

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss. Officer's Return, Reading:

By virtue of this Warrant, I, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015 notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote in Town elections and Town affairs, to meet at the place and at the time specified by posting attested copies of this Town Meeting Warrant in the following public places within the Town of Reading:

- Precinct 1 J. Warren Killam School, 333 Charles Street
  - Precinct 2 Reading Police Station, 15 Union Street
  - Precinct 3 Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street
  - Precinct 4 Joshua Eaton School, 365 Summer Avenue
  - Precinct 5 Walter S. Parker Middle School, 45 Temple Street
  - Precinct 6 Barrows School, 16 Edgemont Avenue
  - Precinct 7 Birch Meadow School, 27 Arthur B Lord Drive
  - Precinct 8 Wood End School, 85 Sunset Rock Lane
- Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street

The date of posting being not less than fourteen (14) days prior February 23, 2015, the date set for Town Meeting in this Warrant.

I also caused a posting of this Warrant to be published on the Town of Reading website on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Constable

A true copy Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Gemme, Town Clerk

# TOWN WARRANT



## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Reading, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote in Town elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Reading Memorial High School Performing Arts Center, 62 Oakland Road, in said Reading, on Monday, February 23, 2015, at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening, at which time and place the following articles are to be acted upon and determined exclusively by Town Meeting Members in accordance with the provisions of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

**ARTICLE 1** To hear and act on the reports of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Assessors, Board of Library Trustees, Municipal Light Board, Finance Committee, Town Manager and any other Official, Board or Committee.

Board of Selectmen

**Background:** This article appears on the Warrant for all Town Meetings. There are no anticipated reports so this Article is expected to be tabled.

-----

**ARTICLE 2** To choose all other necessary Town Officers and Boards or Committees and determine what instructions shall be given Town Officers and Boards or Committees, and to see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate by borrowing or transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the purpose of funding Town Officers and Boards or Committees to carry out the instructions given to them, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

**Background:** This Article appears on the Warrant of all Town Meetings. There are no known Instructional Motions at this time. The Town Moderator requires that all proposed Instructional Motions be submitted to the Town Clerk in advance so that Town Meeting Members may be "warned" as to the subject of an Instructional Motion in advance of the motion being made. Instructional Motions are normally held until the end of all other business at Town Meeting.

**Bylaw Committee Report:** No report.

**Finance Committee Report:** No report.

**ARTICLE 3** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the premium paid to the Town upon the sale of bonds issued for the purpose of constructing a new library, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, which bonds are the subject of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion, to pay costs of the project being financed by such bonds, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project, but not yet issued by the Town, by the same amount, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

**Background:** Recall that the approximate funding for the Library project is as follows:

\$18.4 million Total as authorized by Town Meeting and then approved by the voters  
\$ 5.1 million State grant from the Board of Library Commissioners  
\$13.3 million Expected local share, as a debt exclusion

Due to the timing of the state grant, paid over five years versus a shorter expected construction period, the local share of funding was divided into two parts:

\$10.0 million (permanent) as soon as the construction contract was signed  
\$ 5.3 million (temporary) includes extra to cover the timing of the state grant  
\$ 3.3 million (permanent) once the project is closed out

On Thursday January 15, 2015 the Town sold 10-yr debt with these purposes:

\$10.0 million library project  
\$ 4.3 million to refinance old debt for Barrows, Wood End and the partial MWRA buy-in  
\$ 1.3 million for local share of West Street project

The 1.499% interest rate received was quite low on this debt sale – for example remaining interest costs for the \$4.3 million of refinanced debt were reduced by over \$0.5 million. The town also received a large premium above the \$15.6 million in par value for this debt issue, driven by Wall Street's desire to package the debt for retail income buyers. On the library portion of debt sold, the Town would like to keep the \$933,541.01 in premiums received, due to the low interest cost.

MA DOR requires that in order to do so, Town Meeting must vote to reduce the original authorization by the amount of this premium, such that the new authorization is \$18.4 million - \$933,541.01 or \$17,466,458.99. Note that this is a technical change only - taxpayers will still be asked to pay the expected project costs of \$18.4 million.

The new financing schedule for the project becomes:

\$10,933,541.01 (permanent) sold on January 15, 2015  
\$ 4.4 million (temporary) includes extra to cover the timing of the state grant  
\$ 2.3 million (permanent) once the project is closed out (approximate)

Approving this Article locks in low financing on an additional ~\$1 million; failing to approve this Article will require the Town to borrow that ~ \$1 million at the close out of the project in about two years, at an unknown interest rate cost.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 8-0 at their meeting on January 21, 2015.

**Bylaw Committee Report:** No report.

---

**ARTICLE 4** To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate by borrowing, whether in anticipation of reimbursement from the State under Chapter 44, Section 6, Massachusetts General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority or from the tax levy, or transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for highway projects in accordance with Chapter 90, Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

**Background:** Incoming Governor Charles Baker released an additional \$300 million in funding that the legislature had already approved for local roads, via Chapter 90. This increases the Chapter 90 share for Reading from \$605,869 to **\$908,803** for fiscal 2015. Last April, Town Meeting authorized the smaller amount, so additional authorization is needed in order to claim the additional \$302,933.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 8-0 at their meeting on January 21, 2015.

**Bylaw Committee Report:** No report.

---

**ARTICLE 5** To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2015-24 Capital Improvements Program as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter and as previously amended, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

**Background:** This Article is included in every Town Meeting Warrant. The Reading General Bylaw states (section 6.1.3) “... *No funds may be appropriated for any capital item unless such item is included in the Capital Improvements Program, and is scheduled for funding in the Fiscal Year in which the appropriation is to be made.*” Bond ratings agencies also want to ensure that changes to a long-term CIP are adequately described.

