

**Finance Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.  
Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Call To Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chairman Mike Thomas, Vice-Chair Paul Helmreich, Tom DeLuca, Jackie Desrochers, Angel Doyle, Lee Tarantino, and Philip Zawasky. Mike Fiore arrived at 9:10 p.m. Absent: Donna Summerfield.

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**1. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2006, as written. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**2. New Business**

**Transfer Request**

Mr. Purcell said this was town accountant advertising expense.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve Town Accountant expense for purpose to pay advertising. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**School Dept.**

Dr. Ansay, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed budget/binder.

Special education budget at \$6.5M. There are 719 students in-district in special needs programs. Special Education is 26% of overall school budget.

Dr. Ansay discussed a software upgrade from DOS/UNIX based to Windows.

\$24,951,000 = FY07 budget.

Circuit breaker was discussed (\$800,000 in income and expense are not in budget). It looks \$800,000 less than what difference really is. The circuit breaker was "double-dipped" by Town last year. Discussion ensued.

Mr. DeLuca asked if there was another amount of circuit breaker money available?

Dr. Ansay said there was about \$100,000 and in a special revenue account; it is received quarterly.

Mr. DeLuca said then this year really the total is approximately \$25,751,000.

Dr. Ansay said they are trying to trim special education number; it is on the priority list.

Some members of Committee commended Dr. Ansay on the budget being very organized.

Dr. Ansay said there are over 3,000 students enrolled in Norton schools.

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Mr. Helmreich said he was less concerned with lower scores at lower grade levels (MCAS), cumulative 10th grade scores are very good.

Mr. O'Neil, Chairman of School Committee, said in year 2012 he believed all scores must be in advanced or proficient category to graduate.

Dr. Ansay discussed horizontal and vertical steps regarding salaries. Three percent increase also on steps (step increases too).

Substitute rate at \$65.00 per day in Norton and lowest in region. Town of Sharon pays \$90 to substitutes.

Bus contract is through FY07 and to renegotiate FY08.

Mr. Mackey said Dr. Ansay did restructuring, not centralized vs. high school down to seventh grade. He said MCAS driven a lot of change and emphasis. Norton school system and electives available to students compared to other towns were substantially below any other community. Not a lot of diversity.

Dr. Ansay said they were working on this since October and every principal had to justify.

Dr. Ansay spoke of grant received for Middle School after-school help. Grant writing training workshop given to building principals and others interested (18 have attended).

It was noted there were almost 300 students in grade six.

Textbooks and supplies increased. Dr. Ansay said there was a five year curriculum review cycle. When time are tough they skip years and two or three subjects. \$65.00 for textbook (elementary) and \$85 high school text and math kit for new series with price tag of \$1,000 for each teacher. The schools had seven year old math texts and eight year old science texts.

Mr. Thomas said they would like an impact statement for when they go to town meeting. It was noted Dr. Ansay was already working on that.

Mr. Helmreich said Town Manager has preliminary estimates and if override does not pass townspeople need to know impact on school and town-side. Impact statement needed from general-government side as well.

Mr. Thomas said they should let Finance Committee know when impact statement was ready.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Zawasky to Adjourn at 9:10. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

  
**Janet Sweeney, Finance Committee Recording Secretary**