innovative Curriculum
- Engaging pedagogy
- Developing resilient, balanced students
- Flexible learning spaces
- Global community engagement

Enrollment has leveled off in the last 5 years, with a modest increase

*Jerry asked about Cushing and the technology line item going up, Paul Donlan said that licenses have increased and also that it is allocated back to other schools and that it is possible that the allocation is incorrect.*

Funding resources:

- Tax payers
- Grants \$2.3M
  - State and Federal
  - We budget conservatively
  - Fluctuates a lot year to year
- Offsets
  - Fees charged for services \$1.3M
  - Try to find ways to reduce
  - None of the fees fully support a program

Top priorities requested:

- Two Adjustment Counselors (full-time) currently the 2 counselors cover all 4 elementary schools
- 1 classroom special educator for language based needs (full time) could serve out of district and receive \$29,000 per student to offset salary. Could dissolve if not needed in the future
- 1 Athletic Director (full-time) currently the vice principle is doing the job, sport programs could be expanded
- 1.2 Library Paraprofessionals (full-time), currently we do not have enough for all elementary schools to access the library every day

Ron said that we are in the middle for per pupil spending compared to other towns.

*Jerry asked if the School Committee was in support of the budget, Rich Hebert, Chairman said he thought it was a well put together document.*

Mike asked what percentage of children go to full day kindergarten, Ron said that they currently have 9 half day students and 230 full time students. He said it may not be the same educational experience, but there is need for half day kindergarten for some families. Mike thinks it should not be optional and feels the child will be behind if they do not go full time. Ron said you may not be

behind, it depends on the child and the family. We do not have the resources to fund full time, but if we did we should still offer half day. Mike brought up the fact that residents pay taxes and then pay a fee for full time kindergarten and felt that we need a plan to fund it in the future. Ron said they could consolidate the elementary schools which would allow them the opportunity to provide free full day kindergarten.

*Patrice confirmed that the children that go half day, go for free, Ron said yes.*

*Jamie asked what if a parent cannot afford to send a child to full day kindergarten, Ron said they offer a sliding scale. Children can be on IEPs, or reduced or free lunch or a family may have other circumstances.*

*Anthony asked what a Charter School was, Ron said they are independent schools with a specific focus that are publically funded with state tax dollars. The money follows the child, if they decide to go to a charter school.*

*Elise asked about the slight increase in enrollment and if the budget was built around the 1.5% increase, and Ron said just kindergarten.*

*Elise further said that there are a lot of new building projects, Ron said we have taken that into account and we are changing to a modest increase.*

*Anthony asked if the school department could itemize the budget for the Town Meeting , Ron said they will do one page summary like last year.*

*Jamie asked about security in the schools, Ron said it is very good. He further explained that they have upgraded the classroom doors with locks, met with first responders, changed protocols and trained with the Scituate police department. Jamie asked about the salary of the officer, Ron said that the School Resource officer's salary comes out of the school budget, her supervisor is the Chief of the Police, but she checks in and out with the principal every day. Paul Donlan added that they upgraded the security feed with the addition of the new middle school.*

*Patrice asked how many METCO students were in Scituate, Ron said 64.*

*Patrice asked what the Kindergarten age was and how old do children have to be before they are required to be in school, Ron said 5 they have to be in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at 6.*

*Patrice asked about devices in school, Ron said they do BYOD (Bring your own device) to school and a large majority used are the students own devices. Ron said they have devices to loan or to lease if the student does not have a device..*

*Mike asked what percentage is spent on special education and if it was a reasonable amount. Ron said the percentage is 14% (400 children) Ron said it is 25% of the budget. Mike said that the special education budget gets larger and everything else gets smaller.*

*Jamie asked how you would justify doing anything differently. Ron said it is hard, but the outside tuition has gone down in FY20. It is federally mandated to provide services outside. Mike said you*

*should try to provide as many services within district as possible. Jerry said you cannot always embrace inclusion , it depends on the child's needs.*

Ron said that Circuit Breaker is also in place, he said if a child has special needs that are 4 times the cost of a typical child you can apply for circuit breaker and the State will defray some of the costs. They may change it so it moves to 3x than 2x than 1x, so eventually the State will cover the full cost. It has not been funded fully so currently they can only provide 72% .

*Jerry asked about non-resident tuition declining, Ron said that children are graduating and that towns are building in-house programs for special needs children.*

### **New Business:**

Patrice said she does not feel confident about having enough info to judge the Go Green Petition. She asked Jim about the fire department and if they charge, Jim said no

*Patrice said that the lease states composting, but Go Green only does mulching, was the lease expanded, Jim said that is a Board of Selectmen question. He further said that Town Meeting cannot vote to cancel a contract, but that Advisory still has to vote on it and give an opinion.*

Jamie said the moderator might chose to have a discussion but no vote. Jerry asked if they can amend it on the floor, Jim said they can. Jerry said they could amend it to have the selectmen pursue it further since the contract cannot be terminated.

### **Attendance for February 14th Meeting:**

Patrice - Y

Anthony - Y

Elise -Y

Jamie –Y

Sean – N

Jerry – Y

Mike --Maybe

**Jerry asked for a motion to adjourn, Jamie Gilmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM, Anthony Antonello seconded the motion; Unanimous Vote (7-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lianne Cataldo (Recording Secretary)

### **On-going outstanding Items:**

- Lincoln asked for the balance in the Conservation Fund and the Driftway Park Fund
- Lincoln asked Brad to talk to Jim and Town Counsel regarding the option of stopping further building in Scituate due to the water restrictions
- Lincoln said the Town gave up \$200,000 by not selling the small parcel of land in Greenbush back to the MBTA and asked Brad to look at this issue when they negotiate.
- Flexible Open Space Article: Lincoln asked for the language as soon as it is available.

### **Referenced Materials**

- Agenda
- Minutes from 1/31
- Petition Article documents for Terminating Go Green Lease
- South Shore Regional Vocational School District Budget presentation
- Scituate Public Schools Preliminary Budget