



**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

**Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School
286 Station Avenue
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664**

6:00 p.m.

THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE ACCESSIBLE TO VIEW REMOTELY:

Channel 22 Live: <https://bit.ly/3IV5MVh>

YouTube Live: <https://bit.ly/3CGdOXR>

Members:

Ms. Jeni Landers, Chairperson
Ms. Jennifer Rose, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Marilyn Bemis, Secretary
Mr. Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer
Mr. Joseph Tierney
Mr. Phillip Morris
Mr. Joe Glynn

Administration

Dr. Marc J. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Mrs. Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction
Rose-Anna Joachim, Student Representative to the School Committee
Isabella Power, Student Representative to the School Committee

I. Open the Meeting (6:30)

II. Reports and Discussions

- i. Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power
- ii. FY25 Budget Update
Superintendent Marc Smith and Assistant Superintendent David Flynn
- iii. Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn
FY24 Budget Update

III. Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

- i. School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney
- ii. School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen
- iii. Finance Subcommittee Meeting

- IV. **Superintendent's Report**
 - i. Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments
 - ii. Update – DYIMS Fields
 - iii. Transportation, School Start Times, FY25 Budget

- V. **School Committee Business (Enclosure 5)**
 - Consent Agenda

- VI. **Bills, Requisitions and Payroll**

- VII. **Calendars (Enclosure 7)**

- VIII. **Public Comment**

- IX. **Adjournment**

**The items listed to be discussed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

***Please note: The timeframes listed above are intended to guide the School Committee in their work. It should be understood that the times are approximate, and therefore may occur earlier than noted; and may be taken out of order at the request of the Chair and a vote of the School Committee.*

| |
|---|
| Should there be a need for clarification on any of the aforementioned, please contact me prior to the meeting to allow sufficient time for further research if necessitated. Thank you. Dr. Marc J. Smith, Superintendent |
|---|

Consent Agenda (Enc. 5)

The Superintendent recommends the School Committee approve the following items as presented:

Donation: Move to accept several donations to the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School as per Mr. Depin's February 12, 2024 memo:

Diane Banks (Fill a Backpack) – five \$20 Job Lot gift cards;
Harwich Rotary – fifteen \$50.00 Stop & Shop gift cards;
Andrea Holden Foundation – fifteen \$100.00 Stop & Shop gift cards;
Anonymous Dennis Golfers – gift cards totaling \$2500 from Stop & Shop, CVS, and Marshall's;
Frank Seghezzi Jr. – five \$100 TJ Maxx gift cards;
Elizabeth Bader – five \$50 Ocean State Job Lot gift cards;
Nancy's Candy-\$600 worth of gift cards to CVS, Stop & Shop and Target;
Democratic Town Committee donated several gift cards: \$50 (Macy's), two \$50 Visa cards, four \$25 Amazon cards and two \$25 Target cards;

West Dennis Garden Club - five Stop & Shop gift cards, five \$50 Target gift cards, and five TJ Maxx gift cards;
Rockland Trust – four \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards;
Hildur Thompson – four \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards;
Dennis Police Department donated toys;
Hands of Hope Outreach Center donated 3 boxes of new books.

Move to approve the Joan and Jerry Shostak Education Scholarship as per Mrs. Saucier's memo of February 26, 2024.

Minutes: February 5, 2024

FY 2025 Budget



School Committee Meeting

March 6, 2024



FY25 Budget Timeline

Key Dates

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday 1-8-24 | Initial Budget Presentation |
| Monday 1-22-24 | SC Approve Tentative Budget <i>- Not less than 30 days prior to final budget adoption</i> |
| Monday 2-5-24 | SC Public Budget Hearing |
| Wednesday 3-13-24 | SC Final Budget Adoption <i>- Not less than 45 days before first Town Meeting</i> |
| Friday 3-15-24 | <i>Last Possible Date to Adopt Final Budget</i> |
| Tuesday 4-30-24 | Yarmouth Town Meeting |
| Tuesday 5-7-24 | Dennis Town Meeting |



DYRSD FY25 Overall Goal

Maintain the same level of educational service while looking closely at our programs for efficiencies that allow us to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all learners in our district and ensure they are empowered to achieve excellence.

