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Minuteman
School of Applied Arts & Sciences

March 19, 2003

Faxed and Mailed

Subject: **Emergency Budget & Warrant Article Bulletin for the Minuteman Region**

To:
1. Chairman of Each Member
   Town Board of Selectmen
   c/o Town Executive Officer
2. Chairman of Each Member
   Town Finance or Warrant Committee

Last night our Minuteman School Committee voted a new budget and assessment figures in the context of new House-1 and transportation information from the state. These are the official figures which we now ask you to present to annual town meetings in accordance with section 34 of Chapter 71 of Municipal laws (attached hereto). THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE COMMITTEE'S VOTE IS SHOWN ON THE NEXT PAGE.

We hope that you will not only present but will endorse these new figures for these basic reasons:

1. The figures are based on a newly reduced budget which is lower than this year's budget and which includes elimination of 10.5 staff positions despite growth in total member town enrollment and in SPED service, the latter to the highest percentage level in the Commonwealth with great savings to member towns.

2. The assessments shown are the lowest we can project under House-1, **but legislators have assured us that the House-1 aid formulas will be rejected. So, the fiscal picture will improve and we would like youngsters in Minuteman and local schools not to become victims of a temporary House-1 in the meantime.**

3. The proposed assessments are simply convenient placeholders for those towns that plan to delay or recess towns meetings until the changed state aid picture is known. **The figures leave voters free to change or lower amounts by actual vote.**

4. For those towns that want to avoid delay or a recess, item #3 in the School Committee vote guarantees that improvements in the aid to our region will be translated into reduced assessments. **It is highly likely that final figures will be closer to our original assessment plan**, but it is also clear that the final Senate-House plan will be different than either our earlier plan or House-1 from the Governor. That is why **we are asking your help to avoid damage to school service from figures that will change.** NOTE: One legislative leader has suggested that the region will get aid but should plan on a 20% aid cut from FY'03. We have prepared a sample of what assessments would become in that case if you wish to request same from Tom Markham or myself. Of course, these figures are not a vote and should not be used for warrant articles.

Thanks for your help,

Ron Fitzgerald

Ron Fitzgerald
Superintendent for the
Minuteman School Committee

c School Committee Members

Minuteman Regional High School

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Quality education for Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Lincoln, Needham, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston.

Minuteman H.S. Superintendent's Office

March 19, 2003
For Town Meetings

FY'04 Minuteman School Committee Vote on March 18, 2003

Moved that ...

1. **The FY'04 budget be revised to $15,443,465.**

2. **The House-1 and transportation aid realities be used to issue these revised warrant article assessment figures to member towns, all based on the state recommended assessment method:**

TOWN	ASSESSMENT UNDER H-1 WITH TRANSPORT AID TO MM	COMMENTS
Acton	$1,013,783	Includes 1 CHOICE student
Arlington	3,098,815	Based on state assessment method
Belmont	597,851	
Bolton	395,136	
Boxborough	232,502	Includes 2 CHOICE students
Carlisle	164,777	
Concord	317,644	Includes extra SPED charge
Dover	52,100	
Lancaster	692,566	Includes 2 CHOICE students
Lexington	1,017,858	Includes extra SPED charge
Lincoln	174,831	
Needham	516,335	
Stow	1,131,731	
Sudbury	467,745	
Wayland	237,802	
Weston	54,224	
TOTAL	10,165,700	XXXXX

3. **If the state rejects formula changes in House-1 and sends Chapter 70 aid and/or added transportation aid directly to regions, the superintendent will immediately recalculate assessments lowered by said increases in aid and so notify towns. This recalculation will be based on the state assessment system.**

THE MINUTEMAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICIALLY ADOPTED THE ABOVE 3-PART MOTION ON MARCH 18, 2003, since we received verification that the reduced transportation aid will be sent directly to regions under the current House-1.

NOTE: Any town wishing to know theoretical figures related to the #3 possibility above may request same (a calculation based on a 20% Chapter 70 aid loss).

