



# WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Working Together"

**Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed.D.**

Interim Superintendent of Schools

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May 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Winchendon Community,

We are writing to you today united in our commitment to the students and families of Winchendon. We want to assure you that our resolve to provide the best possible education for our children remains unwavering despite the rejection of the school district's budget at Monday's Town Meeting. This setback, though challenging, presents an opportunity for us to come together as a community and meet the needs of our students for the 2024-2025 school year. The dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff and district leaders have always been a cornerstone of our district, and it is with this same dedication that we move forward.

Since the budget was voted down, the District Leadership Team and the Teachers Association Leadership have met to review the budget and address the concerns brought forward by members of the community. There was a sense of urgency during these meetings to collaborate on strategies that will ensure community support during the upcoming special town meeting. Our shared goal is to find a way forward that will result in an approved budget by the community so education can continue uninterrupted into the next fiscal year.

During this collaborative meeting, the Teachers Association Leadership, Superintendent and Members of the District Leadership Team discussed and evaluated the budget to ensure that student outcomes were maximized. Our primary goal remains focused on a budget that reflects our shared values and priorities, ensuring that every child in Winchendon has access to quality education and the resources they need to thrive. We believe that with open communication, collaboration, and a shared vision, we can achieve a budget that supports our educational goals. With the beginning of the new fiscal year only weeks away, this budget MUST gain the approval of our community to prevent a debilitating outcome that will affect not only the children of our community, but also all of the staff employed by the Winchendon Public Schools, and the residents of Winchendon.

Today, we are asking for your support in passing this revised budget so we can continue to improve the educational outcomes of all the students in our community. The Central Office Leadership and Building Principals dedicated countless hours to meticulously crafting the budget. While we understand that it may not please everyone, it represents a balanced approach that allows us to work within our means and still provide the best possible education for our children.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding, and commitment to the future of our children. Together, we can ensure that Winchendon is a place where education is a priority and every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent of Winchendon Public Schools

Stephanie Rondeau

President, Winchendon Teachers Association