



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday, March 3, 2025. The meeting was held in the Harvey Hearing Room, Town Hall, One Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA, and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Leonard, Mr. Letterie, Mr. Martucci, Mr. Purinton, Ms. Barry, Ms. Powell
Ms. Petrie was not present.

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Lori Gallivan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools/Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability

Dylan Cook, Chief Financial Officer/School Business Manager

Patricia Hibbard, Executive Secretary to Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Leonard led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzanne Swope spoke about the importance and value of education and is in favor of the override and stabilization fund.

At 6:05pm, Zoom ended and was no longer available, due to an unfortunate incident.

GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS
DELEGATES & VISITORS

None

MINUTES

Ms. Barry made a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2025. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-abstain, Ms. Powell-yes. The Motion passes with one abstention.

Mr. Letterie made a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2025. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-abstain, Ms. Powell-yes. The Motion passes with one abstention.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Mr. Letterie made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW25-15 in the amount of \$260,927.31. Ms. Barry seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. A unanimous vote.

Ms. Barry made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW25-16 in the amount of \$914,338.40. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-abstain, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

None

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

Sub-committee Report

Budget Sub-committee

A Budget Sub-committee was held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:00pm in the Harvey Hearing Room, Town Hall, One Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA. Sub-committee members Gus Martucci and Layne Petrie were in attendance, as well as Lisa Howard, Lori Gallivan, Dylan Cook, Jim Letterie, and Karin Chavis. The FY26 Budget was the topic of discussion. No votes were taken.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on the upcoming override and ballot questions. The Override Committee will be sending out information to families, informing them of the Saturday, April 5th voting day. The PTO's are also involved and we are working with ELPAC to ensure that our non-English speaking families have access to translated materials and the ability to connect with the Override Committee, if they so choose. Yes for Winthrop Kids has a great social media page on Facebook and Instagram. Their email is yesforwinthropskids.com

This past Friday, the Superintendent participated in a WCAT video with former Superintendent John Macero and Eric Gaynor regarding the state of our FY26 budget. Some key points emphasized:

- the continued potential of a \$3,500,000 operating budget deficit for FY26
- the key drivers of annual cost that rise above 2.5%: health care rising premiums, special education and athletic transportation increases, special education and vocational and charter school tuition increases, less revenue coming in from grants, the exhaustion of access to revolving accounts, increased enrollment, annual salary increases and these are just a few of the key drivers that have not allowed the 2 ½ levy to keep pace with the cost of public education
- Seeking an Override to avoid the town having to cut the budgets of other critical town departments to fund mandatory school services
- The potential of having to raise and/or create new user fees to balance the budget and the impact that reducing staff will have on class size, student achievement and overall student well being

The Superintendent and the Leadership Team have completed a draft level service FY26 budget that is ready for the Budget Sub-committee to review. We would like to schedule a budget sub-committee meeting next Monday, March 10th in order to present the Level Service budget to the sub-committee, and then present the budget to the full committee on March 17th or March or March 31st.

The next step is to post the budget in the paper and on the website by early April and then hold a Public Hearing of the Budget at the April 14th school committee meeting.

Home School Applications

None

PERSONNEL

Nikolas Beshere, Human Resources Generalist, has resigned. The following vacancies have been posted: Full-time custodian, Long-term substitute science teacher, WMS; and Long-term substitute special education E.S.P., ATC.

NEW BUSINESS

2025-2026 School Calendar

Discussion took place regarding the two options for the 2025-2026 school calendar.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve Option #1 for the 2025-2026 school calendar. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-no, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes,-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-abstain Ms. Powell-yes. The Motion passes.

2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Dates

Discussion took place regarding the 2025-2026 school committee meeting dates.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the 2025-2026 school committee meeting dates. Ms. Barry seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. A unanimous vote

FY2026 Budget Update

The budget update was provided in the Superintendent's report.

Winthrop School Committee's Letter to the Community

A draft letter to the Winthrop Community, from the Winthrop School Committee, was presented, to be published in the Winthrop Sun Transcript.

Ms. Barry made a Motion to approve the letter, as presented. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci made an Amendment to the Motion to remove the number of staff positions eliminated and replace with "potential loss of". Ms. Barry seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. A unanimous vote

Mr. Purinton made an Amendment to the Motion to take away the last line on page one and end the paragraph with "students receive the education they deserve". Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. A unanimous vote

The original Motion passed unanimously with the two Amendments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC RELATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:52pm, Ms. Barry made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.

Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes, Ms. Powell-yes. A unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,

Paticia Hibbard

Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of February 10, 2025
- Minutes of February 24, 2025
- Warrant SVW25-15 in the amount of \$260,927.31
- Payroll Warrant SPW25-16 in the amount of \$914,338.40
- Departmental Expenditure Report
- Personnel/Resignations
 - Nikolas Beshere, Human Resources Generalist

- Personnel Vacancies/Postings
 - Full-time Custodian
 - Long-term Substitute Science Teacher, WMS
 - Long-term Substitute Special Ed E.S.P., ATC
- 2025-2026 School Calendar Options
- 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Dates
- CASA February Monthly Newsletter
- Informational Packet on the Upcoming Election and Ballot Questions
- Draft of Letter to the Community from the Winthrop School Committee on the Upcoming Override