

Date Approved/Released: 10-6-16

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: W. Paolante

TRI-BOARD MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN and THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:36 P M.

Present: Janet Corbosiero, Dawn Harris, Greg Vine, Larry Murphy
Steve Haddad-Superintendent, Richard Ikonen-School Business Manager

BOS: Michael Barbaro, Barbara Anderson, Audrey LaBrie, Austin Cyganiewicz, Amy Salter

FinCom: Thomas Kane, Cindy Leroy, Maureen Ward, James Robichaud

Keith Hickey-Town Manager, Linda Daigle-Executive Assistant, William Schlosstein-Town Accountant, Joanne Goguen-Assistant Town Accountant

J. Corbosiero called the Joint Board Meeting to order and called the School Committee to order in the joint meeting. B. Anderson called the Board of Selectman (BOS) to order. T. Kane called the Finance Committee (FinCom) to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of new Library Director, Manuel King- Ron Muse, Beals Trustee Chairman, reviewed the search process for the new Library Director. Manuel King commended the Board of Trustees and the library staff. He looks forward to bringing the library into the future. G. Vine noted he was impressed with Mr. Kings' energy and vision. He especially praised Mr. Kings' intention to work with the school district librarians, to tie the town library into the school system and to make use of all available resources. R. Muse stated he is very grateful for the towns support; he then reviewed projects and improvements.

4. Update on closing the books for FY16-T. Kane noted it is a favorable report. Keith Hickey noted the municipality and the school district agreed to present the report as a united front. He agreed that while it is favorable, there are still challenges ahead. R. Ikonen announced that the district is in the black for the end of the (2015-2016) school year, with a balance of about \$5,000. S. Haddad noted that it was a very frustrating year for the district, and that R. Ikonen has worked with the towns' accountant to resolve any issues. W. Schlosstein noted that he is not familiar with the soft ware, and the challenge is formidable, but he gave kudos to the previous accountant Donna Allard, his assistant Joanne Goguen and all of the staff. The documents for FY14-16 prove it was a difficult year for the town. He reviewed the deficits that resulted in a reduction of free cash; there was none after offsets were applied. He stressed the importance of all departments collecting outstanding deficits by September 30th in order to get a free cash amount and set a tax rate for the year. T. Kane noted the figures are preliminary and noted some big ticket items came in lower than anticipated. Every department in town used expenditures very wisely and could give funds back to the town to put toward the deficit. Hickey noted that \$360,000-\$370,000 will go to the legislation debt. M. Barbaro noted the town departments have kept to the budget and praised the new working relationship between the town and the school district.

5. Update on the Tax Rate-K. Hickey explained the process and reviewed the timeline for setting the values. The tax rates should be certified by the state by October 30th, and the bills sent or ready by December 30th. This proposed timeline meets all state requirements. The Fall Town Meeting is Monday, November 14th. He reviewed some articles to be on the warrant.
6. Update on MUNIS training and implementation-W. Schlosstein was given the task of creating an updated chart of accounts for the towns' ledger; he noted problems he encountered. He will get feedback from other stake holders as to the best use of the funds available to update the system, and sees significant progress by spring of 2017. K. Hickey explained the reasons for the long timeframe regarding the implementation of the updated Munis system, noting he does not want to make a mistake with the \$60,000 voted in for this use. L. Murphy stated 'the most important thing is to get the towns' financial house in order'.
7. Potential Issues or Articles for the Fall Town Meeting
8. FY16 Appropriation Transfers and Finance committee Reserve Fund Transfer Request-T. Kane stated this will be addressed at the Fall Town Meeting.
9. Question 2 on the November ballot-Charter Schools are currently limited to 12 new schools per year. The school committee had voted at a previous meeting to oppose passage of the proposal that would lift the cap on the number of Charter Schools allowed to open each year. G. Vine reviewed the reasons for the vote. A copy of the resolution that was passed will be forwarded to each board for consideration; the school committee asked for their support in opposing Question 2. As G. Vine explained his view of the issue, Maureen Ward called for point of order.
10. When S. Haddad asked Stephanie Rondeau, Winchendon Teachers Association (WTA) to speak on Question 2, M. Ward stated again that she is uncomfortable with it since the other side is not represented, noting the meeting was not a political forum. S. Haddad explained why he wanted to speak, stating his reasons why the question is bad for public schools in general, and Winchendon in particular. After discussion, J. Corbosiero stated that Ms. Rondeau may talk and that any one for/in favor of the question can also speak at a school committee meeting. Stephanie Rondo, a teacher at MMS and Vice-President of the WTA, stated passage of Question 2 would cause the district to lose \$457, 000 from state funding. She also asked each board to endorse the resolution to vote no on Question 2, and explained the difference between public and charter schools and the financial implications of that on public schools. ✓
11. M. Barbaro reviewed the history of charter schools and stated that he is adamantly opposed to Question 2. He noted state revenues are below expectations and cuts in education are already possible. Discussion on Question 2 followed.
12. M. Barbaro moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectman. Second by A. LaBrie. Approved 5-0-0.
13. M. Ward moved to adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee. Second by C. Leroy.
14. Approved 4-0-0. School
15. D. Harris moved to adjourn from the Tri-Board Meeting and resume the School Committee Meeting after a 10 minute break. Second by G. Vine. Approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary