

ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 16, 2024, Joint Budget Meeting with Select Board and School Committee

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Nearman at 6:12 PM.

PRESENT **14 members of the committee were present:** Gail Butler, Louis Cabana, Brian Dunn, Daniel Green, Bruce Howard, Timothy Lawlor, Steve Nearman, Lorenzo Pizarro Christine Richards, Bethany Rogers, Ashley Shaw, Emily Tompkins, Jim Young, and Robert Zupperoli.

ABSENT **1 member of the committee was absent:** Joe Lalley

Town Manager Derek Brindisi reviewed the Select Board recommended budget with the Advisory & Finance Committee, School Committee, and the public.

Mr. Brindisi advised that the Select Board recommended budget include a Salary Reserve amount for the School budgets in the amount of \$1,200,000 in the event that contract negotiations exceed the expectation.

The presentation can be found here:

[Town of Plymouth 2024 Budget Proposal \(plymouth-ma.gov\)](https://plymouth-ma.gov)

Dr. Chris Campbell, School Superintendent, presented the School Committee Budget Presentation and noted that the School Committee has not voted on the budget at this time. Dr. Campbell advised that significant budget drivers and the upcoming contract negotiations need to be thoughtfully considered and included in the budget, which is challenging because they are based on presumptions. The School Committee has reviewed the Select Board recommended budget and is concerned that it does not meet the needs of the school budget. Therefore, they intend to explore additional information, in collaboration with the Town, prior to voting their budget.

The presentation can be found here:

<https://plymouthpublic.ic-board.com/attachments/f54dd005-c843-479a-a932-050b30670c3a.pdf>

There was a lengthy discussion between the boards regarding the school budget and the state of Town affairs.

Mr. Brindisi advised that the Select Board was presenting the budget to the Advisory & Finance Committee.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM

Submitted by
Jeanette White
Budget Analyst