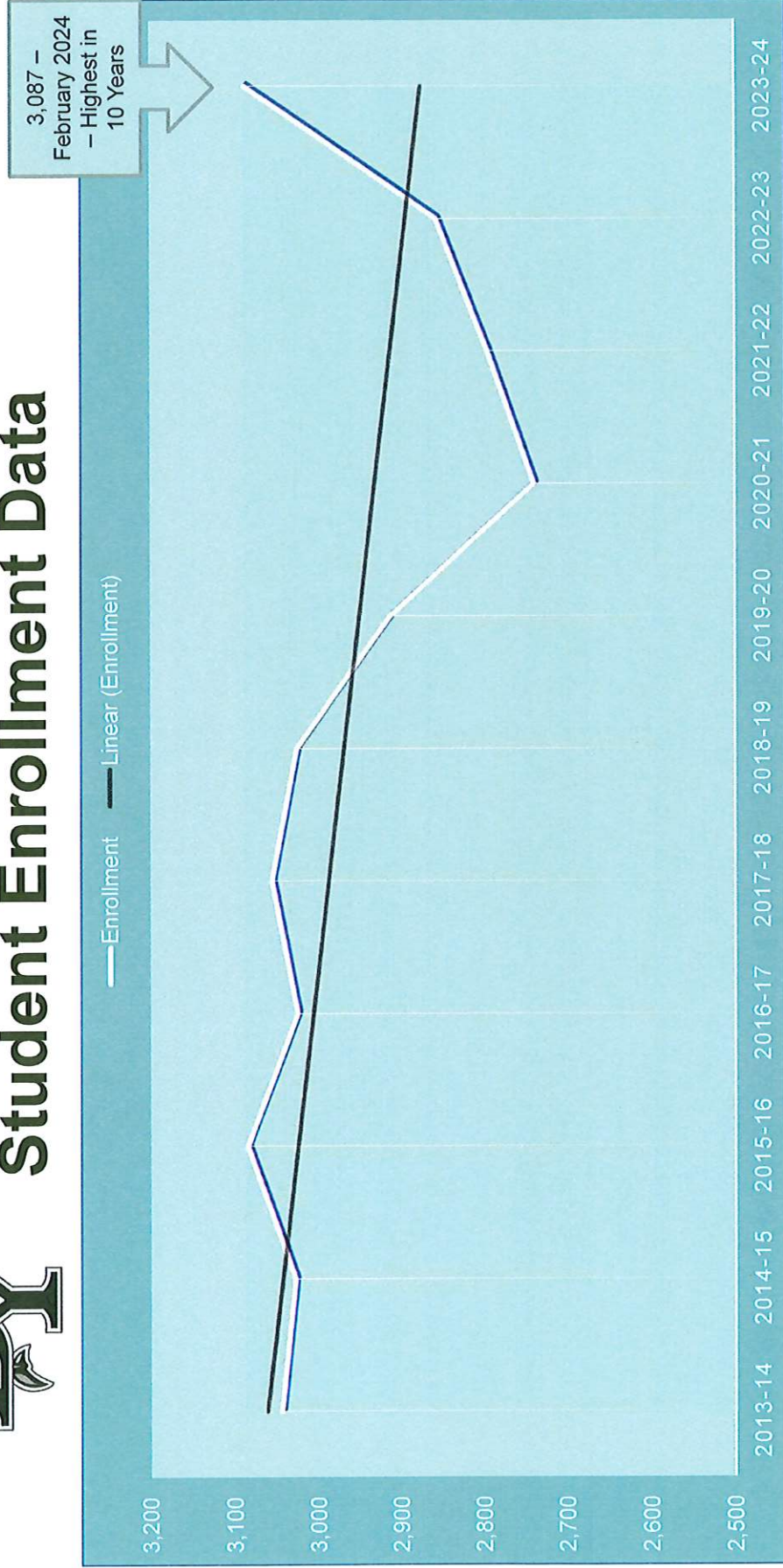


Factors Influencing the FY25 Budget: “The Perfect Storm”

- Staff-related contractual obligations related to COLA and extending the school day pre-K to grade 7.
- The ending of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, Federal COVID relief funds, that has been supplementing operational needs for the last 2+ years.
- Upward inflationary pressure on most fixed costs over the past two years:
 - Transportation, Salaries, Utilities, Insurance, Special Programs, etc.
- Lower than anticipated State Aid (Chapter 70)



