

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 1993

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Present: T. DeLuca, J. Desrochers, M. Fiore, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, P. Helmreich, J. Nicolas, T. Phelan, D. Summerfield, P. Zawasky

The Finance Committee held its meeting with the School Committee and Dr. Splaine to discuss the School Department budget in conjunction with the School Committee's Public Hearing.

Dr. Splaine presented two school department budgets that will be placed on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. One school budget meets the Proposition 2 1/2 Mandate of \$8,888,654 and the other school budget is a contingency budget in the amount of \$9,420,156. The contingency budget is an increase of \$531,502 over the Proposition 2 1/2 budget. Dr. Splaine next talked about a special election for an override for the school budget in the amount of \$531,502.

Dr. Splaine noted that enrollments have gone up and the budget has gone down. He stated that the following cuts would have to be made under the Proposition 2 1/2 mandated budget: 3 teachers, 1 administrator, 6 elementary teachers, 1 nurse, 1 guidance counselor, 3 clerical staff, 2 custodians and 1 SPED. He also discussed the possibility of closing down the L.G. Nourse School and how transportation would also be negatively affected.

Chair Gouveia asked Dr. Splaine if he was requesting the Finance Committee to recommend both budgets: one if the override passed and one if it did not pass. Dr. Splaine said that his is asking the Finance Committee to recommend both budgets at the Annual Town Meeting.

Questions from the Finance Committee members concerned teacher contracts and whether or not salary increases were built into the budget, the impact of closing the L.G. Nourse School on special needs students, student/teacher ratio, how much money is anticipated from future grant monies, heating and electrical costs, and if the higher budget passes at the Town Meeting but the override does not, where does the \$530,000 come from.

The floor was opened to the public for questions.

The following questions were asked and concerns expressed:

What is the average class size? Will the override money stay earmarked for schools?

Concern and discussion over where the override money goes after the first year.

Concern over accreditation

Concern about overcrowding at the Solomonese School

Concern over bussing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.