

FINANCE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET PRESENTATION  
MARCH 20, 2013  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

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

Finance Committee members present: M. Swan, I. Miles, T. Wilson, L. Seidler, J. Fay  
School Committee members present: J. Loeb, C. Nysten, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, B. Hopping

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

BUDGET PRESENTATION: WINTHROP SCHOOL

Mr. Loeb introduced Mrs. McAdams, who thanked her staff who were present, and announced that she would be highlighting the goals of the Winthrop School which follow the District Goals. The goal setting begins with questions and analogies with administration, then goes to the school councils and to the staff, then is written up and brought to the School Committee. She reviewed each of her five goals. The creation of curriculum (goal 1) with Atlas software is of great assistance toward achieving the benchmarks of the Common Core (goal 2) which Winthrop currently doesn't meet. She gave the example that the classics aren't required reading as they used to be and, as a result, reading instruction is needed in social studies, science, and English to assess what that 1640 document meant. Expectations at all grade levels focus on progression, and assessments, which come four times a year, are linked, powerful and exciting. Teamwork by teachers has a benefit to the culture. Response to Intervention (RTI) was explained in detail with her co-teaching program where several expert staff are in the classroom to catch student problems immediately and give assistance rather than postponing until recess, after school, or pullout time. Goal 4 is to re-establish understanding of commitment to the Winthrop vision and mission statements which were established 7-8 years ago. Goal 5 centers on safety at the playground, sportsmanship, and strengthened supervision and mentoring.

In reviewing the Winthrop fiscal goals, she quoted the addition of 32 students since 2010 to current enrollment of 485 and gave figures as follows: 18.2% below the poverty level, 13.6% receiving special education, and 1% on the 504 educational plan. Mr. Loeb as a Winthrop husband (wife on staff) realized the child-social problems brought to school and the necessity of elementary guidance personnel. Seventy-five percent of the rental properties in Ipswich populate the Winthrop district in a transient population. Flexibility is at the crux of the structure of the programs at the Winthrop School. Mrs. McAdams reviewed the notable changes to the FY14 Winthrop budget.

Mr. Fay asked what is being done about the socio-economic problem. Mrs. McAdams cited the loss of the \$34,000 lost in Title I funds, the need for responses to student needs in social skills and need for pathology assistants. While the librarian vacancy for next year is still under study, she does not envision the library closing. The new media resource person can show you how to find something in the library, not be an instructor.

Mr. Loeb stated that the new assessments mandate that students take the test on computers which Ipswich doesn't have. In discussion, it was made clear that when the Technology Subcommittee completes its research, the probability is that a major grant application will go to the Feoffees Disbursement Committee for a decision to award a six-figure amount to improve technology infrastructure in the district.

Mr. Loeb advised the Finance Committee to read the Statements of Interest (SOI) on the school website to get a feel for the needs at each elementary school.

Finance Committee members asked questions regarding enrollment projections, professional development, MCAS achievement, and the modular rental.

#### BUDGET PRESENTATION: DOYON SCHOOL

Mrs. Roesler introduced Sheila Conley who mentioned her staff and an Advisory Group formed to help Doyon growth. Her predecessor, Dr. Ken Cooper, was a data collector and he left substantial data to aid comparisons. She presented her four goals which compare with the Winthrop School goals and expanded on each goal including the School Culture, Goal 4, with activities and student teams to encourage leadership and extended enrichments in after-school and class settings with GrandFRIES, high school students and the community. To Dr. Gresh's question of media literacy, in addition to reading and writing, Ms. Conley spoke of laptops and technology in the upper grades and Promethean boards (provided by the Doyon FRIES). The younger groups have Mrs. Burke for tech support on Thursdays.

Ms. Conley reviewed the notable changes to the FY14 Doyon budget.

Mr. Schaaf questioned the role of kindergarten in the educational process. The full-day kindergarten program, begun in earnest seven years ago by national mandate, is exceedingly beneficial. Special education costs are reduced because of these interventions in Kindergarten (which provide academic and social basics) and the Birth-to-Three program (Mrs. Bauman stressed the desperate need for more funding because of its value to the little ones in the community).

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.