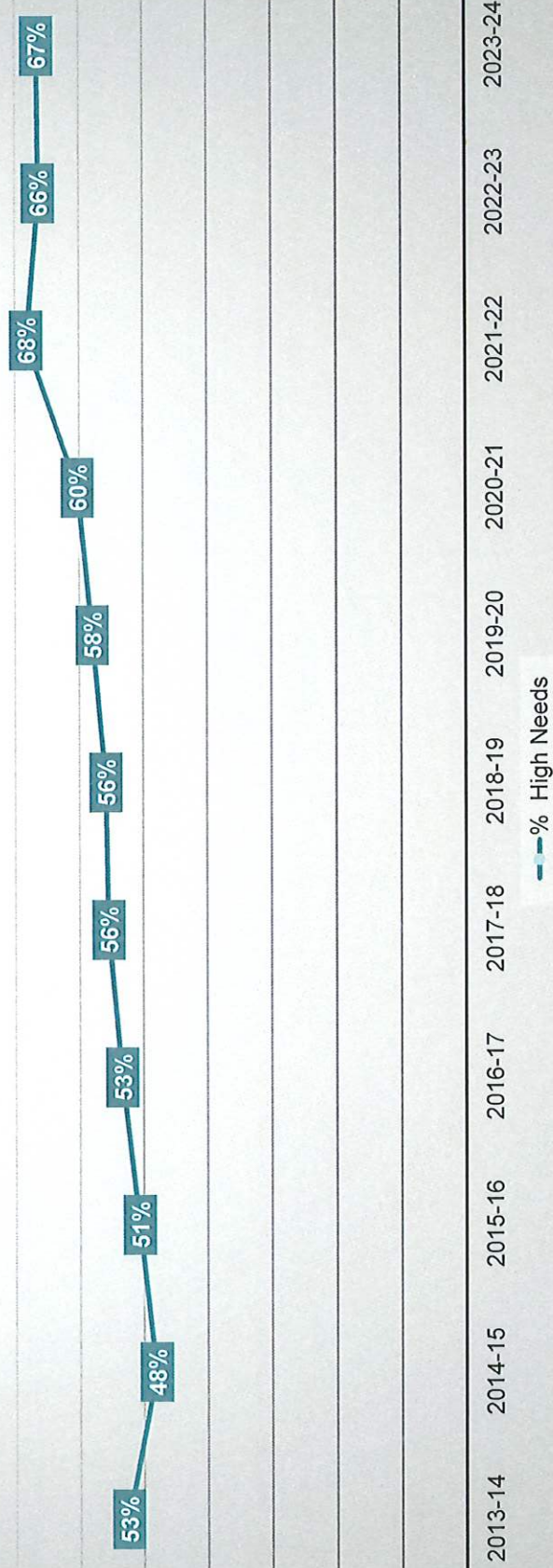
DYRSD Student Enrollment Data





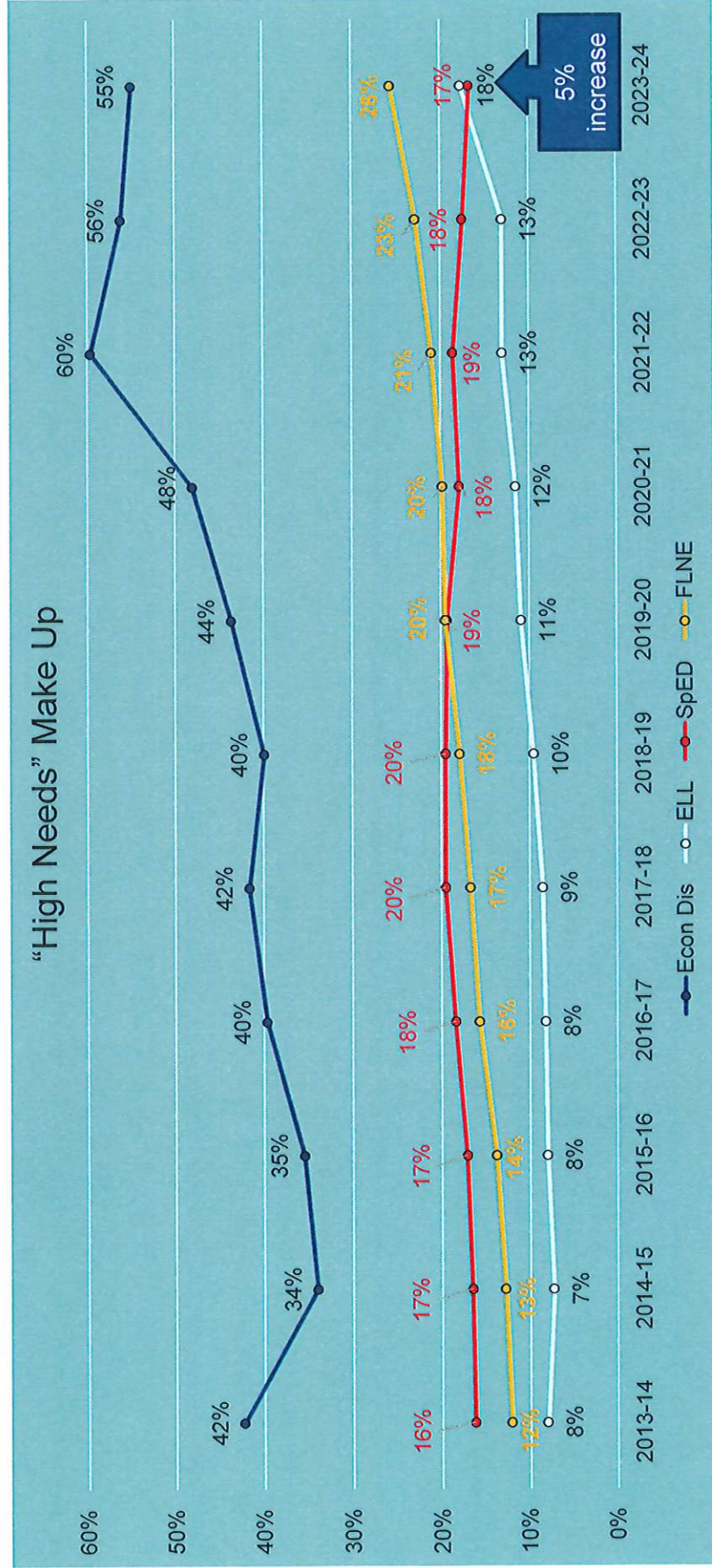
DYRSD Student Populations

% High Needs





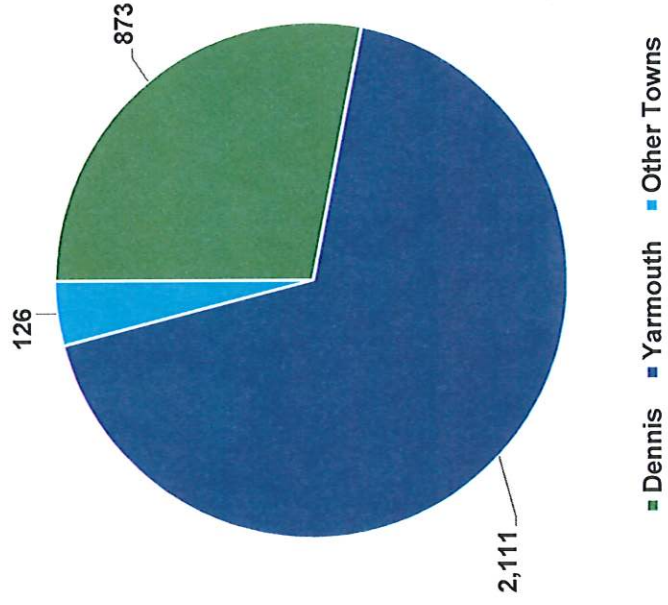
DYRSD Student Populations





DYRSD Student Populations

Students Attending From - January 2024





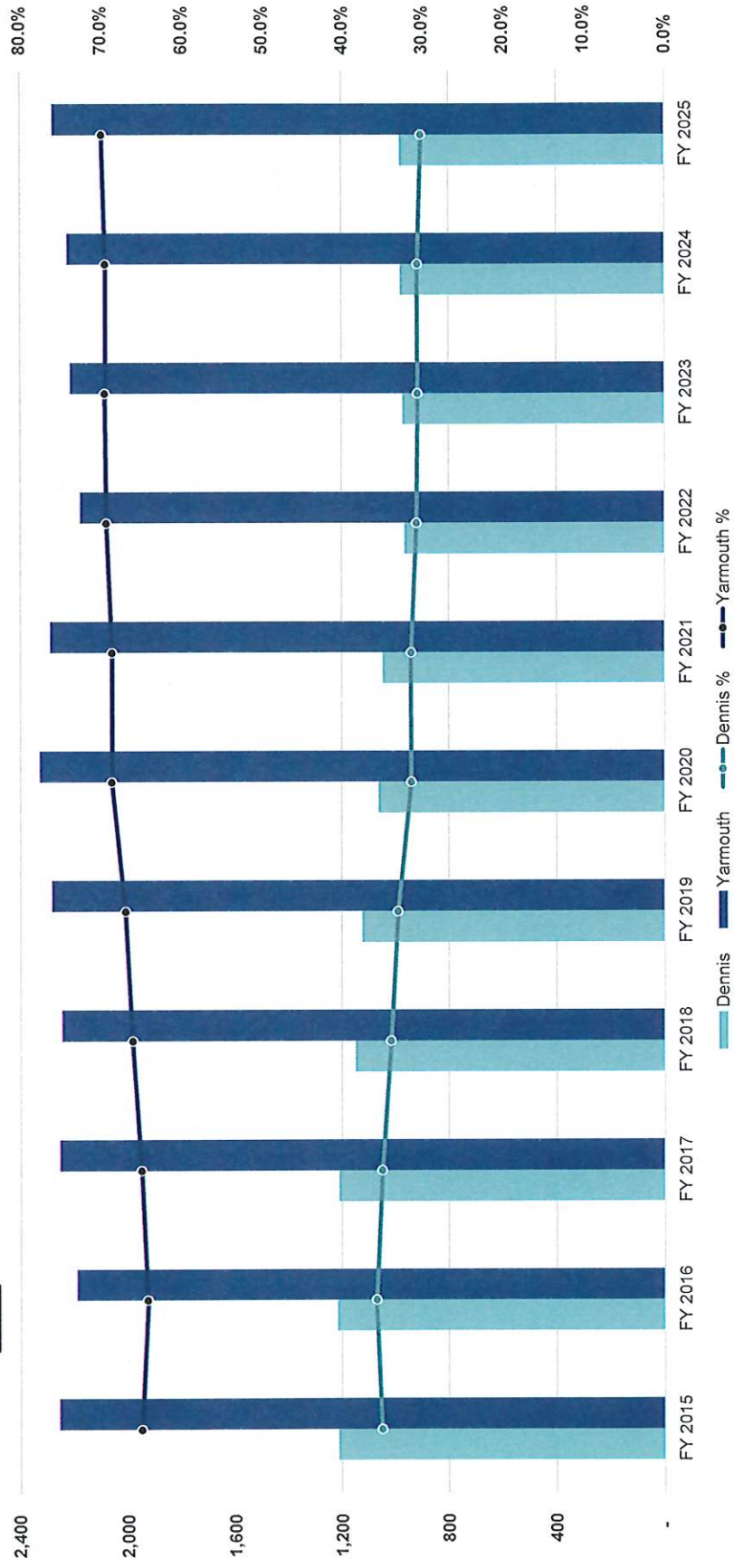
Foundation Enrollment

| Year | Dennis | | Yarmouth | | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | Enrollment | % of Total | Enrollment | % of Total | |
| FY 2015 | 1,214 | 34.996% | 2,255 | 65.004% | 3,469 |
| FY 2016 | 1,218 | 35.729% | 2,191 | 64.271% | 3,409 |
| FY 2017 | 1,212 | 34.978% | 2,253 | 65.022% | 3,465 |
| FY 2018 | 1,150 | 33.873% | 2,245 | 66.127% | 3,395 |
| FY 2019 | 1,125 | 33.020% | 2,282 | 66.980% | 3,407 |
| FY 2020 | 1,062 | 31.346% | 2,326 | 68.654% | 3,388 |
| FY 2021 | 1,046 | 31.374% | 2,288 | 68.626% | 3,334 |
| FY 2022 | 964 | 30.701% | 2,176 | 69.299% | 3,140 |
| FY 2023 | 972 | 30.528% | 2,212 | 69.472% | 3,184 |
| FY 2024 | 980 | 30.596% | 2,223 | 69.404% | 3,203 |
| FY 2025 | 983 | 30.144% | 2,278 | 69.856% | 3,261 |
| 5 Year Avg 2020-2024 | | 30.909% (Last: 31.394%) | | 69.091% (Last: 68.606%) | |

Source: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/>



Foundation Enrollment





