



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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**2020 BudCom Study Committee
Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2020**

Meeting attendees via Zoom: Drew Kellner, Eric Pauer, Matthew Mailloux, Karen Jew, Gaylord Sledge

Eric opened the meeting at 4:31p.m. Eric stated that we were meeting electronically under the Executive Order 2020-04, and the Emergency Meeting Orders #12 and #23 which allow for remote meetings. Eric asked each Board member to verify per the order where they are, why they are there, and if anyone is present with them. All members responded.

Review and approve minutes

Drew made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Karen seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

Review actions assigned at last meeting

Matt to update school data and provide pivot tables similar to town data

Karen provided actual enrollment for each school district. Matt updated the school pivot tables to use the enrollment numbers instead of the population data. One caveat is that the enrollment data is as of the beginning of the school year. For instance October 1, 2014 is used for 2015.

Matt – BLS has not posted the CPI-U information for June yet. He will continue to check and update the chart when the information is available.

Matt – School budget committee data is what was proposed, similar to how it is shown in the town data.

Matt – Brookline's 2020 budget appropriation was lower than the 2015 spending levels on an inflation adjusted and per pupil adjusted basis. Brookline's appropriations are on the lower half of the combined MS26 and MS27 data.

Questions/comments:

Eric – average daily membership (ADM) is something people are familiar with.

Karen – ADM is also available from DOE. SAU reports use actual enrollment.

Drew/Matt – ADM would not glean any additional insight.

Matt – review town versus school spending to see if budgets that go in divergent directions are common or unique to Brookline.

Drew – if you consider doing that analysis, limit it to towns that have school districts not co-op school districts.

Matt – the pivots are not adjusted for grade levels. Since we are comparing budgets against themselves (percentage change) this should not be an issue.

Matt to update town pivot tables to combine MS636 and MS737

Matt – provided a pivot table that combined MS636 and MS737 data.

Questions/comments:

Drew – Brookline is at the half or lower portion of both sets of either the towns or the school districts.

Drew to contact New Ipswich regarding their switch to an advisory committee

Drew – New Ipswich’s change from an official committee to an advisory committee was driven by qualitative issues and local political governance.

Other business

Matt – we might want to solicit feedback on specific points.

Drew – in two weeks’ time we could narrow down on a list of questions that we could push out to the public for input.

Eric – would the members of the Finance committee be interested in participating in an official budget committee.

Matt – will bring it up at the next Finance committee meeting.

Actions for next meeting

Gather information from towns with an official budget committee and unofficial budget committee to get their perspective on how well the committee works.

Drew - will contact Hollis budget committee to see if they will participate in our next meeting

Eric – will contact a couple of towns with official budget committees.

Gaylord – will contact Wilton budget committee.

Karen – look at towns with an advisory committee.

Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be July 23, 2020 at 4:30pm.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.