



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
2018-2019 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018  
Town Hall Auditorium

Date Approved/Released: 4/11/18

Date Approved/Hold: \_\_\_\_\_

School Committee Chair: [Signature]

1. Call to order: 6:00 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance

**Present:** Larry Murphy, Danielle LaPointe, Dawn Fronte, Greg Vine  
Richard Ikonen-Business Manager, \*\*Steven Haddad, Superintendent (Absent)

2. Audio/Video Disclosure

## **FY19 Proposed School Budget**

R. Ikonen presented a Year to Year Comparison from 2017-2019. The district received an approximately 2% increase of \$94,000 in the required Local Contribution due to the addition of 20 students as of October 1, 2017. This translated to a ¼% increase in Chapter 70 aid, equaling \$27,860. This required an increase in Net School Spending (NSS) of \$121,862 or ¾%. The district is roughly 2% over NSS for the last 3 years.

The Indirect Costs have decreased for the third year in a row by almost \$200,000, thanks to the diligent work of the Town Manager and Town Accountant.

It was noted the district does not have a goal for being over NSS, but tries to get as much as possible for the benefits the students.

Ryan Forsythe, parent of students in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Memorial School, stated that DESE recommend districts receive 4-6% above NSS, and asked if the district has what could be considered a strategic plan. R. Ikonen noted that Winchendon is at the low end of the average 23-25% above NSS. L. Murphy reviewed local district figures, noting the failed override last year. He added the district is trying to be responsible and uses funds to put in programs that directly impact the students. The administration has also made cuts that have really hurt, and is working to keep students here in district. He noted approximately 30 students have school are choice-in and fewer students are leaving the district.

Mr. Forsythe noted he and his wife are in education. They have a keen interest in curriculum availability, the social environment and spending that impacts student learning and ability to be successful. He absolutely believes his children are receiving a quality education, that the teachers have done wonderful, amazing things. His daughter in Pre-K will continue in the WPS.

Yasmine Khdeer, whose son is in Pre-K at Memorial, is running for State Representative with the Green Maple Party. She wants to push policy and bills to get schools fully funded.

R. Ikonen reviewed how the budget is created and funded. L. Murphy noted the school district would receive about 2.5 million dollars more if it got 23-25% above NSS.

D. LaPointe noted that Toy Town Elementary (TTE) was recognized nationally as an exemplar school for the success of its' breakfast program, and was asked to present at Woburn. L. Murphy reiterated that the current formula does not work for the poorer communities; they cannot compete with other school districts, school choice and vocational education. He added 'It is a fairness and equality issue, and a civic rights issue-our kids are not getting the same education as higher funded districts'.

R. Ikonen reviewed Personnel Changes, resulting from resignations, retirements and eliminated positions that resulted in a savings of \$160,000 or more. He explained specific figures, including the Food Service Secretary as a data entry error, and a Secretary salary line item. collaborative summer and in-state tuitions have decreased due to lower student enrollment. There is an increase in placement to private schools and member collaboratives. The Murdock Middle School team eliminated last year was distributed to available openings. The district is within what the cherry sheet said it should have; there were no positions cuts while positions were not filled. He answered questions from the committee.

L. Murphy will ask Thad King, MHS Principal, to look into why students are not enrolling in the visual and performing arts courses. R. Ikonen noted savings with the renegotiated rubbish removal contract. The anticipated electricity savings based on the solar farm contribution did not happen; the farm should be online by June 2018 and the district will realize saving this year based on the Town Manager. R. Forsythe commended the very helpful, useful and transparent budget document. R. Ikonen noted the anticipated increases from collective bargaining are included in the budget. He has to wait until the unions ratify the contracts before making the figures public. L. Murphy explained the Capital Planning Project and the process of the 5-year plan. Items this year include the snow plow truck, a truck for field maintenance, security cameras and upgrading the water bubblers. Questions about the Toy Town Elementary School budget were answered.

The Athletic Revolving Account reflects anticipated lower revenue and lower building rental.

G. Vine moved that the School Committee vote to accept and recommend the passage of the proposed FY'19 Winchendon Public Schools Department budget. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 4-0-0.

D. Fronte thanked R. Ikonen for the clear transparent budget format. L. Murphy echoed the comment.

6:52 pm G. Vine moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 4-0-0.

Submitted by: Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary