Present: Brad Hibbard
       Tom Long
       Pam Griffing
       Dan Bigda
       Doug Aspinall
       Roland Sickenberger
Absent: Lori Loughlin

Selectboard Present: Phil Landine
                   Diane Vayda
                   Deb Provencher

Brad Hibbard called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 6:30.

This was a joint meeting with West Brookfield Advisory Committee, West Brookfield Selectboard, Warren Finance Committee, School Budget Committee, Superintendent Bret Kustigian and Financial Director Camie Lamica held at the Quaboag Regional High School Library.

Bret Kustigian chaired the meeting and called to order at 6:30 p.m. All present introduced themselves. Bret Kustigian gave a power point presentation of the School Revenue and Expense Summary for FY2019. He is recommending to the School Committee a level service budget. The School Committee will vote on the budget on March 18, 2018. Even with Warren’s Above Minimum Contribution of $812,914 and West Brookfield’s Above Minimum Contribution of $518,212, there is a $700,000 budget shortfall. This is the worst he has seen in all his years as superintendent. Eliminating $700,000 out of the budget would be a step backwards. His next step is to meet with the Budget Committee. The Regional Agreement states that kindergarten through grade six remain in the home town. In order to change this agreement, it would have to be voted on at a Town meeting. One proposal would be to close the West Brookfield Elementary School and bus students to Warren. Another proposal would be to have kindergarten through grade two stay at West Brookfield Elementary School, grades three to five attend Warren Elementary School and grades five and six attend Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Another option would be to have another district join us. Bret said he has looked into this but has not found another district interested. He is open to suggestions. General discussion held. West Brookfield does not want their school to close. West Brookfield cannot commit to an above minimum contribution at this time as their free cash has not been certified. Those present said they wanted time to review the figures and options provided at this meeting. It was agreed to meet again in three weeks. Bret thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long, Secretary