
FinCom Meeting Agendas, School Impact

6 messages

Matt Gambino <matt.gambino@duxbury.k12.ma.us>

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To: "sullivan.betsy@gmail.com" <sullivan.betsy@gmail.com>, "FriendWeilerSr@gmail.com" <FriendWeilerSr@gmail.com>, "ntaylor@bu.edu" <ntaylor@bu.edu>, "jkjr317@gmail.com" <jkjr317@gmail.com>, kathleenglynn@hotmail.com, "apih444@gmail.com" <apih444@gmail.com>, "Sean.PE.Foley@gmail.com" <Sean.PE.Foley@gmail.com>, "cweilbrenner@gmail.com" <cweilbrenner@gmail.com>, theodorejflynn@gmail.com
Cc: amymacnab99@gmail.com, Fernando Guitart <fernando.guitart@outlook.com>, claddfiorini@gmail.com, Brian Glennon <brian_glennon@yahoo.com>, mmcgee63@gmail.com, René Read <read@duxbury-ma.gov>, mmackinnon@duxbury-ma.gov, Danielle Klingaman <dklingaman@duxbury.k12.ma.us>, "Michael A. Carbone" <MCarbone@duxbury-ma.gov>, reardon@duxbury-ma.gov

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for the work you have been doing these past few months to help our community members make an informed choice about whether to support the Finance Committee and Select Board's recommendation on a contingency budget. I am grateful for the Thursday evening meetings in particular, which have given folks an opportunity to dig deep into each town department's fiscal situation. The cascading effect is energizing: various groups in town are now coordinating their own "override sessions" and inviting our officials and employees to speak to their members directly. All good stuff.

I am concerned, however, that the contrast between the nonspecific agenda of the first Thursday meeting on January 9 (Schools) and the tighter format of the two meetings that followed (Safety, DPW, etc.) has created the impression that the School Committee and Superintendent were unprepared and made an unconvincing case compared to their counterparts in the other town departments. Last week, I met with the chairs of the two committees co-hosting an override session on February 4. I found myself explaining that Dr. Klingaman's "presentation" may have appeared disjointed compared to Fire and Police because she was not asked to prepare one! Perhaps you can imagine my challenge of providing a rational explanation without appearing to make excuses.

How you can help

I plan to participate in the February 4 session co-hosted by the Duxbury Republican Town Committee and an organization called "Freedom Rings." In that meeting, I anticipate having to explain why the school department didn't appear to "have it together" on January 9. I ask that you assist by making a statement of acknowledgment on January 30 that the first of what we might call the "Thursday budget meetings" got off to a well-meaning but improvisational start, and that the school department was unfortunately caught off-guard as a result.

Thank you in advance, and happy to discuss further.

Matt Gambino
781-635-2927

Attachments:

January 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda
January 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda

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Matt Gambino

Duxbury School Committee
matt.gambino@duxbury.k12.ma.us
(781) 635-2927

2 attachments

 **January 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda.pdf**
334K

 **January 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda.pdf**
259K