

Town of Merrimac
Finance Committee Meeting
FEBRUARY 24, 2020

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes 2/4 & 2/10
 - 1. Finance Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 4, 2020 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marcia Zosack
SECONDER:	Mike Marden
AYES:	Bowie, Gustison, Donaghue, Luoma, Marden, Zosack, Archibald
ABSENT:	Grazio, Kelly

- 2. Finance Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 10, 2020 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
SECONDER:	Mike Marden, Marcia Zosack
AYES:	Bowie, Gustison, Donaghue, Luoma, Marden, Zosack, Archibald
ABSENT:	Grazio, Kelly

III. Whittier Regional School District

Whittier Tech, Maureen Lynch, Kara Kosmes.

Pentucket enrollment down 10% over 5 years, and 20.55% this year. This budget has not been voted on by the School Committee. Budget considerations are focused on payroll, insurances, expanding educational opportunities for students and social/emotional health. Whittier has been accepted into eligibility stage with MSBA, and expect the feasibility study to be completed within the next 16-25 months. Required net school spending is \$23,040,951, Chapter 70 Aid is \$11,352,261, operating budget is up 6.5%.

Currently there are HVAC upgrades are \$409,255. Received a \$60,000 safety grant which will include updating the phone system. New daycare center has opened with a partnership with the Haverhill YMCA. The future plan is to expand access to vocational programs including engineering and the dental program, along with expansion of adult evening programs.

IV. Pentucket Regional School District

Pentucket Regional, Justin Bartholomew and Greg Labrecque.

A large increase in this years budget is focused on an increase in the special education. Also, increasing half day kindergarten to full day for numerous reasons including the cost associated with daycare the second half of the day and cramming the curriculum into a half day which decreases the socialization aspect. Overhauling the technology of all the middle school chrome books by moving them up to the higher grade. The school committee did not support cutting the cost of sports, the rates were cut in half in 2015 and are already the lowest in the area. Following last year they will continue with the reorganization of retiring staff, and staff who were at one school who now are district wide to create fuller schedules.

Meeting close 8PM, First Mike Marden, Rob Gustison Second.