

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
THE TOWN OF WINDSOR LOCKS**

**50 Church Street, Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096**

**Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82811337100?pwd=kfT75BOUFW3dh53zttn2G4\\$nbfbhYB.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82811337100?pwd=kfT75BOUFW3dh53zttn2G4$nbfbhYB.1)

**Meeting ID: 828 1133 7100**

**Passcode: 348346**

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The Board of Finance Meeting of Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairwoman Patty Murphy and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairwoman Patty Murphy, Michael Ciarcia, Norm Weigert, Dan Flanagan, Con O’Leary, Sean Twitchell, Judy Chapman and Roy Zettlemoyer (via Zoom).

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Yana Abramovich, Finance Director

Steve Brown, Assistant Finance Director

**PUBLIC INPUT – BOARD OF FINANCE MATTERS ONLY:**

**In person:**

None.

**Via Zoom:**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS, FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>, IF AVAILABLE:**

Meeting minutes are not available at this time. They will be emailed out to board members and will be presented for approval at the Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

**TRANSFERS:**

None.

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:**

**Board of Education:**

Shawn Parkhurst, Superintendent, Alba Osorio, Board of Education Chairperson, and Rebecca Bissonnette, Director of Curriculum, presented the Board of Education FY26-27 budget.

The Board of Education cited fixed and contractual cost increases, the loss of temporary grant funding, and the reinstatement of medical insurance costs as key drivers for the proposed increase. There was a lengthy discussion from the Board of Finance regarding budget calculations, reduced staffing and class size impacts, student performance trends, and the proposed capital request items. The discussion also included broader town fiscal constraints and the importance of public participation in the budget process. The Board of Finance commended the Board of Education on the level of support and attendance both in the audience and via Zoom.

*\*The presentation is attached here as Schedule A*

**REVIEW, DISCUSS AND APPROVE ANY PREVIOUS BUDGETS PRESENTED, AS NEEDED:**

No new information was provided regarding the Registrar of Voters budget. Additional information was received for the Probate budget and will be reviewed and discussed next week. Debt Service remains under review with no updates at this time. Revenue is scheduled for discussion next Tuesday. The Board also received a formal request letter from the Town Clerk, which will be reviewed next week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Senior Center Bus Request:**

Chairwoman Murphy announced that accounts had been reviewed and funding was identified within unallocated capital funds. She reiterated that 80% of the bus's cost would be paid by the State grant and the remaining 20% would come from the town.

***Dan Flanagan made a motion to send the request to the Board of Selectmen to set a town meeting to approve the payment of \$14,000 out of unallocated capital for the purchase of the senior bus. Sean Twitchell seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.***

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**FINANCE OFFICE UPDATE:**

No new updates available since February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT- BOARD OF FINANCE MATTERS ONLY:**

**In Person:**

**Lauren Daly, 29 Cypress Road, Windsor Locks:** Lauren expressed support for the proposed Board of Education budget and commended the administration for increasing communication and transparency with families. She stated that some parents feel frustrated by what they feel is years of underfunding and she encouraged the Board of Finance to consider the long-term impact of educational and financial investment on students in Windsor Locks. Lauren also shared her concerns regarding staffing levels and the impact they have in the classroom, citing personal experiences with her daughters. She also commented on the traffic and safety concerns at North Street School, describing ongoing congestion during drop-off and dismissal and urged consideration of proposed improvements through the BoE's capital request.

**Samantha Bruce, Mary Webb Rd, Windsor Locks:** Samantha expressed support for education funding and commended the Board of Education's presentation. She stated that while the Town must balance its overall budget, investment in student activities, arts, and athletics should also be considered as they have great impact on student success and outcomes. Samantha also suggested potential opportunities to cost save, including school consolidation and reviewing student programs with no ROI. She encouraged the Board to consider all department budget requests when evaluating increases and suggested seeking community input on programs that matter most to them.

**Via Zoom:**

**Kurt Brace, Elm Street, Windsor Locks:** Kurt stated that he feels it's the Board of Finance's responsibility to present a budget that will ultimately be approved by voters. He emphasized that prior referendum results reflect the voice of the people of Windsor Locks and noted that the Town is facing a financially challenging year. He stated that increased spending does not necessarily result in improved educational outcomes and encouraged the consideration of taxpayer expectations. He also suggested that school consolidation should be considered before reducing classroom staffing of teachers and paraprofessionals.

