

**TOWN OF LAKEVILLE**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 30, 2019**

On April 30, 2019, the Finance Committee held a meeting at the IMC at Apponequet High School to meet with the Freetown Finance Committee. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vlahopoulos at 7:05 PM. Finance Committee Members present: George Vlahopoulos, Katherine Desrosiers, Cassandra Hudson, Jennifer Sipiora and Darren Beals. Member absent: Cassandra Hudson. LakeCAM was recording the meeting.

Also present: Freetown Finance Committee Members: Gary Martin, Craig Rosen, Huguette Lord, Kent Wilkins, Katie Calheta, Robert Alderson, and Recording Clerk Aleesha Freire, Superintendent Richard Medeiros and Director of Finance and Operations Ashley Lopes.

**Discuss FY 20 Regional School Budget Request**

Ashley Lopes explained the bottom line budget number has not changed since the previous version; however, allocations were adjusted to accommodate a number of new staff positions, due to the School Committee recommendations. There was a reduction to both Freetown and Lakeville's Town Assessments. The increase from March to April's number was explained by the Required Local Contribution by the State increasing for both Towns. The per pupil cost rose to \$30.00 from \$20.00. If the Senate numbers change in the meantime, she will provide updated information to both Committees. Ms. Lopes reviewed the details of the budget including teacher salaries and the cost of books for advanced placement classes.

Superintendent Medeiros explained the Region has a growing population of English Language Learners and more students with more needs. He also stated he believes we are going to see more students going forward with continued needs for additional resources. Also, through the census we can anticipate the onboarding kindergarten needs will keep going up. We currently have five (5) sections, and we are going to need an additional section in the upcoming school years. In general, we have been around 2,800 students since 2011. We have higher costs because of the services the schools are required to provide. There are more State requirements in the school buildings that are not covered by the State. Per pupil, we're below the State average. An example; FY 17 we were \$12,901.00, while the in-district State average was \$15,459.00.

Mr. Alderson questioned the E&D balance of \$500,000 to \$700,000 to be certified in the fall. Ms. Lopes explained the State gave additional funds this year in Chapter 70 and Chapter 71 that we cannot access this year, so they will go directly into E&D.

Chairman Vlahopoulos explained Lakeville has a \$120,000 gap in their budget that they're trying to close. He suggested perhaps more of the School Choice money could be put back into the budget. The State might bring \$30,000 to \$40,000. This increase will increase our base making it harder to get to that level next year. With regard to the contractual obligations, the School is growing at a rate higher than Lakeville's revenues. The State is not contributing enough to offset the costs. The Lakeville Finance Committee is asking the School to work with us. This is a problem that's not unique to Freetown-Lakeville. Lakeville cannot afford it. Lakeville's budget is \$120,000 short, after the needs of the rest of the other Town Departments needs are satisfied.

Lakeville goes to its full Levy Limit. We embraced Marijuana, so the Town could sustain the increased costs coming from the School. Freetown could have gone to their Levy Limit.

Superintendent Medeiros stated he believes that is a reasonable conversation. The School Choice enrollment calculation does not include an expected growth. The Lakeville Finance Committee Chairman believes this is completely unsustainable, and the School needs to hear that.

Superintendent Medeiros gave an update on the heating system numbers. The School met with a vendor for a study and gave a number of around \$10,000. This would be split between the two (2) Towns.

The Freetown Finance Committee adjourned their Meeting.

### **Possible Executive Session**

At 7:55 PM, upon a motion made by Chairman Vlahopoulos and seconded by Member Beals, on a unanimous roll call vote, the Committee

VOTED: To enter Executive Session and not return to Open Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a) (3) to conduct strategy with respect to threatened litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board, and the Chair so declared. Polled vote: Member Beals – Aye, Member Desrosiers – Aye, and Chairman Vlahopoulos – Aye.