



Scarborough Board of Education

Finance Committee

January 7, 2019

5:30-6:30 PM

Prepare by reading the agenda

Objective/Activity

Review Plus/Delta from last meeting:

Plus:	Delta:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to our new committee members• Started on time and ended on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• none

Objectives:

- Plan for Joint Finance Committee Meetings
- Learn more about idea of Budget Advisory Committee
- Provide intro to FY19 Quarter 2 financial report

From December 6 meeting:

- Review slide decks from FY19 budget presentations

Communications Committee update - Communications team was just finishing up their meeting as we started ours. We have arranged to connect for a budget outreach conversation at the next Communications meeting on January 14.

Joint Finance Committee Meetings

New Town Council committees were set on December 19 - Finance is Shawn Babine (Chair), Peter Hayes and Don Hamill. Sarah has reached out to Shawn for first steps on this year's collaboration.

Find dates to suggest to TCFC

- Town Council will have their first FC meeting on Monday January 14.
- Second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm was suggested by Shawn Babine for Joint Finance Committee meetings. We assume the meetings should be held in Chambers and broadcast or taped. February 13 is the second Wednesday, but our team has schedule conflicts, so we will suggest February 11 instead. March 13 is okay for everyone.

Brainstorm high-level meeting topics for first joint TCSB FC Meeting

- Review [norms and goals](#)
 - [December 2017 Joint Finance Committee Agenda](#)
- Report out on Listen To Learn sessions and school staff listening sessions (Tom & Julie)



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- Talk about structure of the Town Finance Committee's budget department review process.
- Prep for May budget outreach days - need to schedule dates & locations. Take time for a debrief on last year's sessions, maybe review slide deck. Consensus that community-based outreach sessions were more effective and efficient than formal Budget Forum.

[DRAFT FY20 Joint Budget Calendar](#)

[Current FY20 SPS Budget Calendar](#)

Budget Advisory Committee

What are the vision, purpose, desired outcomes?

- Town/School advisory team, or just school budget?
- How would members be selected?
- Discuss parameters for committee work & deliverables

This topic was added to the agenda due to the interest from other board members and community members in the past who have expressed interest in starting a BAC.

Team felt that it seemed wrong to have a citizen committee just for the school budget, but not sure how Town Councilors feel about the idea. Plan to discuss this at first Joint Finance Committee meeting. If the Town is not interested, we may still see value in the idea. The school side has lots of interest and access to skilled facilitators, and we are certainly in need of support for passing the school budget at referendum.

Amy shared some info about a successful BAC at Bonny Eagle as an example of her thinking. Her stated goals were to encourage long-term planning and aid communication. Discussion about the fact that MSAD 6 is a multi-town school district and may have different needs than Scarborough for a committee of this type. Review of the Bonny Eagle material shows that they have weekly seminars to help the BAC understand what's in the budget. It appears the effect is to create knowledgeable ambassadors who can report back to the individual communities in SAD 6.

Discussion about what informal input/advisory structures we already have in place in Scarborough and how a BAC would fit in. We are already inviting citizens in to talk with us regularly, just not via a structured committee. Could we draw a larger sample of citizens to the outreach sessions we already do if we sent out specific invitations? Worry about how the committee would be defined - seems that some advocates want a BAC to have decision-making authority of some kind, and might be disappointed with an advisory group. Need to be sure that nature of the committee's work is understood and clearly communicated. Similar to current listening sessions with the community; we want people to trust that they are being heard even if their individual ideas do not "make the cut" in a proposed budget.



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Feeling that it may be too late in this budget year to create a formal committee, since it appears first steps would be to develop a SB policy. Suggestion to go back to people in the community who have proposed a BAC and find out more about their vision for a Scarborough committee. We will also discuss the idea at our first Joint Finance Committee meeting, then bring the idea to the SB policy committee if we want to move forward.

Action for FC members to reach out to community members to understand their vision for BAC.

Discussion about the value of long-range budget projections. Two year projections have been done in the past but were not especially effective due to volatility of turnover in staffing and students, and changes in programming. District needs are student-driven, whether it be class sizes, special services or other programming. There is certainly room to articulate long-range strategies for curriculum and programming - things like World Language K-12, STEM K-12. We could set financial goals and targets with larger items, but it hasn't been especially helpful to have line item projections. Difficulty with setting long-term priorities knowing that we have limited resources financially; new initiatives get pulled back and given lower priority compared with existing programs as we try to minimize cost increases.

Discussion about the changing needs of students in our schools today, not just special education but mental health and social/emotional learning for all students. During the first Listen-to-Learn session a question came up about adding programs for sports in lower grades. Meanwhile, we are hearing from teachers, parents and students that kids are overcommitted, stressed out and anxious. Pressure to excel in academics & activities is already starting at K-2, and social pressures increase as kids get older. How do we balance the wish for students to have lots of varied learning opportunities with the health costs of too much on their schedules? Julie gave an example of the fact that the High School's Natural Helpers club is meeting on Sunday nights because that's the only time kids can fit into their schedule. This has been an ongoing theme in recent leadership conversations...

FY19 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Delivered draft copies to the team - assignment to read and suggest any edits before we publish the report.

Budget Process Slide Deck Review - defer to later meeting

- FY19 LC/SB Workshop [Part 1 - starts on slide 26](#) [Part II](#)
- [FY19 SB 1st Reading Presentation](#)

Planning Our Next Meeting:

- February 7, 2019 from 5:30 to 6:30
- Tentative dates in April for SBFC budget review



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Public Comment

No members of the public in attendance.

Assess what worked well about this meeting and what we would like to change for next time:

Plus:

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Delta:

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