**BOARD MEMBER INPUT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

***Sean Twitchell made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm. Dan Flanagan seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Amelia Griskewicz*

Recording Secretary

# FY 27 Budget:

## *Stabilizing Our District*

*This budget closes a  
multi-year structural gap*

Alba Osorio, BOE Chairperson  
Shawn Parkhurst, Superintendent

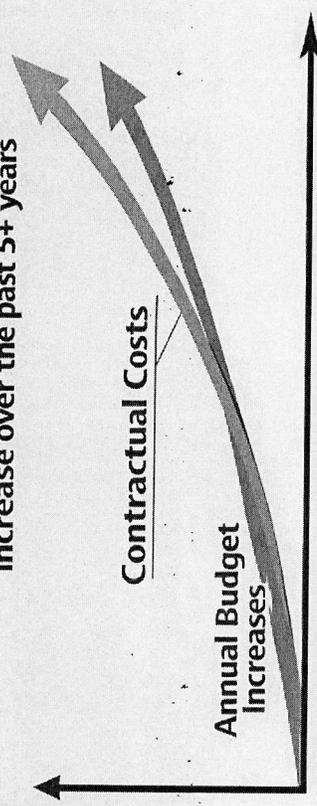
February 25, 2026



# FY27 WLPS Budget

## The Need for the Increase

Contractual obligations have outpaced approved budget increase over the past 5+ years



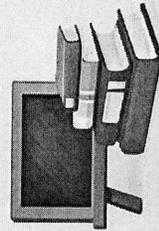
Only 4% of the Budget is Not Fixed or Contractual Costs

### Potential Reductions

- Larger Class Sizes
- Program Cuts
- Student Activities
- Staffing Reductions

Compounded Increases Lead to FY27 Proposed Increases to Maintain Programs, Staff & Services

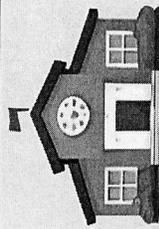
## Where Are the Increases?



Instruction



Transportation



Operation of Plant



Maintenance of Plant



Benefits



Tuition & Student Activities

# Board of Finance Chair Communication of 12/1



Board of Finance Request(s)	Board of Education Budget Action(s)
Draft budgets of what is needed, separating needs from wants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>96% of FY27 budget</b> is contractual obligations of needs - <b>\$38,175,714</b></li> <li>• Reviewed the <b>historical budgeting challenges</b>, deferred needs, therefore increasing costs each year compounded</li> <li>• Reduced staff through attrition &amp; review of enrollment trends - <b>reduction of 11 teachers over last 3 years</b></li> <li>• <b>4% of FY27 budget is</b> controlled non-contractual spending - <b>\$1,590,655</b></li> </ul>
Explore innovative cost savings  Total Savings: \$287,785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of ways to enhance <b>student-centered coaching</b> without adding staff and increasing budget - <b>avoid budget increase of \$137,426</b></li> <li>• Increasing <b>enrollment into revenue generating programs</b> (i.e. RISE, PMA, Open Choice) - <b>savings of \$47,994</b></li> <li>• Reorganized <b>technology replacement cycle</b> through partnership with WLPS Strategic Planning Task Force - <b>savings of \$64,310</b></li> <li>• Established a <b>Strategic Planning Task Force</b> to develop a 2026-2031 WLPS Strategic Plan that will drive future budgeting</li> <li>• Deferred purchases in FY27</li> <li>• Reprioritized existing resources - <b>savings of \$38,055</b></li> </ul>
Share meaningful improvements using residents tax dollars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurable growth in <b>student reading outcomes</b>; shifting to new assessment tool tied to <i>Science of Reading</i></li> <li>• State Accountability Index ranks WLPS #17 in all 36 Alliance Districts</li> <li>• Added <b>STEM programming at WLMS; pathway into WLHS</b></li> <li>• Significant <b>college acceptance successes</b></li> <li>• Class of 2025 AP Recognition - <i>College Culture - Silver; College Credit - Gold; AP Honor Roll - Silver!</i></li> </ul>



## FY27 Adopted BOE Budget

FY26 Budget

\$ 34,051,186.00

FY27 Budget

\$ 39,766,369.00

Increase \$

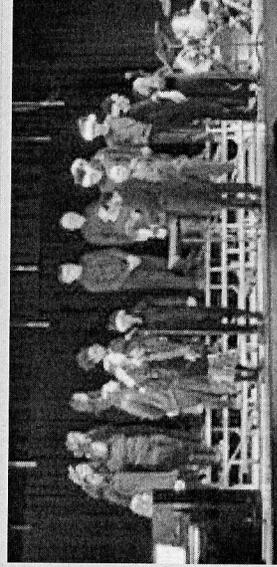
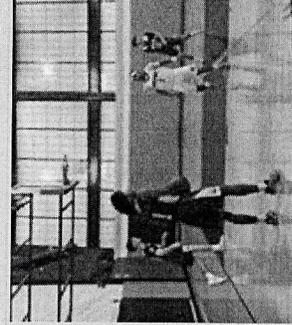
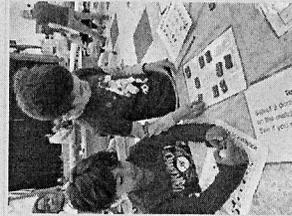
\$ 5,715,183.00

