The meeting was called to order at 10:43 AM. Those present included School Committee Chair Matt Kelley, Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Secretary Linda Chow, members Sharon Gray and Jim Roberti; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendents Joan Dabrowski and Cindy Mahr; and Lyle Kirtman, CEO of Future Management Systems.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
No one was present who wished to speak.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT**
Mr. Kirtman and the Committee discussed how understanding one another’s values and personality traits can impact the way the School Committee functions, and how norms could be used to help address potential conflicts that may arise in the future.

*Ms. Mahr and Dr. Dabrowski arrived at 12:30 PM, and Mr. Kirtman left at 12:35 PM. The Committee recessed for lunch until 12:54 PM.*

**ASSIGNMENTS**
Mr. Kelley reviewed proposed changes to the School Committee assignments in light of Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr.’s departure from and Mr. Roberti’s election to the Committee.

Following a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to appoint Mr. Kelley and Ms. Chow to the Policy Subcommittee.

Following a discussion about how the School Committee can designate a non-committee member as its representative to various committees, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee **unanimously VOTED to** designate Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. as the School Committee’s representative to the Playing Fields Task Force until the end of the school year.

Likewise, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to designate Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. the School Committee’s representative to the Track and Field Phase II Project until the end of the school year.
And lastly, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to designate Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. the School Committee’s representative to the Sustainable Energy Committee until the end of the school year.

It was noted that Mr. Roberti will remain on the Town’s Planning Committee through the Special Town Meeting in mid-May.

Mr. Kelley announced that the Committee will discuss re-organization in June.

**School Committee Reports**

Ms. Gray updated the Committee on the Hunnewell project. The School Building Committee (SBC) will be discussing swing space in detail this evening. With cost estimates coming in, the SBC has developed a short list of viable options including: a) a modular school at Sprague; b) modular schools at both Sprague and Schofield; c) the “Late Hunnewell” option. Not wanting to start the conversation prematurely, the SBC is striving to gather enough information to be able to make informed decisions. Multiple factors will be taken into consideration before any decisions are made, for example, keeping grades together; looking at the school population grade by grade (grades 4-5 will not be returning to Hunnewell following construction); and making sure an option is educationally viable.

Dr. Lussier suggested another option to consider might be swing space at other schools, such as the music and art rooms or perhaps even classrooms at some schools due to declining enrollment. Hunnewell Principal Ellen Quirk has engaged with lots of families during the process thus far, and has found that faculty and families have expressed willingness to be flexible if it would help get into the new school as soon as possible.

As they wrapped up the discussion, the Committee members acknowledged how it will be important to look at risk on multiple fronts, including the impact on the Hunnewell community as well as on other schools, changes to traffic flow, and the potential loss of music / art rooms.

Ms. Martin informed the Committee that the WMS Piping Project bids were received earlier this week. The bids came in $1M less than the budgeted estimates – $3.2 vs. $4.2M. Tom Goemaat from the PBC and Kevin Kennedy from FMD presented Article 19 to Advisory.

Ms. Chow let the Committee know that, based on a conversation with Town Counsel, she does not have to recuse herself from discussions or decision-making regarding redistricting since it will be a town-wide effort. Since she still needs to recuse herself with respect to Hardy, it will be important to keep any discussions about the Hardy/Upham project separate from redistricting.
**Vote: Trip Approvals**
- Swiss Exchange Trip
- Academic Decathlon - National Competition

Following a brief discussion about the time sensitive nature of both trip approvals, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to suspend Policy IJOA on Field Trips requiring that all field trips get approval 30 days in advance.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to approve both field trips.

**Vote: Position Description Approval**
Upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to approve the position description for PreK-12 Coordinator for Curriculum, Assessment & Accountability.

**Vote: School Building Committee Appointment - Executive Director Meghan Jop**
Upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to approve the appointment of Executive Director Meghan Jop to the School Building Committee.

**Executive Session Minutes Review**
Following a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Chow and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to recommend that the February 12, 2019 ES minutes be released.

**WPS FY20 Budget**
Mr. Kelley shared some observations about the current status of the FY20 Budget:
- It did not appear Advisory discussed the school budget at its recent meeting
- A joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen does not seem likely before Annual Town Meeting (ATM)
- The Committee considered community reaction if it were to propose reducing the FY20 budget by cutting the Director of Diversity position

Dr. Lussier shared with the Committee the outcome of a discussion he had with his team about the FY20 Budget. The Administration arrived at 2 possible options:
Option 1 – School Committee carries forward Circuit Breaker (CB) funds to offset the budgetary gap of $154K (the difference between a 3.65% and 3.65% budget)

- likely to have more than $154K in CB funds; could be $200K or more
- there is a risk – would have to make cuts if this funding does not materialize
- would have to add all of the budgeted expenditures to next year’s base

Option 2 – If the first option does not work, would propose making these cuts:
- eliminate the position of Director of Libraries & Innovation – $120K plus benefits
- reduce Dreambox by $29K

The Committee reacted to the Administration’s proposed options. In general, members were supportive of the plan to try and carry forward at least $150K of CB funds, although concerns were raised about the perception of “pulling a rabbit out of the hat” and of not working in collaboration with the BOS. Following further discussion, the Committee decided to take formal action by reducing the 3.65% budget, but making ATM aware that the Committee will monitor the CB funds and may carry forward funds to offset the budgetary gap.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee unanimously VOTED to reduce its FY20 operating budget proposal to $76,803,930, plus $230,000 of anticipated health benefits, for a total of $77,033,930, and to reach that amount by eliminating the Director of Libraries position and reducing the appropriation for the districtwide Dreambox license by $29,084, said reductions to be made only in the event that additional revenues sources cannot be identified to fund the original budget proposal of $77,188,819.

ADJOURNMENT
At approximately 4:10 PM, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Chow
Secretary
Documents and Exhibits Used

- Trip approvals – Swiss Exchange Trip, Academic Decathlon – National Competition
- Position Description for PreK-12 Coordinator for Curriculum, Assessment & Accountability
- Draft FY20 Budget Presentation for ATM 2019
- Circuit Breaker Fact Sheet
- Municipal Medicaid (MuniMed) Fact Sheet