DYRSD Cherry Sheet Revenue

| | FY 24 | FY 25 est |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| State Aid – Chapter 70 | \$11,659,682 | \$12,531,786 |
| Regional Transportation | \$1,858,982 | \$1,815,014 |
| Charter School Reimb | \$900,212 | \$426,916 |
| <i>Subtotal State Aid</i> | \$14,418,876 | \$14,773,716 |
| School Choice Tuition | \$655,338 | \$663,635 |
| TOTAL Revenue | \$15,074,214 | \$15,437,351 |



DYRSD Cherry Sheet Charges

| | FY 24 | FY 25 est |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Special Education | \$31,388 | \$32,808 |
| Tuition – School Choice | \$2,250,693 | \$2,060,186 |
| Tuition – Charter School | \$3,209,430 | \$2,802,579 |
| TOTAL Assessments | \$5,491,511 | \$4,895,573 |



DYRSD Cherry Sheet Net State Aid

| | FY 24 | FY 25 est |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| State Aid Revenue | \$14,418,876 | \$14,773,716 |
| State Aid Assessments | (\$5,491,511) | (\$4,895,573) |
| School Choice Tuition | \$655,338 | \$663,635 |
| TOTAL Net State Aid | \$9,582,703 | \$10,541,778 |
| Net Increase: | | \$959,075 |
| | | +10% |



DYRSD State Aid Update

Net State Aid:

- FY25 \$10,541,778 (Governor's Budget)
- FY24 \$ 9,582,703
- FY23 \$ 7,506,020
- FY22 \$ 5,009,258
- FY21 \$ 5,254,917
- FY20 \$ 5,649,121



