

# Uxbridge School Committee Meeting February 15, 2024 Uxbridge High School Library and Remote Participation

**School Committee Members in Attendance:**

	Present	Absent
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair	X	
Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair	X	
Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk (remote)	X	
Mr. Ben Casper		X
Mr. David Shinnick	X	
Mr. Aaron Lenart	X	
Mr. Michael Dion	X	

**● Call to order (6:15)**

Mr. Desruisseaux called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

**● Public Comment (6:16-6:17)**

Steve Mandile (remote) shared that he appreciated and admired the students from the high school's Mending Spartan Minds club who spoke at the previous school committee meeting.

**● Preliminary Budget Review (6:17-7:52)**

Ms. Sheridan gave a presentation on the preliminary FY25 budget. The preliminary budget number is \$29,588,374. This number represents an 18.30% increase over FY24 (\$4,577,315).

Her slideshow and accompanying commentary included:

- a. A breakdown of the FY25 proposal by DESE code including how those areas compared to the FY24 budget
- b. FY25 budget drivers that the administration believes are critical to improving the education of the district's students
- c. The main categories, with dollar amounts, that are driving the budget's increases: ongoing district obligations in salaries and operations, FY25 staffing requests that include 7 ESSER-funded positions and 4.5 new staff positions, transportation, loss of revenue of revolving funds
- d. Number of full-time staff equivalencies from FY23-FY25 (proposal)

- e. Positions from the fall town meeting PreK warrant article that are carried over into the FY25 proposal
- f. Staff requests that did not make it into the FY25 proposal
- g. Breakdown of the district's revolving account budget offsets used in FY24 and the recommended offsets for FY25
- h. School choice, PreK, and circuit breaker revolving accounts budget offsets, year-end balances and reimbursement amounts for FY21-FY23, projected amounts for FY24, and recommendation for FY25 offsets
- i. Breakdown of OOD placements for the district's OOD students by amount and number of students and the increase over the FY24 numbers
- j. Number of OOD students in FY18-FY25 (projected)
- k. Number of school choice in and school choice out students FY17-FY24 (preliminary) and school choice in and out revenue from FY18-FY24 (preliminary)
- l. Chapter 70 breakdown from FY23-FY25 (preliminary)
- m. Net school spending breakdown in Uxbridge vs state average from FY17-FY23
- n. Federal, State, and Private grant awards for Uxbridge FY20-FY24
- o. A breakdown of how each of the district improvement goals is represented within the FY25 proposal

#### Discussion:

Ms. Liscinsky thought it would be beneficial to know where Uxbridge stands with contingent towns regarding their budget increases, potentially for the last four years.

Mr. Shinnick wanted to ensure it is clear to the public the difference between students in out-of-district placements vs students who choose to attend other schools.

Ms. Sheridan shared that she felt the current budget (FY24) is "very lean."

Ms. Liscinsky suggested it would be nice to see where the district stands in student achievement vs. where it stands in funding.

Mr. Maharay felt it was important to also focus on the number of Uxbridge students leaving the district that the town pays for in one way or another to attend schools such as BVT, OLV, and other public school districts.

Mr. Maharay said he is concerned that the district has been making great strides in improving student learning, but if the budget number constrains the district, the district could lose that progress.

#### ● iReady Information (7:52-9:07)

Dr. Dwyer gave a presentation highlighting the progress students have made based on the results of their iReady testing in the fall compared to their recent winter assessment.

Taft's results showed kindergarten through 3rd grade. The kindergarten classes took their first assessment in winter so they have no fall testing to use as a comparison. Whitin's results included grades 4-7. The high school shared results from the 8th grade. Both reading and math results were shared.

The data showed the percentage of students (by grade) whose assessment placed in one of the following categories:

- a. Mid or above grade level
- b. Early on grade level
- c. One grade level below
- d. Two grade levels below
- e. Three or more grade levels below

Slides were shared that showed each school's growth by placement in both reading and math. These slides highlighted:

- a. The overall growth for all students (by school) between the fall and winter assessments
- b. The overall growth for all students (by school) broken down by the grade level categories achieved in the fall assessments

Student growth percentages between fall and winter were listed as follows:

Taft Reading: 85%

Taft Math: 62%

Whitin Reading: 62%

Whitin Math: 54%

8th grade Reading: 59%

8th grade Math: 22%

Dr. Dwyer shared action steps that have been taken and are being taken at each school to increase achievement in reading and math.

Dr. Dwyer also shared a slide of the district's curriculum refreshes and changes from school years 2022-24.

### ● Superintendent Update (9:07-9:12)

Dr. Baldassarre shared the following:

- a. Unit B negotiations have concluded and he will bring the tentative agreement to the Committee for ratification on 2/27.
- b. The traffic patterns at Taft and Whitin have been evaluated and the public safety committee will be discussing ways to manage them on 2/20.

- c. The work is complete in making the Taft school E911 compliant, and the final testing phase will happen the following day.
- d. The core playground team met with the playground vendor, Ultiplay, and the installation is planned for the two weeks between the end of the regular school year and the beginning of extended school year programming. Mr. Dion and Ms. Toth are working to ensure parents have a say in any extra pieces of equipment and playground development that are still in discussion.
- e. Commissioner Riley is stepping down.

● **Minutes (passed over)**

● **Adjournment (9:12)**

**Motion:** *Mr. Dion made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Barry: YES; Ed: YES (remote). The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***


The meeting adjourned at @9:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

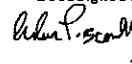
Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

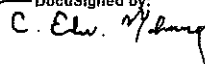
School Committee Members:

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Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

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Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

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Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

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Mr. David Shinnick, Member

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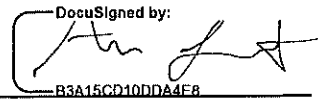
Mr. Ben Casper, Member

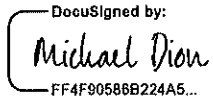
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Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member

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Mr. Michael Dion, Member

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