



## Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 5/7/24

Date Approved/Held:

School Committee Chair:

### School Committee Meeting Public Hearing on Proposed FY25 Meeting

April 2, 2024 - 5:00 pm  
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD MAY 16 2024 AM8:55

Attendance: Vice Chair Dave LaPointe, SC Member Anthony Findley, SC Member Adam LaPointe, Interim Superintendent Dr. Goguen, Interim Business Manager Liz Latoria

#### 1. Call to order

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3. Audio Disclosure

D. LaPointe reads audio visual disclosure, and guidelines for public comment.

#### 4. FY25 Budget Hearing.

- Dr. Goguen presents an overview of the proposed FY25 budget. Total proposed expenses for FY25 \$18,539,180.84, which are 2.4% lower than FY24 expenses. Proposed budget for FY25 is \$17,432,925.86. Net school spending is \$20,502,162. The Indirect cost estimates from the Town are \$3,453,262.14; the district gets an override credit of \$384.026 from the Town. The request is \$17,432,925.86, and in order to meet the projected expenses, the district will have to relying on the \$600,000 FY25 Circuit Breaker; \$227,389 School choice revenue; \$278,865 FY24 Rural Aid to balance the budget and operate the schools.

#### Public Comment:

- Teacher, non-resident. Shared there are curriculum standards for technology. Feels that she is losing time with the current schedule this year; seeing students 22 times. Not a proponent of having to have shared elementary shared specialists between buildings.
- Teacher, resident. Shared concerns with the proposed specialist schedule. The current schedule runs on a 4 day cycle, the proposal is to have it a 5 day cycle, which will reduce the amount of times students have for the specials over the course of the year. Stating that the students would see specialists 31 times a year. Stated library would be cut to zero.
- Teacher, non-resident. Expressed concern with the proposal of moving from an Assistant Principal to Dean at the high school. Also expressed concerns with the superintendent and central office administrator's salaries and the recruitment of staff.
- Teacher, non-resident. Expressed concerns with the proposal of sharing specialists. Does not like the combination of teaching music and having responsibilities to also teach library, and a social emotional special. Does not like the idea of the special chorus for

Memorial.

- e. Teacher, non-resident. Expressed concerns that there are 14 teaching positions being reduced; the Director of the Murdock Academy is being reduced and worries how the Murdock Academy of Success will not be staffed next year; she does not see the Academy staff line item; concerns that reduction of an ELA and history would not allow for electives and hinders activities they will be able to offer. Have not been able to fill positions listed as additions: EL, Sped. Teachers, Speech and Language Pathologist. Not a proponent of shared specialists, wants to negotiate it. Not a proponent of Dean positions, wants to negotiate it. Concerned that the Math Coach position is not under the collective bargaining. Unable to reconcile the specialists in the line items of the proposed budget
- f. Teacher, resident. Addressing the concerns over the 26 years she has been here. Addressed: All Program, 1:1's, safety, paraprofessionals, part-time interventionists. Concerns with cuts.
- g. Parent, resident. Stated she believes we have amazing curriculum programs at Memorial and Toy Town. Concerned with cutting any teachers. Stated class sizes would be 25 or 30 students in one room. Concerned that music teachers would have to teach 6 different grade levels K-5. Concerned with attracting talented teachers and appropriate salaries for teachers.
- h. Resident. Asked the School Committee to read the Tiered 3 Report from 2004-2005. Stated the constant change in educators and administrators is scary. Concern with the reduction in teaching staff. Stated Murdock Academy was a shining star when it started. Complimented the staff who believe in the district. Believes the school district is not stable and the School committee needs to look for other cuts. Asked to see the Indirect Costs broken down.
- i. Teacher, non-resident. Concern with the reduction at kindergarten. Stated that once a position is taken it's often not replaced. Proud to work in Winchendon. Worried that Memorial only has 1 interventionist. Spoke about the importance of closing learning gaps to ensure the students are successful.

**Discussion:**

School Committee member Anthony Findley asked several questions. Dr. Goguen responded. Vice Chair, David Lapointe stated that many districts are seeing struggles with budgets. He sees Winchendon Public Schools in pretty good shape compared to other districts. We have this number of \$17,432,925.86. Thanked everyone for their input and asked for us all to continue working together.

Motion to adjourn Anthony Findley Seconded motion Adam Lapointe at 6:05 p.m. Unanimously agreed.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent