

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AT 6:57 PM  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: Chair Michael Concannon, Alderman Michael Anderson, Alderman Richard Gately, Alderman Edward Tedesco, Alderman Lindsay Higgins

Non-Voting Members present: Alderman Joanne Campbell, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, President Richard Haggerty

**On the memo regarding a stabilization fund for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School:** Appearing on behalf of Northeast Voke were Superintendent-Director David DiBarri and Director of Finance Jay Picone. Chairman Concannon said the City Council is curious whether funding will be required at this time. Supt. DiBarri said the memo was for informational purposes at this time and no appropriation is being requested for now. Supt. DiBarri said every community within the district will be asked to contribute based on enrollment to the stabilization fund for a new school, and Northeast Voke officials are starting the process now because it takes a long time to set up the fund. Supt. DiBarri said the reimbursement from the Mass. School Building Authority has been locked in at 72 percent, and could go even higher. President Haggerty said he strongly supports the construction of a new school. President Haggerty said the administration has done a wonderful job of updating the current building. President Haggerty asked if money in the stabilization fund could be used for any items outside of the new building. Supt. DiBarri replied money in the stabilization fund would have to be used for capital expenditures. He added work has been done to the existing building to make it look newer than it actually is. President Haggerty asked if the administration could cite any language that stipulates how the money in the stabilization account can be used. Mr. DiBarri replied there is language in the memo from Northeast Voke School Committee Chairman Deborah Davis that was sent to the Council indicating the stabilization fund can be used for expected and unexpected capital expenses. Mr. Picone said the administration would have to obtain approval from the state Dept. of Revenue to use any funding in the stabilization account for non-capital expenditures, and that would never happen. Alderman Anderson asked if the administration has been to any other cities and towns in the district. Supt. DiBarri said they will probably not start visiting other communities until February. Alderman Gately said the city of Woburn established an enterprise account and one of the problems in the past was the calculation of indirect costs, and that the fear is people will use indirect costs for other purposes. Chairman Concannon asked if the Council can add language to any bond authorization that states any contribution to the stabilization fund must be used for the new school. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Anderson to send a communication to City Solicitor Ellen Callahan Doucette to request an opinion whether the Council can add language to any bond authorization for the construction of a new Northeast Voke building that requires money from the bond to be spent only on the building, and not for expected and unexpected capital expenses; all in favor, 5-0. Alderman Anderson said he is leery of creating a savings account for Northeast Voke.

Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Higgins to adjourn, all in favor, 5-0. Chairman Concannon adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Vincent  
Clerk of Committees