

**Finance Committee
North Reading Town Hall, Room 5
Thursday, April 11, 2013**

Present: Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano, Mr. Kelliher, Mr. Pulver, Mr. Koppelman, Mr. Wolpin and Mr. Duffy

Guest: School Committee members Mel Webster & Karen Errichetti, Superintendent Kathy Willis & Business Manager for the School Dept. Carl Nelson

Chair opened the meeting at 7:05pm.

School Committee members; Mr. Webster and Ms. Errichetti and Superintendent Ms. Willis and Business Manager, Mr. Nelson were in attendance to go over their proposed FY14 budget. Mr. Nelson gave out a history of budget increases within the School Dept., ranging from 1.5% - 7.7% (years that showed 1.5% & 1.8% were supplemented with ARRA funds). Mr. Nelson said that originally in February they had a 4.7% increase and on 4/4/13, before school budget reductions, there was a gap of \$867,355. By 4/11/13, they reduced that gap to \$130,450. Mr. Webster said there is \$300,000+ increase in Special Ed needs. Mr. Nelson said there are 425 children with some kind of IEP program. Ms. Willis explained IEP students and how their needs can range. Mr. Nelson said that he could provide a link to see North Reading's percent of special education needs compared to other towns, but North Reading is right in the ballpark of other towns. Mr. Nelson said Special Ed. is close to 20% of their budget. Ms. Willis said they are now implementing post graduation programs. Mr. Webster said that salary negotiations with teachers went well and ended in no step increases for two years and a ¾ step in the third year. Mr. Nelson said that the Schools have tried to use non-tax funds to pay for things. Mr. Nelson said they have frozen funds for the year. They have proposed to hire two new coaches, one for baseball and one for softball.

Minutes

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Duffy, to approve the corrected minutes for March 13, 2013; and it was voted 6-0-1, Mr. Wolpin abstained. Ms. Hurlbut went over what she has known the Resource Officer's responsibilities to be in Winchester.

Mr. Pulver moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Mr. Duffy seconded: voted unanimously in favor.

Approved _____ Date _____