Increase % *without previously funded medical insurance \$2,500,000*

**9.44%**

Increase % *with previously funded medical insurance \$2,500,000 reinstated in BOE budget*

**16.78%**





## FY27 Adopted BOE Budget Increase

FY27 Budget Total Increase \$ 5,715,183

### The Breakdown of the FY27 Budget Total Increase

<b>General Control</b> ( <i>central administration, administrative expense</i> )	\$ 397,602
<b>Instruction</b> ( <i>school administrators, instructional staff, textbooks, and supplies</i> )	\$ 2,042,771
<b>Nursing</b> ( <i>nursing and healthcare needs</i> )	\$ (39,541)
<b>Transportation</b> ( <i>bus contract</i> )	\$ 123,420
<b>Operation of Plant</b> ( <i>building &amp; grounds staff, contracted services, utilities, supplies</i> )	\$ 399,634
<b>Maintenance of Plant</b> ( <i>repairs, and replacement equipment</i> )	\$ 6,097
<b>Other</b> ( <i>retirement, social security, insurance, student act., indoor air quality, tuition and special svcs.</i> )	\$ 285,199
<b>Medical Insurance Reinstated</b> ( <i>previously BOF funded</i> )	\$ 2,500,000



## Windsor Locks Public Schools FY 27 Capital Requests

### South Elementary School Lawn Mower Replacement

- Current mower is over 20 years old; parts now difficult to obtain*
- Requesting Hustler X-Ride with 60" deck*
- Used to mow both around the building and property beside the playground*
  
- **Financial Risk of Delay:** Annual price increases extending near the 10% mark, due to manufacturing tariffs, raw material cost increases, and shipping cost increases
- **Operational Risk of Delay:** Lawn Mower would need to be borrowed from the high school; less mowers active in the grounds fleet; delayed timeframe for getting all sections of the two schools' properties mowed throughout the spring to fall mowing season.

Total Requested:      **\$ 14,133.57**



# Windsor Locks Public Schools

## FY 27 Capital Requests

### Windsor Locks High School Main Sewer Pipe Replacement

- Main sewer pipe caving/failing*
- Requires replacement as per Water Pollution Control Authority*
- Includes cutting 80' of parking lot, excavating and replacing 80' of sewer pipe, install ¾" stone over pipe and install 4" of asphalt over area*
  
- **Financial Risk of Delay:** Annual inflation between 5.5% and 6.5% in price increases
- **Operational Risk of Delay:** Complete collapse of the sewer pipe would lead to emergency funds needing to be approved for an immediate replacement; potential need to close the building for any period of time due to sewage not being able to exit the facility appropriately/potential backups inside of the school.
  
- Total Requested:        \$ 14,500**



## Windsor Locks Public Schools FY 27 Capital Requests

- North Street School Student/Parent Drop Off Area**
  - Safety concern*
  - Moves the playground area to the back field behind the school*
  - Utilizes the existing asphalt areas to make a large traffic loop so traffic does not back up into the main street*
  
- **Financial Risk of Delay:** The Producer Price Index (PPI) for asphalt paving mixtures is showing a 2.9% year-over-year cost increase.
- **Operational Risk of Delay:** Traffic on North Street School during student drop-off/pickup continues to pose a safety risk as vehicles travel on the main road around stopped cars waiting in line to drop their child off at the Pre-K entrance to the school.
  
- Total Requested:                    \$ 97,781.74**



## Windsor Locks Public Schools FY 27 Capital Requests

- Windsor Locks Middle School Partial Roof Replacement**
  - Pitched roof at the end of its useful life as per Garland Company Assessment*
  - Shingles are dried out and cracked*
  - Leaking risk*
  - Nail pops, leaving holes throughout*
- **Financial Risk of Delay:** Roofing work is projected to increase by 4% to 6% of the overall cost of the project annually.
- **Operational Risk of Delay:** Water leak penetrations could lead to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ); compliancy with the recently implemented State IAQ standards, as water leaks could lead to mold and odors, impacting the atmosphere of the facility for students and staff. Leaks also require hole patching and shingle/ceiling tile replacements, which would be an otherwise avoidable general fund operating expense if the roof was to receive a partial replacement and be under a warranty moving forward.
- Total Requested:                    \$ 2,220,000.00**



