

MAY UPDATE

By: Van Riley, Superintendent

Final Budget Recommendations

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank all of you who voted, particularly those who voted to approve the budget. For the last two years, voters have approved our town budget by over a two to one margin. While the education budget was reduced substantially over what would have been desired, the successful vote sets our funding level and allows us to move forward.

With the approval of the budget referendum, the Board of Education was able to restore some of the reductions that would have had serious impacts on our students. The Board of Education and administration already made over one million dollars in reductions over what would have been necessary for a status quo budget. With the partial reinstatement of \$270,000 of those funds, the following items can now be funded next year:

Elementary Schools	Art, music and PE specialists Elementary librarian to be split between elementary schools
Middle Schools	PMS 7 th grade teaching position French 0.4 teaching position MMS music para positions MMS Jazz Club and chorus MMS chorus 0.5 teaching position Library paras at both middle schools Basketball program at both middle schools
Stonington HS	French 0.2 teaching position Virtual High School program Drama support Crew transportation Supply funds for sailing, cheerleading, and crew 9 th grade football and basketball programs

However, the Board of Finance did require an additional \$254,979 in reductions over the amount requested by the Board of Education. The following reductions will be included in the 2014-2015 Education Budget in addition to eight teaching positions, seven classified positions, and other reductions made in the initial budget process. Final reductions include:

\$ 25,000	from reduction of school social worker positions
\$ 10,000	in reductions of teacher assistance in math and language curriculum
\$120,000	in required state evaluation program (Board of Finance has promised to consider this at a later date)
\$ 18,784	technology infrastructure to enhance communication capabilities
\$ 4,800	elimination of middle school Summer Academy
\$ 26,000	elimination of 0.5 additional chorus teaching position at PMS
\$ 9,500	elimination of Chinese language program at SHS
\$ 19,000	elimination of 0.4 sections of PE or other at SHS
\$ 5,000	elimination of SHS Summer Academy
\$ 16,895	elimination of funding for track and soccer equipment at SHS
\$254,979	total additional amount reduced

Again, thank you for your continued support throughout this difficult process.