



**SANDWICH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2022
SANDWICH TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Present: B. Guerin, N. Crossman, M. Anderson, E. Collupy, L. Wing, J. McCormick, J. Shea, A. Chaprales
G. Dunham, Town Manager; W. Jennings, Finance Director; Dr. P. Gould, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Guerin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

MAR 04 2022

10 H 23 M AM ef
RECEIVED & RECORDED

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from February 1, 2022 were deferred.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

1. Selectmen meet on Thursday. There is new information on the budget from the recently received Cherry Sheet. Upper Cape Tech has come in with revised numbers.

FY '23 SCHOOLS BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Gould has come before the Committee with the proposed school budget. Her presentation has three major parts – overview, budget, and capital.

Overview: Resignations of senior personnel with replacements at lower pay have made the budget preparation easier this year. Covid has impacted the budget with the need to provide personal protective equipment, sanitization, technology for remote learning, staffing and air quality issues. State and Federal relief funding has assisted with this, and all will be spent. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding has come in phases; the current phase (Phase III) will pay for continued HVAC/ventilation upgrades at Oakridge and Forestdale, summer and after school academic programming, and the Forestdale playground. School enrollments have begun to level off and this is projected to continue; enrollment at charter schools has decreased. Dr. Gould presented several charts that looked at staffing, per pupil expenditures, and district services. Compared with other Cape towns, Sandwich's per pupil expenditure and staffing are average; staffing over the years has decreased (13% leadership and 3% teaching). There has been increased budget pressure related to increases in numbers of students with special needs as well as higher numbers of students with economic issues. Sandwich is unique for Cape towns because 86% of homes are year-round, unlike other towns with second homes that do not require services. Mr. Guerin commented that, because of this, he doesn't think comparing with other Cape towns is effective and he would like to see more comparable matches in the future.

Budget: The proposed budget is 2.96%, just under the 3% recommended by the Tri-Board. Salary reductions and more realistic special education placements have contributed to this; however, custodial services and technology have increased. Dr. Gould presented a chart illustrating the budget percentages over time and their difference from level services; this year the budget reflects a level service budget.

Capital: The capital planning chart looks at a 15-year program. There are no firm numbers for some of the items, but quotes will be coming. When that happens there will be links to the back-up information.

Comments from the Committee: The Committee expressed some concern about the following:

- Promoting the value of a Sandwich education to younger students moving through, so to keep them in the system and not go to charter schools or other schools for choice. This has been and is being addressed in a variety of ways.
- Providing an education that looks at future careers to keep people on the Cape. This needs to be correlated with providing affordable housing, as does providing housing for the educators.



- What will happen to the budget when retirements decrease? Dr. Gould believes this will be all right for several years.

Mr. Dunham spoke about the charter school assessments (fewer students, higher assessments) and the Chapter 70 formula. Committee members congratulated Dr. Gould on her retirement and thanked her for her service to the Community.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: DPW and Fire next week (2/15). Mr. Dunham has met with the DPW and is reviewing the Fire information, so the Committee will get packets on Friday. The week after (March 1) will be a discussion of school and golf course capital requests. On March 8th will be Upper Cape Tech and Police.

Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated for Old Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated for new Business

None.

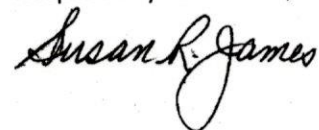
ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Crossman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Collupy seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Note: Finance Committee meetings are recorded and available for viewing in their entirety on the Sandwich Community Television website: <https://sandwichcommunitytv.org>

Respectfully submitted,



Susan James

Supporting Documents:

School Budget (58 pages)

School Budget Spreadsheet (10 pages)

All Finance Committee Meetings are broadcast on Sandwich Community Television and are available for viewing on their website.