

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, February 16, 2022

7:01 PM

Virtual, via Zoom

Members present: Joint meeting with the Finance Committees of Bolton, Stow and Lancaster for a presentation on the Nashoba Regional School Budget

Call to order: Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The entire meeting can be viewed by going to:

[Bolton Access TV - Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

### Agenda Item #1: Meeting agenda

- This is a special meeting with the superintendent of Nashoba Regional School District Kirk Downing and the Finance Committees of the participating towns, Bolton, Stow and Lancaster.
- Bolton is hosting the meeting this year, but it will rotate between the towns on an annual basis. Because Bolton is hosting Brian Boyle will chair the meeting.
- There will be not votes in this meeting as this is for informational purposes, so the participating towns have a better understanding of the school budget.

### Agenda Item #2: Presentation by Kirk Downing

- Mr. Downing stated that the public meeting on the school budget will be held on March 1, 2022.
- The total school budget is \$59,222,941 and is made up of the following categories:
  - Foundation budget which is determined by the state based on, in part, the wealth of the town
  - Chapter 70 funds
  - Transportation reimbursement.
  - Other funds and reimbursement
  - Variable town assessment
- Bolton's total assessment in FY22 of \$16,317,623 is broken down into the following categories:
  - Foundation budget assessment = \$9,347,864
  - Variable budget assessment = \$6,766,010
  - Debt assessment = \$203,749
- Bolton's foundation budget assessment has increased approximately 15% since FY18.
- Bolton's enrollment in FY22 is 5170 which is a decrease from 5258 in FY18.
- Bolton's variable budget assessment has increased approximately 18% since FY18 and is approximately 33% of the total variable assessment.
- The biggest budget item is staff salaries.
- NRSD received more Chapter 70 funds than in the past.

- Bolton's FY23 total assessment is expected to be \$17,031,687, which is a 4.38% from the previous year. It is expected that these numbers will change and possibly result in a slightly lower assessment.
- Food service costs are fairly stable and are still receiving federal funding for expanded lunch programs.

Agenda Item #3: Question and Answer

- Question regarding the proposed Dean of Students position.
- Mr. Downing suggested that spreadsheets would be provided containing a good deal of the discussed information once the budget has been approved.
- Concerns expressed by Bolton and Lancaster regarding the increased school budget assessment.
- Question regarding ongoing legal costs and Mr. Downing stated that new monitoring has reduced legal costs.
- Mr. Downing reminded the participants that budget is created by the school board.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Approved by the Advisory Committee