Essex Westford School District Budget Work Session  
February 11, 2020 at 6:30pm  
Essex High School Library

MINUTES

Board Members:  Martha Heath, Kim Gleason, Al Bombardier, Todd Odit, Diane Clemens, Patrick Murray, Keeley Schell, Laura Printon (Student Representative), Tilly Krishna (Student Representative)  
Staff: Beth Cobb (Superintendent), Brian Donahue (COO), Deb Anderson (HR Director)  
Public: None  
Absent: Andre Roy, Brendan Kinney, Liz Subin

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| I    | **Call to Order**  
Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. |
| II   | **Executive Session: Negotiations**  
The board entered executive session at 6:34pm for the purpose of negotiations per Title 1 § 313. (1) Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. The board exited executive session at 7:07pm. No action was taken. |
| III  | **FY21 Budget Work Session: Follow-Up, Overview, Review**  
- Brian shared a slide presentation highlighting the enterprise funds including Child Nutrition, Skating Rink, and SkillTech. Each fund has a positive fund balance.  
- There was discussion about the projected tax rate and the impact of CLA in our communities. The board sets budget guidance early in the process and one value was not to shift the burden of the statewide health care award onto instruction. Todd expressed concern about the tax increase. There was discussion. Keeley and Kim voiced support for the budget process.  
- Todd left the meeting at 8:00pm.  
- Brian presented an update on Promise of Merger and asked for feedback from the board on improvements as we present it to the community.  
- Brian shared a draft of the Annual Warning that will be finalized for action at the next meeting. Kim noted that one area of focus could be net spending per pupil which is listed in the warning.  
- Martha shared the forward movement toward adopting the weighting study and she suggested the board consider a resolution or letter. The negative impact on EWSD would be immense. |
| III  | **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm. |

Upcoming Meetings:  
- **Regular Board Meeting:** February 18, 2020, Essex High School Library, 6:30-9:30pm

RETN films every regular board meeting and broadcasts them live.  
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