

how many students decided to go to Charter. Mr. Holcomb criticized the school's budget process using projections from the State. Mr. Carey stated that SPED students are required transportation regardless of where the students attend by Choice. Ms. Woodbury described SPED program options inside of the district that created some cost savings. Mr. Azer stated the School Committee did not budget for moving students around when the reconfiguration of schools occurred last year because it was to be a one-time cost, and at the time the costs were able to be absorbed. Transportation costs, no savings occurring with the closing of LCM, and increase in total costs of 33% over the last ten years with declined enrollment was discussed. Mr. Azer reminded the Board that the number of children on Cape Cod has decreased over the last ten years yet an increase of low income students.

Ms. Woodbury reviewed the E&D, its deficit creation. Mr. Azer reviewed the food service and grants.

Ms. Post expressed disappointment with the communication on the finance issues the School dealt with this year. Mr. Carey stated that Dennis is also expressing concern with wanting to know more details on the expenses in the district. Mr. Quirk asked about the unfunded liability changes, which Mr. Azer stated that SPED and utilities was the bulk of changes in the last few months.

Mr. Carey reviewed the goals of the school to be solely dependent on solar power for the electrical costs. Mr. Carey reviewed staffing and expense reductions planned for the upcoming year.

Mr. Tolley stated the plans till now are unsustainable and cannot continue. He wanted to know what the plans are for Fy16 and beyond. Mr. Carey confirmed that both towns and the district need to work closer to create stronger communication. He was not comfortable with how the budget process panned out this year. He stated that because there was no written agreement between the two towns, the school committee could not depend on a gentleman's agreement for planning.

Ms. Post asked the School Committee if there is anything more they can do financially to reduce the additional assessment funds. Mr. Carey stated that the school committee has already voted the budget and will need to look at it later yet can't make a commitment at this time.

Mr. Stone asked their personal opinion if they feel the Chapter 70 formula is fair. Mr. Carey stated he feels it is not fair however it is the only process they can go by. That formula was not created by the School Committee. Mr. Tolley stated there was an agreement for the last two years between Dennis and Yarmouth to be assessed on 2.5% increase. Yet when the Dennis Finance Committee recommended only accepting the Chapter 70 formula the School Committee followed suit of Dennis rather than going along with what the selectmen of each community decided.

Mr. Quirk voiced concern with the fact that the school does not have any money in their E&D in case another unexpected cost comes up the following year. Ms. Woodbury stated the only area to cut is in general education; nothing in mandated areas can be cut. However Ms. Woodbury stated that no agreed upon amendment to the funding increases was signed between the two towns therefore the current agreement needs to be followed.

2. Possible Election Ballot

The Board discussed options to fund the gap in the school budget, including using stabilization, override or cuts in the Free Cash grants. Mr. Hinchey stated that the amount voted by the School Committee must be printed in the warrant. The School Committee could vote a lower number in the meantime and the Article on Town Meeting floor can be reduced. Mr. Quirk voiced concern with the principal of the increases and deteriorating the Town's stabilization or Free Cash Grant programs. He is worried the reduction of stabilization could reduce the recent increase in bond rating. Mr. Hinchey recommended using the Free Cash grant reductions for the funding gap rather than taking out of stabilization. Mr. Holcomb feels the Board needs to hold them responsible and stop shoveling them money to bail them out every year, yet was in favor of using the free cash if they had to fund it this year. Mr. Tolley was in favor of giving the School Committee more time to see if they can

provide any more money assistance. The Board agreed they were not in favor of an override. The Board then discussed options for cutting within the Free Cash Grants.

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen place Article 4 on the warrant to ask the voters if they would agree to fund up to an additional \$278,311.

Motion by: Tracy Post **Seconded by:** Erik Tolley Yea 5 Nay 0

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen add Article 5 as a funding source should Article 4 be successful.

Motion by: Tracy Post **Seconded by:** Norm Holcomb Yea 5 Nay 0

Ms. Post asked the Board their thoughts on adding an Article to change the Annual Town Meeting date. Mr. Hinchey stated that he could draft some language and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting.

Board of Selectmen FY15 Goals Discussion

The Board briefly discussed the past goals and possible additions or rearranging of goals. The Board agreed to discuss in detail at a future meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm

Motion by: Jim Quirk **Seconded by:** Tracy Post Yea 5 Nay 0

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth G. Hartsgrove