DYRSD

Net State Aid History



Student Opportunity Act
Implemented in FY 2023

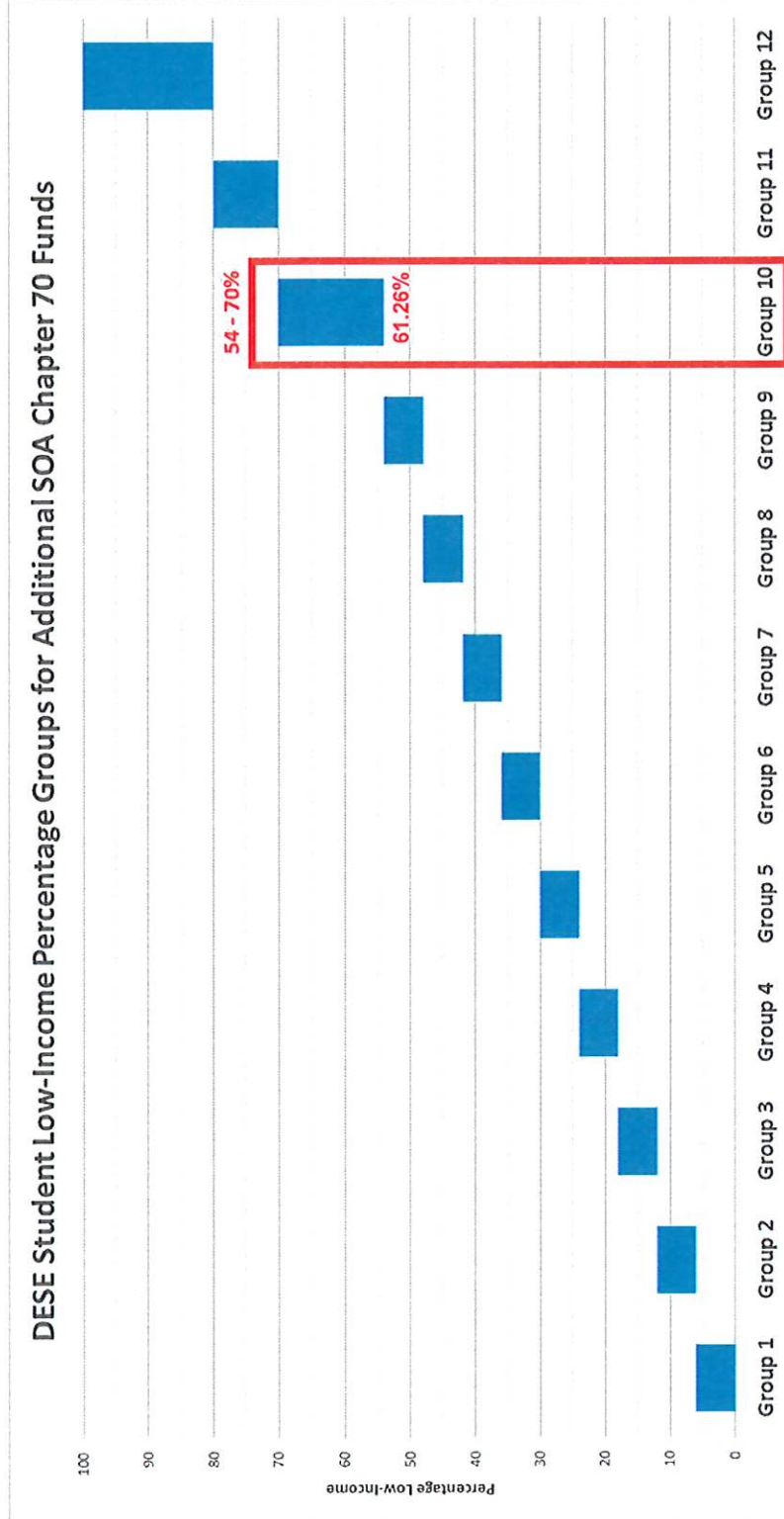


DYRSD Ch 70 Calculation

| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | + / - | % Chg |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Foundation Enrollment | 3,203 | 3,261 | 58 | 1.81% |
| Foundation Budget | 49,764,295 | 53,120,089 | 3,355,794 | 6.74% |
| Required District Contribution | 38,104,613 | 40,588,303 | 2,483,690 | 6.52% |
| Required Minimum - Dennis | 12,558,464 | 13,209,619 | 651,155 | 5.19% |
| Required Minimum - Yarmouth | 25,546,149 | 27,378,684 | 1,832,535 | 7.17% |
| Chapter 70 Aid | 11,659,682 | 12,531,786 | 872,104 | 7.48% |



DYRSD Ch 70 Calculation



Low-Income Group 10 = Additional \$7,163.59 per Low-Income Student in Foundation Budget



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- **First Step (October - December) Build a Budget That**
 - Retains Staffing Level
 - Addresses Contractual Increases in:
 - Special Needs Tuition & Services
 - Transportation – Regular Day and Special Needs
 - Health Insurance – Rates to be set in February
 - Property & Liability Insurance
 - Facilities, Grounds, Utilities
 - Retirement & Medicare Tax



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Retain All Staff
 - Contractual Salary Increases
 - \$2,000,708
 - Implement Longer School Day pK-12
 - \$1,716,000
 - Retain Positions Funded in ESSER
 - \$1,250,000

➤ Note: 10 of the 16 positions later recommended for reduction



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Tuition & Services – Special Needs
 - State Approved Increase for Private Schools & Collaboratives
 - \$333,100

- Tuition – Charter School & School Choice
 - Projected Overall Decrease for 2025
 - **(\$192,749)**



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Transportation – Reg Day & Special Needs
 - Reg Day Contractual Increase
 - Special Needs Driver Shortage
 - Increased # of Destinations to Transport to

- \$255,000



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Insurance – Health / Property / Liability
 - CCMHG Set Rates on 2-7-2024
 - Rates set at 8% increase
 - Property & Liability Increasing Nationwide
 - Current Estimate from MIIA
 - \$737,400



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Maintenance & Utilities
 - Custodial Contract
 - Trash Removal Contract
 - Electricity (Cape Light Compact +35%)
 - Natural Gas (heat)

- \$343,500



DYRSD

FY25 Initial Level Service Budget

- Barnstable County Retirement & Medicare
 - BCRA Estimate and Payroll Tax
 - \$75,015



DYRSD

Steps Taken to Reduce Initial Level Service Budget

1. Working with building leaders to “Right-size” the district to meet student needs
 - Class size normalization across the district
K-3 = 18 +/- 2 4-5 = 20 +/- 2 6-12 = 22 +/- 2
 - Student service caseload normalization across district and region
2. Made recommendations about programs not providing results
3. Looked for other “offsets”
4. Level funded most Non-contractual obligations
5. Include Staid Aid & Assessment information and Health Insurance to calculate assessments



DYRSD Additions - Reductions

Additions:

- Curriculum / Software \$ 92,615 *
- Staff
 - EL Teachers (5) \$725,130
 - Phys Ed Teacher (0.5)
 - Grade Level Teacher
 - SPED Teacher (2)
 - Speech Pathologists (2)
 - Assistant Coaches (2)

*Originally \$192,615



DYRSD

Steps Taken So Far

“Right-Sizing”

| School | Grade | # Grade Level Teachers | Avg. Class Size Proj. FY 25 w/ no change | +/- | New Class Size |
|--------|--------------|------------------------|--|-----|----------------|
| EHBi | Kindergarten | 5 | 16 | n/c | 16 |
| EHBi | Grade 1 | 5 | 14.5 | -1 | 18.125 |
| EHBi | Grade 2 | 4 | 18.25 | n/c | 18.125 |
| EHBi | Grade 3 | 5 | 16 | n/c | 16 |
| SAE | Kindergarten | 6 | 18.5 | n/c | 18.5 |
| SAE | Grade 1 | 6 | 18.5 | n/c | 18.5 |
| SAE | Grade 2 | 5 | 23.4 | + 1 | 19.5 |
| SAE | Grade 3 | 6 | 19.4 | n/c | 19.4 |
| MES | Kindergarten | 4 | 12.25 | -1 | 16.33 |
| MES | Grade 1 | 3 | 16.33 | n/c | 16.33 |
| MES | Grade 2 | 4 | 13.25 | -1 | 20.33 |
| MES | Grade 3 | 3 | 20.33 | n/c | 20.33 |
| DYI | Grade 4 | 13 | 18 | -1 | 19.5 |



DYRSD Steps Taken So Far “Right-Sizing”

- Analysis of DYHS course enrollment
 - ~100 DYHS Sections in FY 24 are enrolled with < 12 students (excluding VHS, dual enrollment, Dolphin time, & internship programs)
 - As a result, reductions in departments can be made combining sections to have more reasonable class sizes in electives
 - Result = **reduction in 5 staff**



DYRSD Steps Taken So Far “Right-Sizing”

- Special Education
 - Investigation into caseload sizes for non-sub separate special education classroom teachers; it was discovered that caseload size varied significantly across district.
 - Established a caseload size for all of 18 +/- 2 and built staffing model up from there
 - FY 25 → **-4 FTE**



DYRSD Steps Taken So Far “Program Review”



Intervention

- Larger portion of ESSER funds in Tier II & III
- Historically large investment in Tier III
- Data analysis shows low impact of investment

FY 25 → Restructure intervention to utilize well trained reading interventionists to work with more students (increase group size from 1 to 3 or 4).