Ronald Fitzgerald

Ronald Fitzgerald, Superintendent

Any city, town or regional school district, located within such city or town, which accepts the provisions of this section may establish a fund to be known as the Instructional Materials Trust Fund, hereinafter in this section called the fund, and may appropriate money for said fund, which will be kept separate from all other monies by the city or town treasurer or, in the case of a regional school district, the treasurer of such regional school district. Said fund shall be managed by a board of trustees, hereinafter referred to as the board. The superintendent of schools of the city or town, or in the case of a regional school district, the superintendent of the regional school shall be chairperson of said board. In addition to the chairperson, the board shall consist of: two school committee members appointed by the school committee; two teachers from the elementary grade levels kindergarten through grade six, inclusive, and two teachers from the secondary grade levels, grades seven through twelve, inclusive, appointed by the local teachers organizations; one elementary school administrator and one secondary school administrator appointed by the superintendent of schools; and two parents of students in the elementary schools and two parents from the secondary schools appointed by the mayor of a city or the selectmen of a town, as the case may be, and in the case of a regional school district, appointed by the chairman of the regional school district committee. The terms of office of the board members shall be three years, except for the chairperson, who shall serve ex-officio. A vacancy on said board occurring by reason of the expiration of a term or other cause shall be filled by the designated appointing powers. A member of said board may be reappointed.

Said fund may accept a gift or donation. The principal of said fund shall not be expended. Said board is hereby authorized to expend annually ninety percent of the interest earned from the principal of said fund for the purchase of instructional materials; provided, however, that one-half of such expenditure shall be for the benefit of grade levels from kindergarten through grade six, inclusive, the remaining half for the benefit of grade levels seven through twelve, inclusive.

CHILDREN OF CERTAIN EMPLOYED PARENTS

Caption added by St. 1946, c. 165, § 1 and editorially modified

§ 26C. Contributions and federal funds; use

The commonwealth and the school committee of any town may accept funds from the federal government for the purposes of sections twenty-six A to twenty-six F, inclusive. The school committee of any town may receive contributions in the form of money, material, quarters or services for the purposes of said sections from organizations, employers and other individuals. Such contributions received in the form of money, together with fees from parents and any allotments received from the federal government for said purposes, shall be deposited with the treasurer of such town and held as a separate account and expended by said school committee without appropriation, notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-three of chapter forty-four.

Added by St.1946, c. 165, § 1.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 34. Support of schools; appropriations; recommendations

Every city and town shall annually provide an amount of money sufficient for the support of the public schools as required by this chapter, provided however, that no city or town shall be required to provide more money for the support of the public schools than is appropriated by vote of the legislative body of the city or town. In acting on appropriations for educational costs, the city or town appropriating body shall vote on the total amount of the appropriations requested and shall not allocate appropriations among accounts or place any restriction on such appropriations. The superintendent of schools in any city or town may address the local appropriating authority prior to any action on the school budget as recommended by the school committee notwithstanding his place of residence. The city or town appropriating body may make nonbinding monetary recommendations to increase or decrease certain items allocating such appropriations.

Chapter 71 of Mass. Municipal Finance Laws

Amended by St.1980, c. 580, § 7; St.1981, c. 471; St.1981, c. 782, § 14; St.1992, c. 234; St.1996, c. 450, § 122.

Historical and Statutory Notes

C.L. c. 137.
C.L. c. 305.
St.1692-3, c. 26, § 5.
St.1701-2, c. 10, § 1.
St.1718-19, c. 2.
St.1789, c. 19, §§ 6, 7.
St.1826, c. 143, §§ 4, 10, 19.
St.1829, c. 116.
R.S.1836, c. 23, §§ 9, 32, 60, 61.
St.1859, c. 238.
St.1859, c. 252, §§ 4, 5.
G.S.1860, c. 38, §§ 12, 14, 15, 36.
St.1871, c. 145.
P.S.1882, c. 44, §§ 17, 19, 20, 46.
R.L.1902, c. 42, §§ 22 to 24, 49.
St.1919, c. 292, § 9.
St.1920, c. 78.

§ 37A. Grants; acceptance and disbursement

School committees of cities and towns and regional district school committees may accept grants or gifts for educational purposes from federal, state, county and municipal governments or agencies thereof, charitable foundations and private corporations and disburse the same for such purposes. Any amounts so received by a school committee of a city or town shall be deposited with the treasurer of such city or town and held as a separate account, and expended by said school committee without further appropriation, notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-three of chapter forty-four. Any amounts so received by a regional district school committee shall be deposited with the treasurer of such regional school district and held as a separate account and expended by said committee.

Added by St.1958, c. 119. Amended by St.1981, c. 134.

§ 37B. Purchase of or making payments to annuities or investments

A school committee or a board of trustees of a vocational school may, on a day appointed, which shall be within ninety days of the opening of a school year, enter into a written agreement with any of its employees to purchase or make payments to an individual or group annuity contract, custodial account, or any other investment authorized under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code

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