



Winthrop School Committee  
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday, December 16, 2024. 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, Ms. Petrie, Mr. Purinton, Ms. Barry  
Ms. Powell was not present.

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa Howard, Superintendent of Schools

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

Patricia Hibbard, Executive Secretary to Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Purinton led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several people spoke during Public Comment including Karin Chavis, John Cappucci, Todd Sacco, Suzanne Swope, Shannon Renari, Mike Kinlin, Stephanie Rodriguez, Cassie Withaus, and Shannon Poulous.

**GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**DELEGATES & VISITORS**

None

**MINUTES**

**Mr. Purinton made a Motion to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2024. Mr. Letterie seconded the Motion.**

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

**Ms. Petrie made a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2024. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion.**

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

**Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2024. Ms. Petrie seconded the Motion.**

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

**FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES**

**Mr. Letterie made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW25-11 in the amount of \$365,720.89. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion.**

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

**Mr. Purinton made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW25-10 in the amount of \$984,000.50. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion. Ms. Leonard-yes. Mr. Letterie-abstain, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Petrie-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.**

**Ms. Petrie made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW25-11 in the amount of \$900,221.18. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion. Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-abstain, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Petrie-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.**

**Ms. Petrie made a Motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$8,000.00 from Winthrop Charities. Mr. Purinton seconded the Motion. Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Petrie-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes. A unanimous vote.**

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

None

## **GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

### Home School Applications

There are two home school applications, reviewed by Lori Gallivan, seeking approval.

**Mr. Purinton made a Motion to approve the two home school applications. Ms. Petrie seconded the Motion.**

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

## **PERSONNEL**

Mark McAneny, Principal, William P. Gorman Fort Banks School, has submitted his letter of intent to retire on December 19, 2024. Theresa Visconti, E.S.P., Winthrop Middle School, has submitted her letter of intent to retire as of January 1, 2025, and is requesting approval of her sick day buy back.

**Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve Theresa Visconti's request for her sick day buy back. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.**

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

The following positions have been posted: Long-term Substitute Classroom Teacher, Arthur T. Cummings School; E.S.P., Middle School; Elementary Assistant Principal, Gorman Fort Banks School.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discussion took place regarding placing a 2.5 override on a ballot for a town election. The Superintendent read the following statement:

*As a community, we face a critical decision regarding the funding of our schools and the long-term sustainability of our educational services. I wholeheartedly support the proposal for a 2 1/2 override in the amount of \$4,950,000 as that is the projected amount of money that will provide the necessary funds to maintain the school budget at a level service for the next three years and potentially longer, pending state and federal grant allocations and Town revenue. The stability of funding will strengthen our ability to recruit and retain high quality staff and continue to offer high-quality education without the threat of having to resort to program reductions, staff layoffs, increased user fees and future negative impacts of retaining staff. I acknowledge the result of the initial election but believe that with more education and a deeper explanation of the potential impacts of underfunding, people will vote for the supported amount of*

*funding. A 2 1/2 override that lasts more than 1-2 years represents a fiscally responsible and long-term approach to maintaining our school's educational standards. It allows us to avoid a reactive cycle of cutting vital programs and services that are essential to our students' success. By providing adequate funding for three years or more, we can stabilize our budget and continue to deliver the level of education our community expects and deserves. Having financial stability will also allow for more effective long-term planning and reduce the need for the Town to potentially have to lessen the budgets of other Town Departments to balance the school's budget.*

*Alternatively, I also acknowledge that there may be a need to offer the community a lesser override amount. It is understood that while a lesser amount would provide immediate relief, it comes with the understanding that this approach will only delay the inevitable need for additional funding. In just 1 to 2 years, we would likely face another override request, and we risk repeating this cycle of short-term fixes that do not sustain our educational programs or the fiscal stability we need.*

*In the best interest of our students, educators, and the long-term well-being of our community, I strongly encourage support for the \$4,950,000 2 1/2 override. This will provide the certainty necessary to preserve educational excellence, recruit and retain staff and maintain a solid fiscal foundation for the years ahead. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the future of our schools.*

**Ms. Petrie made a Motion to propose a pyramid question on a ballot with two figures for an override. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-no, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Petrie-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes. The Motion passes 5-1.**

**Ms. Petrie made a Motion to recommend that the override question be on its own ballot and election.**

**Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Leonard-yes, Mr. Letterie-abstain, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Petrie-yes, Mr. Purinton-yes, Ms. Barry-yes. The Motion passes.**

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Frankie Fabiano!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:10pm, Ms. Petie made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Leonard seconded the Motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paticia Hibbard  
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of November 18, 2024
- Minutes of December 2, 2024
- Minutes of December 9, 2024
- Warrant SVW25-11 in the amount of \$365,720.89
- Payroll Warrant SPW25-10 in the amount of \$984,000.50
- Payroll Warrant SPW25-11 in the amount of \$900,221.18
- Departmental Expenditure Report
- Retirements
  - Mark McAneny, Principal
  - Theresa Visconti, E.S.P.

- Postings
  - Long-term Substitute Classroom Teacher, Arthur T. Cummings School
  - E.S.P., Middle School
  - Elementary Assistant Principal, Gorman Fort Banks School
- Multilingual Newcomer & Homeless Support Grant Letter dated 12/11/24