Set intervention staffing to support 15% of student body

Focus strategy on supporting quality Tier I instruction (**Reduce 9 FTE**)



DYRSD Additions – Reductions

| Position | Additions | Subtractions | Net |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| K-4 Teacher | 1 | 4 | -3 |
| 8-12 Teacher | .5 | 5 | -4.5 |
| Nurse | - | 1 | -1 |
| Speech & Language Pathologists | 2 | Contract service (\$175,000) | 2 |
| Intervention | - | 9 | -9 |
| ELL Teachers | 5 | - | 5 |
| Special Education Teacher | 2 | 4 | -2 |
| Tech Integration | - | 1 | -1 |
| Coordinator | - | 1 | -1 |
| | | Net Total | -14.5 |



DYRSD Additions – Reductions

| Position | Additions | Subtractions | Net |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Library Assistant | - | 3 | -3 |
| Medical Assistant | - | 5 | -5 |
| Paraeducators | - | 10 | -10 |
| | | Net Total | -18 |
| Administrator | - | 1 | -1 |
| SRO | - | 2 | -2 |
| | | Net Total | -3 |



DYRSD Result of Steps Taken

- Revised Net State Aid based on Governor's Budget
- Reduced Budget for Revised Choice/Charter Tuition
- Increased Projected Local Revenue based on Recent Trends
- Right-Sized Staffing Levels
- Reduced Curriculum Expenditure
- Recommend Using \$500,000 of E&D to help offset
FY 2025 Town Assessments



DYRSD Result of Steps Taken

FY 2025 Operating Budget: \$76,890,501 = 6.56%
(Initial Projection 1-8-2024 = \$78,904,753 = 9.35%)

Calculated Impact on Operating Assessments:

- Dennis \$ 733,040 3.931% increase
- Yarmouth \$2,319,815 5.971% increase



DYRSD Ch 70 Calculation

| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | + / - | % Chg |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| Foundation Enrollment | 3,203 | 3,261 | 58 | 1.81% |
| Foundation Budget | 49,764,295 | 53,120,089 | 3,355,794 | 6.74% |



DYRSD FY25 Budget Town Assessment Methodology





FY25 Assessment Calculation

| | Dennis | Yarmouth | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Operating Budget | | | \$76,890,501 |
| Less: State Aid | | | (\$14,773,716) |
| Less: Local Receipts | | | (\$1,570,000) |
| Amount to be Assessed | | | \$60,546,785 |
| Required Min Local Contribution | \$13,209,619 | \$27,378,684 | \$40,588,303 |
| | +5.185% | +7.173% | |
| Assessment Above Minimum | \$6,168,967 | \$13,789,515 | \$19,958,482 |
| | 30.909% | 69.091% | |
| TOTAL Operating Assessment | \$19,378,586 | \$41,168,199 | \$60,546,785 |



DYRSD

FY 25 Local Assessments

| | Dennis | Yarmouth | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>FY 24 Operating Assessment</i> | \$18,645,546 | \$38,848,384 | \$57,493,930 |
| <i>FY 25 Operating Assessment</i> | \$19,378,586 | \$41,168,199 | \$60,546,785 |
| \$ Increase | \$733,040 | \$2,319,815 | \$3,052,855 |
| \$ variance to 2.5% | \$266,901 | \$1,348,605 | \$1,615,506 |
| % Increase | 3.931% | 5.971% | 5.310% |



Summary to Date

- Initial Projection 1-8-2024 = \$78,904,753
(9.35% increase)
- Maintain “Right-Sized” Level Service
(Net Reduction of 35.5 Positions)
- Address Contractual Obligations
- Reduce Principals’ Allocations \$100,000
- Apply \$500,000 E&D toward Assessments

- Current Request 3-6-2024 = \$76,890,501
(6.56% increase)
- Principals’ Allocations and use of E&D
Further Reduced Town Operating
Assessments by
 - \$185,454 Dennis
 - \$414,546 Yarmouth
- Overall FY25 Operating Assessment
 - \$19,378,586 Dennis = 3.931%
 - \$41,168,199 Yarmouth = 5.971%



Questions?



March 6, 2024

Superintendent's
Report
Supporting Documentation



Current Information



| School | Bus Arrival | Bus Departure | School Duration | # of Busses Used | Needed mins Next year |
|--------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| DYHS | 7:10 am | 2:11 pm | 402 mins | 22 | 0 |
| DYMS | 7:50 am | 2:47 pm | 402 mins | 29* | 0 |
| DYIS | 7:50 am | 2:47 pm | 402 mins | 29* | 0 |
| MES | 9:10 am | 3:35 pm | 375 mins | 7 | 27 |
| SAE | 9:10 am | 3:35 pm | 375 mins | 11 | 27 |
| EHBi | 9:10 am | 3:35 pm | 375 mins | 7 | 27 |

3 busses utilized for St. Pius Transportation

- Collective Bargaining Agreement with Unit A does not allow for work day to start before 7:00 am or end after 3:45 pm.
- Some EHBi bus runs currently take 60 mins or more to complete.
- Under current contract with bus company, any additional busses cost approx. \$86,000 per bus.



What Is the Problem?

Our Original Plan

- “Subtract” 27 mins from start of K-3 school day (start them earlier)
 - Take advantage of 80 min gap (7:50 – 9:10) that exists in schedule
 - Minimal disruption on rest of district and explore school start times as a district “down the road”

What We Learned

- After meetings with bus company, there is not enough time to absorb the 27 mins without adding busses (early estimate is 2-4).
- Several K-3 students might have to ride different busses in morning and afternoon even if we add busses (according to 5-Star)

What Are Our Options?



Option # 1

- Add the busses needed to “subtract” 27 mins from the start of the K-3 school day.
- Offset the budgetary increase in the transportation line by further reducing positions in the district.
 - This would be equivalent to \$172,000 to \$344,000 (2-4 busses)

Option # 2 (Still exploring viability of this option)

- Alter DYRSD bussing system from a 3-tier system to a 2-tier system
 - Combine K-5 students on one bus run and one (nearly identical) start time & place 6-12 students on a second bus run at a different time
 - Use added time of only having two runs to extend day for K-3 students & honor CBA
 - Explore which school start times make most educational sense for each age group

What is Next?



Counting

- School leaders are getting accurate counts of riders, as well as arrival and departure times

Communicating

- Early communication with DYEA and DYRSAA
- Message this week to DYRSD community regarding this challenge
- Connecting with other districts with “mixed-delivery” transportation

Decision-Making

- Next two weeks – **can** we make two tiers work?
- Next month – do we **want** to make two tiers work?
- Next two-three months – **If** we want to make two tiers work, **how** do we make it work?

