

*FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**MARCH 23, 1992*

PRESENT: M. Brown, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, P. Helmreich, C. MacQuown, D. Summerfield, D. Ward, P. Zawasky.

Vice Chair W. Gouveia called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. (Chair Hackett arrived a few minutes later).

The meeting began with Mr. MacDonald from the Southeastern Regional Schools to clarify its budget - which is an assessment of \$133,624.

Mrs. Myers, Chair of the Norton Public Schools Committee, was then introduced. Mrs. Myers (with some input from Dr. Splaine) then reviewed the Norton Public School's proposed FY'93 budget. Mrs. Myers began by stating that the total budget request is for \$9,818,587, a 6.84% increase, which includes 8 new staff members in order to provide the same student/teacher ratio as there is today. If this level is not maintained, certification may be lost. A full time librarian must also be hired or certification, again, may be lost. The cost of running the schools is \$4,100 per pupil. A new bus contract has been negotiated resulting in a reduction in the contract of \$37,229 from this year.

Mrs. Myers then went through the components of the budget. Members of the Finance Committee discussed and asked questions on each series of expenses such as clerical salaries, library services, SPED, phone expense, electricity and water. Mr. Gouveia questioned an increase in clerical salaries, yet no contracts have yet been negotiated; and why, if enrollment is up, cost for supplies are down? The School Committee will provide: 1. Salary breakdowns for non-contract personnel; 2. SPED Travel comparisons and; 3. Budget Balances to date. This information may answer the FinCom's questions.

It was noted by Mrs. Myers that on April 1, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. in the High School auditorium, Representative Roosevelt will discuss the Educational Reform bill. All are invited to attend.

Mrs. Myers also noted that there is a request from the Capital Improvements Fund for one mini-bus replacement (\$30,000) and removal of asbestos in the girls and boys locker rooms in the Middle School (\$30,000).

The Finance Committee requested an impact statement from the School Committee before final recommendations are made on their proposed budget.

Chair Hackett thanked Mrs. Myers and Dr. Splaine for their presentation.

Chair Hackett then noted that a public hearing on the FinCom's budget recommendations must be posted in the Norton Mirror, and not sooner than 7 days, yet not later than 14 days from the posting, this hearing must be held. Mr. Gouveia then moved that the posting appear in the April 2 edition and the hearing be held on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Norton High School Cafeteria. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. In favor: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Helmreich then volunteered to consolidate the FinCom's budget recommendations and the Town Manager's recommendations onto one spread sheet for further consideration by the Committee.

Mr. Helmreich also requested that Chair Hackett invite the Town Manager to a FinCom meeting, as soon as possible, to answer some questions on the budget. Chair Hackett will do so.

There being no further business, Mr. Ward moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Brown. In favor: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

