

FINANCE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET PRESENTATION
MARCH 21, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Schaaf, Finance Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Finance Committee members present: M. Swan, R. White, T. Wilson, M. Feldman, J. Fay, L. Seidler

School Committee members present: J. Loeb, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, B. Hopping, C. Nylen, M. Werner

Administrators present: Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, Principals D. Dalton, D. Fabrizio and S. McAdams

BUDGET PRESENTATION: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Bauman introduced Mr. Fabrizio and Mr. Korb commented that, during their visit with him in North Andover before his hiring, a student volunteered his nickname. It was "Mr. GPS because he never lets us get lost."

Mr. Fabrizio reviewed his four goals. Goal 1—working with Atlas software, having intellectual interaction with the staff, and collaborating to align curriculum with Common Core and examine best practices in the classroom. Goal 2—meeting the needs of students needing intervention for remediation and restructuring of LLM (language, literacy, math) on a grass roots basis, for help which is not special education. Budgeted increases in the support system to .8 FTE for the adjustment counselor and .6 FTE for the school psychologist. Examples for "support" are problems at home, guidance, someone to talk to. Goal 3—working with PTO and improving communication with multi activities including fund-raising drives and informational nights. Goal 4—analyzing the schedule to revise and schedule world language to the 8th grade so that they can remain competitive with like schools and have a more well-rounded educational experience. The Finance Committee asked questions about the language introduction. French and Spanish will be offered next year with an eye to increasing choices down the road and to backdraft to Grades 7, 6, and the elementary schools.

The group reviewed the notable changes in the budget. A list of prioritizations from the administration goes to the School Committee before Bean Counting discussion. This list was read off with the comment made by Mr. Korb that a change had come at 2 p.m. on this day for a resident placement (SPED) at \$100,000 that will take precedence over all the addbacks listed. In discussion of philosophical changes in Choice additions, the Finance Committee was told that the School Committee had voted against adding 20 Choice students to the Middle School and for adding 6 at Doyon. Mr. Loeb commented that more eighth graders this past year left the Middle School for other choices (examples: Essex Agricultural, Whittier, private, and 2 public) than in many years. With the loss of electives and larger class sizes at the High School, lack of world language, low per-pupil expenditure, Mr. Seidler opined that continuation of spending less will only exacerbate the problem, and he asked to see numbers over the last few years who have left the district by choice.

Dr. O'Flynn commented that the reputation of a district is largely determined by the high school.

Finance Committee and School Committee members discussed Feoffees funds. Mr. White asked about textbook purchases, and Mr. Loeb replied that textbooks appear in the core budget. The School Committee has made a conscious decision to follow our legal requirement to purchase things for enhancement that are never in the operating budget. Mr. Hopping commented that the desire is to be progressive in thinking and he envisions a major infusion of technology hardware in the district. After a long discussion, it was agreed that a report will go to the Finance Committee which will explain the \$47,000 for technology in the SY14 distribution.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn presented David Dalton to the Finance Committee with words of praise. Mr. Dalton presented his four goals. Goal 1 is a plan to revise and align curricular units utilizing the Atlas Curriculum Management software. Goal 2 speaks to satisfying the rigid standards for NEASC accreditation coming in 2015, much more so since 2005. Goal 3, social emotional needs assessment, prompted much discussion. Mr. Dalton received an academic support teacher this year which is not even close to being enough. Support is needed for students who have issues of mental health and lose instructional time in school and is needed to develop a program for parents and students for stress management and for substance abuse counseling.

Mr. Dalton also spoke of accepting international students at \$15,000 each. A philosophical discussion took place regarding gender and how the different sexes are motivated. Mr. Seidler asked about four grants provided by the Recreation Department. Mr. White asked about an override. Dr. O'Flynn explained the needs in detail and asked for Finance Committee support. Dr. O'Flynn explained the five School Committee goals and said it is critical that with the new superintendent, Race to the Top, and the whole renewal piece that comes with Feoffees, it is important to stay on track and get approval of an override.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11 p.m.