Ezra H. Baker Innovation School

810 Route 28
West Dennis, MA 02670
(508) 398-7690

<https://www.dy-regional.k12.ma.us/ezra-h-baker-innovation-school>

February 12, 2024

Marc Smith, Superintendent of Schools
296 Station Avenue
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Dear Marc:

The generosity of our community has been overwhelming. I respectfully submit the following for review and acceptance by the D-Y School Committee:

- Diane Banks/ Fill a back pack – (5) \$20.00 Job Lot gift cards.
- Harwich Rotary Club- (15) \$50.00 Stop & Shop gift cards.
- Bill Holden of the Andrea Holden Foundation donated (15) \$100.00 Stop & Shop gift cards in addition to his fall donation of (10) \$200.00 Stop & Shop gift cards.
- Several Dennis golfers donated gift cards totaling \$2,500.00 from Stop & Shop, CVS, and Marshalls.
- Frank Seghezzi Jr. donated (5) \$100.00 T.J. Maxx gift cards.
- Elizabeth Bader donated (5) \$50.00 Ocean State Job Lot gift cards.
- Nancy's Candy etc. donated gift cards to CVS, Stop & Shop and Target which totaled \$600.00.
- The Dennis Democratic Town Committee donated several gifts cards. (1) \$20.00 to McDonalds, (1) \$20.00 to Burger King, (1) \$50.00 to Marshalls, (1) \$50.00 to Macy's, (2) \$50.00 Visa cards, (4) \$25.00 Amazon cards and (2) \$25.00 cards to Target.
- The West Dennis Garden Club donated (5) Stop & Shop gift cards, (5) \$50.00 Target gift cards, and (5) T.J. Maxx gift cards.
- Rockland Trust donated (4) \$25.00 Stop & Shop gift cards.
- Hildur Thompson donated (4) \$25.00 Stop & Shop gift cards.
- The Dennis Police Department donated Toys.
- Hands of Hope, Outreach Centers donated 3 boxes of new books.

I am grateful for these generous donations during this past holiday season and ensured they were distributed to our families in need. Because of this outpouring of support, we were able to help more than 38 families, and are able to support more during the winter months.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. Depin, Principal

KFD/pm



Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District


Office of the Superintendent

296 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664

Phone: (508) 398-7600 Fax: (508) 398-7622

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marc Smith
Superintendent

FROM: Jane Saucier
Assistant Treasurer 

RE: New Scholarship for School Committee Approval

DATE: February 26, 2024

The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District has received a donation in the amount of \$61,300 to create a yearly scholarship for two (2) graduating seniors. These funds have been generously given to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District by the Educational Foundation for Dennis and Yarmouth. It has been requested that this scholarship be named in honor of Joan and Jerry Shostak, the founding members of the Education Foundation more than thirty (30) years ago.

Name: Joan and Jerry Shostak Education Scholarship

Amount: \$4,000 Annually (\$2,000 per student)

Payment Date: A check to be sent directly to the school that the awarded students will attend after successful completion of their second semester

Length: Until funds are depleted

Selected by: DYHS Guidance Department

Criteria: The wish of the Education Foundation is that any students, male or female, with financial need and that are interested in Education with a focus in either art or pre-school music apply for this scholarship

As in the past, a vote of the School Committee is needed. There will be no cost to the district associated with this award. I recommend that the Joan and Jerry Shostak Education Scholarship be approved.

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Jennifer Rose, Vice Chairperson; Marilyn Bemis, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Joseph Tierney; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim.

Members not Present: Phillip Morris; Joe Glynn.

Others Present: Dr. Marc Smith, Superintendent of Schools; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Kendra Bennett, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michael Bovino, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School; Timothy Blake, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School; Michelle Dunn; Catie Depuy; Carl Depuy; James Plath; Emily Gould; Vida Morris.

At 6:31 p.m., Chair Jeni Landers opened the Public Budget Hearing.

Public Hearing

i. Presentation of FY 2025 Budget

Superintendent Smith began the presentation of the FY2025 budget. The presentation is included in the packet. He pointed out that the Committee has already seen most of this information at prior meetings. He spoke of the overall goal; factors influencing the budget; ESSER funds ending, inflation, and lower state aid than anticipated. Mr. Flynn reviewed the ESSER funds; a longer school day; timelines; the governor's budget; student enrollment data; student populations; college plans; staffing levels; budget by category; foundation enrollment. He will learn more about the health insurance rates this Wednesday.

Dr. Smith continued the presentation by reporting what steps have been taken so far including "right sizing" to meet student needs including class size normalization and student service caseload normalization. Recommendations have been made about programs not providing results; other offsets; level funding of most non-contractual obligations. He reviewed elementary class sizes; some classes were at 20 students while others were at 13; there should be equity among the elementary schools. He then reviewed high school course enrollment; numerous sections had less than 12 students per classroom. He did not include special education courses or subsets in this review. He also described other steps taken regarding tiered instruction; 80-90% of students are in Tier 1 core instruction. The remaining students are in Tier II and Tier III Intervention. Data analysis shows a low impact on investment. Restructuring intervention to utilize

well-trained interventionists to work with more students and focusing strategy on supporting quality Tier 1 instruction. He then reviewed the additions/reductions.

Mr. Flynn continued the presentation by describing the result of the steps taken.

ii. Public Comment

Chair Landers asked for comments from the public.

Vida Morris asked about the immigrant children who are staying in Yarmouth but attending Ezra Baker Elementary. She asked about the trend of declining enrollment without a corresponding decline in staffing. Have the increased hours at school resulted in MCAS score improvement? She had gone to the recent Finance Subcommittee meeting and questioned the difference in budget amounts; Mr. Flynn said that is a result of the health insurance rate change.

Michelle Dunn spoke of the assistants and how much they are needed. She does not want to see them cut from the budget.

Emily Gould said that there have been a lot of assistant principal positions added and that perhaps one of them should be cut instead of a teacher or assistant who works in the classroom.

Jim Plath said that he is encouraged by the work of the new superintendent in trying to lower the budget. He said the district should use E & D toward debt. He spoke of the district's capitalization fund and that the town paid for improvements at the Ezra Baker School. He said that the voters in Dennis have never passed an override if the Finance Committee and Select Board did not recommend it.

Public Comment ended at 7:27 p.m.

iii. School Committee Comment

Chair Landers said that each Committee member would have a chance to speak and then once everyone had an opportunity they could add additional comments.

Tomas Tolentino said he is on the Finance Subcommittee; no one wants to see positions being eliminated. School safety is a concern. It is not up to the Select Board, it is up to the people to vote for the budget. A lot of work has been done to lower the budget.

Joseph Tierney said that digging deep to try to lower the budget by right sizing classes is something that has never been done in the previous administration. He asked about the federal funding for the immigrant children; Mr. Flynn said that there is federal funding of \$104 per student per day. Dr. Smith said that funding is received for 26 children. Mr. Tierney also asked if there has been an increase in students wishing to attend the brand new intermediate/middle school. He asked about attrition; Dr. Smith said that preliminary conversations have begun with the heads of the unions; there will be some unfilled positions. Mr. Tierney said that the budget is a work in progress; we can

increase the budget amount right up until the final vote. What would it cost to keep the staff that are being eliminated. He asked about the School Resource Officer cuts; there are 2 SROs at the high school and 2 at the intermediate/middle school. The resulting cuts would leave one SRO at each. Mr. Tierney asked who the SROs report to; they report to the Chief of Police. Mr. Tierney said that he feels the police department should fund the SROs. Mr. Tierney asked if with teacher reductions would the district still be in compliance with special education requirements; Assistant Superintendent Lopes said that yes the district will remain in compliance.