## Windsor Locks Public Schools FY 27 Capital Requests

### Windsor Locks Teacher Chromebooks

- Replaces 104 Teacher Chromebooks that are used for daily instruction
- Each device is \$332 each with a chrome OS management console at \$32 each

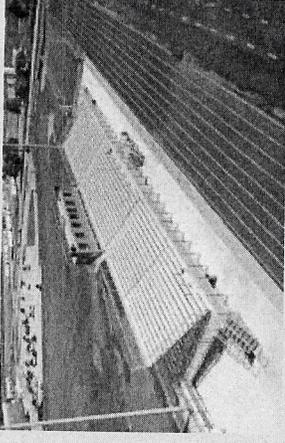
### Financial Risk of Delay

- Higher acquisition costs; current asset is at its expected lifecycle
- Repair frequency increases and fixes become more expensive

Total Requested:           **\$ 37,856**



## Windsor Locks Public Schools FY 27 Capital Requests



- KBA Architects, **at no cost**, updated the previous study and cost for the aging and safety concerns of **WLHS Track and Football Field** (savings of \$30,000 for the updated study)
- Total Estimated Project Budget:           **\$ 6,218,459**
- Alternates & Options:                           **\$ 2,022,442**
- Total Estimated Project with Alternate & Options:           \$ 8,240,901**
- Board of Education Funds Available:**
  - CIF Planning Grant & Non-Lapsing Funds*           **(\$ 550,000)**
- Total Requested Capital:   \$7,690,901**



## A Historical Perspective - Needs of WLPS

Budget Year	Contractual Obligations	Board of Education Amount Requested	Approved by Board of Finance	Medical Insurance "Coupon"	Difference between Contractual and Approved
23-24	\$34,726,311.00	\$35,771,858.00	\$33,025,838.00	\$2,500,000.00	\$799,527.00
24-25	\$37,799,063.00	\$38,436,159.00	\$34,051,186.00	\$2,500,000.00	-\$1,247,877.00
25-26	\$38,337,810.00	\$39,120,214.00	\$34,051,186.00	\$2,500,000.00	-\$1,786,624.00
26-27	\$38,175,714.00	\$39,766,369.00	TBD	TBD	TBD

If WLPS had been funded in 24-25 and 25-26 at the contractual level (an additional total of \$3,034,501), the FY27 ask beyond the medical insurance would be \$180,682.



# FY 27 Budget:

## Stabilizing Our District

*This budget stabilizes WLPS and avoids deeper cuts for the next several years.*

**The Board of Education recommends approval of the FY27 budget to:**

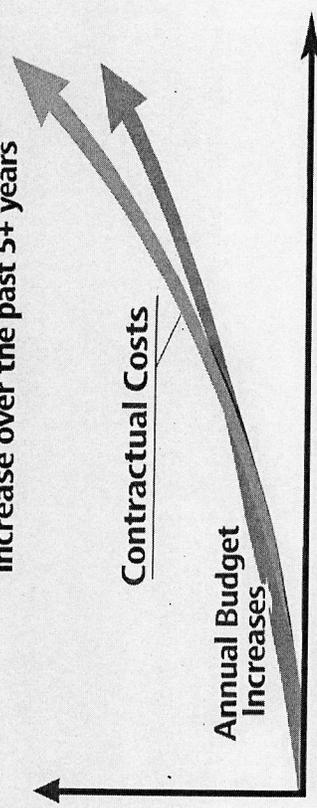
- Meet contractual obligations
- Maintain student services
- Protect long-term stability
- Avoid deeper future reductions

*This budget reflects RESPONSIBLE stewardship and forward planning.*

# FY27 WLPS Budget

## The Need for the Increase

Contractual obligations have outpaced approved budget increase over the past 5+ years



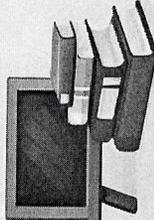
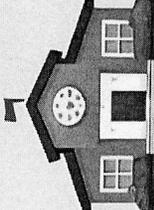
Compounded Increases Lead to FY27 Proposed Increases to Maintain Programs, Staff & Services

Only 4% of the Budget is Not Fixed or Contractual Costs

### Potential Reductions

- Larger Class Sizes
- Program Cuts
- Student Activities
- Staffing Reductions

## Where Are the Increases?

					
Instruction	Transportation	Operation of Plant	Maintenance of Plant	Benefits	Tuition & Student Activities