

Town of Merrimac  
Finance Committee Meeting  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

II. Playground Committee

Present: Laura Costigan, Playground Committee

See Handout:

In the match and other income statements- the match from Newburyport Savings Bank is a match from what the Playground Committee can raise. Unsure if they will match under \$5,000 is that is what is raised. Can volunteers do the work- no, the work needs to be done by someone that specializes in rubber surfaces. A state grant of \$15,000 has been earmarked by Senator Ives, Carol McLeod will follow up to see exactly what has been earmarked. Part of original site plan was for a pathway around the equipment, that was going to be installed after the equipment. Are there any other compliance issues? Not that the Playground Committee is aware of. The DPW was going to use State funds for the sidewalks.

The \$9,000 in free cash will be a special article for Town Meeting if the Selectmen approve. Meeting with the Selectmen 3/4/19.

III. Whittier Vo-Tech

Present: Marty Lynch, Superintendent and Business Manager  
School committee meeting 3/12 to vote on the budget.

Merrimac Enrollment up 9.1%, 72 students attending. If a student was in-district and moved out they can still attend (3). Whittier has a rate of 24.5% of students with disabilities, higher than the state average, these students have a 99% graduation rate. Budget Considerations: payroll, health insurance, and other insurances, as well as expanding educational opportunities. Capital planning will be looking at a \$695,000 turf field for Title 9 compliance, CH78 at 5.41%, and net school spending of a 5.49%, increase for budget (3.36% this includes the capital for turf field). Increase for Merrimac is \$7,217 which is a .73% increase.

IV. Pentucket Regional

Present: Greg Labreque, Business Manager  
School committee will vote 3/5 on the budget.

Presenting to the school committee a \$294k reduction to the book presented. Basic changes driven from the budget are the health insurance numbers, estimated 5% and proposing 3.3%. Reduction of one special education teacher, there are three retiring and one will not be replaced (there are more children leaving the district under special ed). From this year to next year losing ten positions, six retirements which will not be replacing. A new scheduling system will be proposed for the elementary school, teachers will rotate between the schools more efficiently. For the next few years there will be a staff shift. Population of all elementary schools is approximately 1,300 total students. With the reduction the budget increase would be 2.35%. The increase would be \$934,635 over all three towns- Merrimac's portion \$260,204. What is the status of the new administrative positions?- What is being proposed is a change from the innovation type models, and turn those coordinators back into teaching positions. New superintendent proposing change in elementary levels to bring support coordinator to assistant principals.

Capital Requests- Facilities department requesting for the Donahue to upgrade boilers and circulator pumps, camera surveillance systems and fire alarm systems. Also replacing all window and door systems- the windows are rotting, MSBA repair programs. Sweetsir upgrade entrance awning roof and gutters, fire alarm system and exterior camera surveillance system.

End 8:22PM James first, Mike second.