

SCHOOL from page 1

Town Meeting in May.

Massachusetts law stipulates that districts that are unable to approve a budget will receive sufficient appropriation from the state's Department of Education until a budget can be passed. If a school district fails to pass a budget by Dec. 1 of any year, the Department of Education assumes operation of that district, and the corresponding town or towns will have the funding needed for the school deducted from local aid.

McLaughlin also responded to assertions that budget discussions were not being had publicly or in a timely manner. Speaking in the context of discussions around decreasing reliance on School Choice funds, the Superintendent gave the reminder that public meetings are being held whether community members are choosing to watch them or not.

"I can't control who tunes in," he said. "But to suggest that those conversations haven't been had or weren't had in a timely manner is just contra-

dicted by the fact. Those agendas are publicly posted, as are the meeting notes and minutes."

The Superintendents confirmed that ratios between students and teachers as well as between students and paraprofessionals would still be well within ideal ranges after accounting for staffing cuts, while still leaving room for additional enrollments and inbound School Choice students for the coming year. Voyik specifically stated that any students requiring one-to-one support according to their Individualized Education Plan would continue to receive that level of support going forward.

The two also spoke at length about special education in the district, discussing their intent to implement an approach that seeks to reduce unnecessary referrals for special education while ensuring students in need of IEPs are receiving the appropriate service and attention they need, with keeping special education students in-district identified as a top priority.

After the Superintendents had completed their presenta-

tion, School Committee member Larry Dixon spoke up to voice his discontent over its considerable length.

"I appreciate all the information you're giving, but an hour-plus long presentation is hard to comment on when we're sitting and listening," he said. "There's some aspects here that I did want to comment on, but sitting and listening for an hour-plus is quite tough to really then have discussion."

Dixon went on to express his concern that difficulty with reaching and engaging with the public might be the most significant hurdle facing the committee and the administration in dealing with the issues discussed.

"I think the key challenge that I see here is really around this awareness raising, and how do we get this message out," he said.

He went on to say, "The impression I'm getting from individuals is that this is all kind of a surprise to them. And, you know, that's not a surprise because there's so few people that attend these meetings. So I think

in many ways the system is kind of broken."

Other members of the School Committee pushed back on these statements from Dixon.

"South Hadley cable TV here has these meetings posted publicly," said committee member Daniel View. "You could find them very easily. You could sift through these meetings and hear verbatim the conversation that we had today on multiple occasions."

View later added, "I don't think it should be the Superintendent's responsibility to spoon-feed that information to people who are now suddenly paying attention."

Vice-Chair Danielle Cooke felt that she fell in the middle of the two opinions. "I appreciate the presentation so much because I think it answered all of the critiques that we've had in the last few weeks," she said. "But I also empathize because it is a repeat of the things that we just did all year."

GARDEN from page 4

controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

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Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

RAILERS from page 8

out the season the Railers started slowly. That translated into a big early deficit and with the talented Brad Arvanitis in goal for Maine, that deficit looked like Mt. Katahdin.

"I wasn't thinking good thoughts," coach Jordan Smotherman said of that bad beginning, "but we have a resilient group and they did not let down."

The Railers argued that the Mariners' fourth goal by Sebastian Vidmar was directed in off his skate. That was at 3:24. They lost the debate but Calder scored his second of the game at 5:10 and the mood changed.

"As soon as we scored the second goal everything on the bench shifted," Smotherman said. "It got everybody's attention. The shoulders all came back from a slouch."

Calder made it 4-3 at 6:50 on what might have been the pass of the year from Joey Cipollone. Reece Newkirk tied it at 10:42 and Christian Krygier put Worcester ahead for good at 11:11. It was Krygier's second goal of the season, first since opening night.

Calder got his fourth at 18:14 with the Railers on a power play.

Tyler Drevitch got Maine back on the board at 1:43 of the third period making it a one-goal with lots of time left. Calder got his fifth at 4:48, though, to restore some scoreboard space.

Brendan Robbins hit an empty net at 18:17 and Ryan Verrier got his fourth of the season at 18:37 to set the franchise record.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win with 22 saves on 27 shots. Arvanitis was replaced by Shane Starrett for the third period and he made two saves.

Public Notice

Town of Granby Board of Appeals/Planning Board

The Granby Board of Appeals along with Granby Planning Board will hold a joint Public hearing on **Monday, April 29 at 5:35 P.M.** at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, top floor, to consider the petition of Jeremy Lapointe seeking a Special Permit under Section 6.2 and Site Plan Approval under Section 6.3 of the Granby Zoning By-Laws, and applicable of Section III- Regulations, 3.7.5 - Accessory Uses, regarding a private garage or stables

exceeding Twelve Hundred (1200) square feet in area to be located at 70 Chicopee Street, Granby, MA, known as Map 15-B-7.2

In addition to the above hearing, the Board of Appeals and Planning Board intend to conduct public meetings following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner, Chairman
Granby Board of Appeals
James Trompke, Chairman
Granby Planning Board
04/012, 04/19/2024

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Town Reminder

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