Mr. Tierney asked how much the budget would cost individual taxpayers. He also said that we need community support and hopes the taxpayers will support the budget. He also thanked the administrators for their work on the budget.

Mr. Flynn added that this should be considered a one-time reset in order to preserve programs. Dr. Smith added that both towns have shown significant growth and that property values have increased.

Ms. Bemis said that as a retired educator she sees the values and priorities; young people were very much affected by Covid. The influx of federal funds was to help students get what they need; she feels that other districts know this. As a Dennis resident she appreciates that keeping the town affordable is very important but she would like to work together with the town to support the schools.

Ms. Rose asked about the speech pathologist position vacancies. Dr. Smith said that hiring for these positions is the goal rather than contracting the service to an outside vendor. The district's enrollment-to-staff ratio is very low especially as you look across the state. There will be some attrition and some positions left unfilled; this is not going to put us in a bad position.

Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim spoke of being from a family of immigrants; how helpful all her teachers have been and how they want the best for their students. She would not want students to miss out on the opportunity to take a particular course.

Chair Landers mentioned the many emails of support she has received. No one wants to reduce staff. She is on the Finance Subcommittee and supports right-sizing. She said that the 2 ½% is unfeasible. The Capital Stabilization Fund is for capital improvements. She believes it is a well thought out budget.

Dr. Smith said that for the next presentation the cost per taxpayer would be provided.

Mr. Tierney asked what the impact would be on some of the proposed movements. Could we look at administration levels of staffing? He asked about mixed levels within a classroom such as honors along with AP. Mr. Tolentino asked if there are plans to eliminate AP classes; Dr. Smith there are no such plans. Dr. Smith also said that the district owns the high school building as well as the intermediate/middle school building

and that having a stabilization fund is necessary; these are very large buildings with a lot of needs.

iv. Close the Hearing

At 8:20 p.m., Chair Landers closed the Public Hearing and returned to the remainder of the regular agenda.

Reports and Discussions

i. Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim

Rose-Anna reported on the success of the Robotics program. Dennis-Yarmouth senior Elisabeth Turner received the “Foundations Award” at the UMass Dartmouth Emerging Young Artist and Designers 2024 Show. Out of 808 art entries, there were only 13 awards, one of which Elisabeth received. On Friday, February 16th, there will be a Black History Month presentation including a fashion show. The World Languages clubs are working on Valentines for patients at Cape Cod Hospital and at local nursing homes.

ii. Tentative FY25 Budget

Superintendent Marc Smith

Assistant Superintendent David Flynn

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried unanimously 5-0 it was

VOTED: That the School Committee adopt a tentative FY2025 budget of \$80,999,651. \$76,990,501 Operating, \$4,009,150 Debt.

iii. Assistant Superintendent Report

Maria Lopes

Ms. Lopes informed the Committee that there has been a revision to the Employee Handbook under Reporting Bullying and Cyberbullying.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried 5-0 it was

VOTED: To approve the revision to the Employee Handbook regarding Bullying.

Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

i. School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

The punch list items are continuing to be completed.

ii. School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Yarmouth: No report.

Dennis: No report.

Superintendent’s Report

i. Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments

Dr. Smith acknowledged with thanks the donation of a binding machine and accompanying materials to the WAVE2 program from Teodolinda Gonzalez-Osorio and Douglas Bashaw.

ii. Superintendent Evaluation Process

Dr. Smith referenced the memo and materials which were included in the School Committee packet. He recently met with Chair Landers regarding the superintendent evaluation process. He reviewed for the Committee the steps for completing the evaluation. Each School Committee member will receive their individual copy of the Summative Evaluation Form for completion. The Committee has already approved the superintendent's goals; the focus indicators are new. Dr. Smith reviewed upcoming important dates including February 12th where he will report his progress on goals to the Committee. On April 22nd he will provide the Committee with summative data on goals and associated focus indicators. On or before May 2nd each Committee member will complete their individual summative evaluations and give them to Eileen for organization for the Chair. On May 20th the Chair will provide a summative report to the full committee (summarized from individual member documents) and the full Committee votes on the evaluation presented by the Chair.

Chair Landers asked the Committee when completing the sections of the form to remember to keep comments relevant to the referenced indicator.

Superintendent Smith will have Eileen email materials to the Committee once they are ready. He asked the Committee to please contact him with any questions.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Marilyn Bemis, and carried unanimously 5-0 it was

VOTED: That the Superintendent's 2023-2024 evaluation will be determined using the following indicators:

Standard I.A – Curriculum

Standard I.B – Instruction

Standard II.A – Environment

Standard III.C – Communication

Standard III.D – Family Concerns

Standard IV.A – Commitment to High Standard

Standard IV.C – Communications

Standard IV.D – Continuous Learning

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried unanimously 5-0 it was

VOTED: To approve the following items as presented in the Consent Agenda:

Donation:

Move to accept a donation of a binding machine, laminator, and laminator sheets to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School WAVE2 program from Teodolinda Gonzalez-Osorio and Douglas Bashaw as per Mrs. Bennett's January 10, 2024 memo.

Minutes:

January 22, 2024

Bills, Requisitions and Payroll

The warrants were signed by the Committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were reviewed.

Public Comment

Principal Blake told the Committee about the recently Harlem Wizards event which was sponsored by the PTOs at DYI and SAE. Dr. Smith participated in the game. Mr. Tolentino said it was a very successful event with approximately \$9000 raised.

Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried unanimously 5-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary

March 2024

February '24

April '24

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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
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| 25 | | 26 | | 27 | | 28 | | 29 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| 3 | | 4 | | 5 | Parent Teacher Conferences Early Release | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | |
| 10 | | 11 | | 12 | Parent Teacher Conferences Early Release | 13 | SC Meeting 6:00 | 14 | Parent Teacher Conferences Early Release | 15 | | 16 | |
| 17 | | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | SC Meeting 6:30 | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | |
| 24 | | 25 | | 26 | | 27 | 1.5 hour early release all grades | 28 | | 29 | | 30 | |
| 31 | | 1 | | Notes | | | | | | Good Friday - No School | | | |

April 2024

March '24

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May '24

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| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| 5 | 6 | Notes | | | | | |