

FINANCE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET PRESENTATION
MARCH 19, 2014
ROOM A, TOWN HALL

OPEN SESSION

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Schaaf, Finance Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Fin Com members present: M. Swan, I. Miles, K. Murphy, L. Seidler, R. White, R. Howard.

Mr. Barry Hopping, School Committee Chair, announced that, at the conclusion of the budget presentation, the School Committee will go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of collective bargaining with the IEA after which the School Committee will return to Open Session and adjourn.

School Com members present: S. Player, C. Nysten, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, S. Gresh.
Administrators present: Superintendent W. Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, as well as Principals Dalton, Fabrizio, Conley, and McAdams, and Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services D. Minton.

B. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. ELEMENTARY FY15 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

WINTHROP/DOYON SCHOOLS. Ms. Conley, Doyon Principal, introduced the presentation. Mrs. McAdams, Winthrop Principal, began with the question, How are we doing? The school district's performance, which falls toward the bottom of ten comparative districts for 2013, suggests that they are not doing all they could on those foundation skills with an enrollment of 460 at Winthrop, 14.3% low income, SPED at 14.3%, ELL (English language learners) at 1.3%. Supporting achievement this year, they are using Response to Intervention (RTI), have math support with specialists in Title I and a budget allocation, literacy specialist (again in the budget and Title I), and they monitor progress, do student data analysis, and have school social workers.

In professional workshops, Winthrop has a literacy initiative in coaching literacy and "writership", does alignment of instructional units, and uses common language. Mini-grants (Feeffee funded) have allowed for assistive technology in literacy and access to resources. Ms. Conley, one of the Committee who approved Mini-Grant applications by the teachers, commented that of the 160 grants awarded, 90% were written by the teachers themselves. She explained the analyses and resources at Doyon.

Mr. Siedler suggested that, rather than showing appropriated monies in the budget charts, indicating what dollars are being spent in certain areas would tell a better story. He cited Doyon's higher amount in special education spending for out-

of-district students. Mr. Murphy remarked that 1/3 of the population is on IEPs at Winthrop. Mr. Hopping remarked that, if interventions are good in the early years, the numbers should drop down once the kids get to Middle School, a much more cost-effective measure. Mrs. McAdams commented that children, who used to be excluded from public schools because of medical needs, are included today. While there is a tuition program from other towns to Winthrop, there is still a drop in outside funding.

Mrs. McAdams, in speaking of changing landscapes for FY15, mentioned a full media position in both elementaries. In addition, arts and design, cultural awareness and sensitivity (STEM and STEAM) must begin to interest students for the path to the future of technology, science, engineering, math and the fine arts. She outlined the foundation requirements of today's students for "tomorrow": .6 FTE math specialist/.33 paraprofessional, 2.0 FTE library; .2 FTE fine arts teacher; RTI support and tutors; STEM supplies, i.e., math programming, science retooling; summer programming; foreign language exploration (FLEX) programming; and technology software to let students advance in math as fast as they are able through algebra and geometry instead of being held back. Mrs. Swan and Mr. Schaaf asked about math progress; Mrs. McAdams responded that a parent group is promoting support in the classroom and the regular classroom teacher and math specialist have progressive monitoring to track every six weeks. The nearly \$1 million spent for technology infrastructure (currently being installed) will influence the laptops at Doyon and Mini-Grant funded programs which are already in the classrooms.

Mr. Schaaf asked about response from the staff and areas still not addressed. Mrs. McAdams replied that the teachers are invigorated (Ms. Conley mentioned the Compass group), but Winthrop has capital needs for space that aren't addressed and needs exist in the pre-school arena where parents can't afford the costs, resulting in gaps in young children's early childhood experiences.

If the override doesn't pass, the essentials will be pulled back, some parents will find another school for their children, and it will be a disparate community. Ms. Conley cited over-sized classes and no exciting STEM and STEAM engagement. Ms. McAdams added that there would be no summer program, libraries closed, math not moving ahead for the bright child, no foreign language, no materials to advance the science program, nothing new and innovative. Mr. Hopping commented that the technology infrastructure (provided by Feoffee money) means the district is "all dressed up" but would have nowhere to go. Common Core requirements demand a huge shift in supplies and materials. Dr. Hart mentioned cuts to 9 teaching positions and 14 support positions, 3-4 sections in the elementaries eliminated and 26/28 students in six classrooms. Mr. Hopping cited a catastrophic situation at the Middle School with only a three-teacher team at each grade level.

The Open Meeting of the School Committee adjourned at 9:50 with a move to the Town Manager's Conference Room.

9:55 p.m. – Town Manager's Conference Room

Present: Chair B. Hopping, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, C. Nylén, S. Gresh, S. Player;
Superintendent Hart and Finance Director Cuff.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining with IEA Unit A after which the Board will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- Bauman, Roesler, Nylén, Gresh, Player, Hopping.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to go out of Executive Session to Open Session at 9:55 p.m. Vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Roesler, Nylén, Gresh, Player, Hopping.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ipswich School Committee and the Ipswich Education Association Unit A, as written. UNANIMOUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.