The following changes are proposed to the FY 2015 – FY 2024 CIP:

### **General Fund**

**FY15: \$1,240,000**

\$1,200,000 School Facilities – modular classrooms

\$ 40,000 Improvements at Morton Field (backstop and handicapped accessible seating)

**FY16+ (\$38,000)**

(\$38,000) Morton Field (part of Birch meadow complex \$2.3 million future plans)

John F. Doherty, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

82 Oakland Road  
Reading, MA 01867  
Phone: 781-944-5800  
Fax: 781-942-9149



Craig Martin  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Learning and Teaching

Martha J. Sybert  
Director of Finance and Operations

# Reading Public Schools

*Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow*

To: Town Meeting Members  
From: John F. Doherty, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Date: January 24, 2015  
Re: Kindergarten and Space Needs for 2015-16 School Year

The following memo provides background information for the Special Town Meeting Articles on the purchase of 6 modular classrooms for Killam, Joshua Eaton, and Barrows Elementary Schools.

## Timeline

At the December 22, 2014 School Committee Meeting, the Committee directed the Superintendent to develop a plan for implementation of modular classrooms to support district-wide full day kindergarten and address increased enrollment at the Killam, Eaton and Barrows Elementary Schools for the 2015-16 school year. This was based on our full day kindergarten registration numbers that were finalized on December 19<sup>th</sup> and other space related issues that are described below. At the January 8, 2015 School Committee meeting, the Committee voted to request a Special Town Meeting to request funding for six modular classrooms. In discussions with the Town Manager and the Town Clerk, a proposed timeline has been developed which will culminate in a Special Town Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The timeline is as follows:

| Timeline  | Schedule   |
|---|------------|
| School Committee vote requesting Special Town Meeting   | 12/22/2014 |
| Legal Review  | Complete   |
| School Committee Vote Specifying Specific Path  | 1/8/2015   |
| Finance Committee Meeting   | 1/14/2015  |
| Warrant Background and Report Due to Town Manager   | 1/15/2015  |
| Financial Forum {FINCOM Vote on Proposal; BOS vote to close Warrant for Special Town Meeting; FINCOM Vote on Town Meeting Article | 1/21/2015  |
| Warrant Goes to Print   | 1/27/2015  |
| Warrant Available to Town Meeting Members   | 2/2/2015   |
| Town Meeting  | 2/23/2015  |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Lottery for Full Day Kindergarten (If Town Meeting Does Not Approve Article) | 2/24/2015 |
| Notification to Families of Assignment                                       | 3/1/2015  |

### Rationale for Request

The space needs are related to the following factors:

- Increase in full day kindergarten over the last several years.
- Increase in the number in-district special education programs over the last several years.
- Incoming “population bubbles” at Barrows and Killam: total kindergarten enrollment (full and half day) is significantly increased at these two schools for 2015-16 year.
- Steady increase in enrollment at Joshua Eaton (46 students) since 2010-11 school year.
- Current “population bubble” at Eaton: Total kindergarten enrollment (full and half day) at Eaton this school year has led to kindergarten class sizes averaging 24.5 students. As this group moves to first grade next year, they will all be “full day” and we are aware of several incoming first graders who will join Eaton after attending private kindergarten. We have budgeted to add a Grade 1 Teacher at Eaton next year to bring class sizes for this group back to School Committee guidelines.
- Art and Music Classrooms decreased at Barrows, Killam, and Joshua Eaton.

The information below will go into more detail into the above points of emphasis.

### Updated Enrollment and Modular Classroom Information

As a reference point for discussion, I have included Table 1, the kindergarten enrollment since the 2005-06 school year, which is the first year full day kindergarten was implemented in the district. I have also included the current registration numbers for the 2015-16 school year.

**Table 1-Full Day Kindergarten Enrollment 2005-present**

| School Year     | FDK Enrollment | Total | % Attending FDK |
|-----------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| 2005-06         | 92             | 287   | 32%             |
| 2006-07         | 106            | 325   | 33%             |
| 2007-08         | 123            | 324   | 38%             |
| 2008-09         | 120            | 324   | 37%             |
| 2009-10         | 123            | 280   | 44%             |
| 2010-11         | 145            | 348   | 42%             |
| 2011-12         | 166            | 319   | 52%             |
| 2012-13         | 177            | 302   | 59%             |
| 2013-14         | 195            | 287   | 68%             |
| 2014-15         | 228            | 322   | 71%             |
| 2015-16 (12/19) | 227            | 296   | 77%             |

Table 2 outlines the enrollment numbers for full day and half day kindergarten as of December 19, 2014, which was the registration deadline for families who wanted to be considered for full day kindergarten. Please note that we usually receive several additional kindergarten registrations between now and the start of school in September.

**Table 2-Kindergarten Registration (2015-16 school year) as of December 19, 2014**

| Category                       | Barrows   | Birch Meadow | Joshua Eaton | Killam    | Wood End  | Total      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Half Day</b>                | 12        | 11           | 9            | 19        | 18        | 69         |
| <b>Full Day</b>                | 66        | 36           | 45           | 55        | 25        | 227        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>78</b> | <b>47</b>    | <b>54</b>    | <b>74</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>296</b> |
| <b>Holding Out for 2015-16</b> |           | 3            | 3            | 4         | 2         | 12         |
| <b>Private K</b>               | 3         | 1            | 4            | 3         |           | 11         |
| <b>Other</b>                   |           |              |              | 2         |           | 2          |
| <b>Unable to Contact</b>       | 15        | 4            | 10           | 17        | 3         | 50         |
| <b>Original Census</b>         | 92        | 54           | 70           | 99        | 45        | 360        |

As you can see from the chart above, we currently have 227 students who have requested full day kindergarten for next year, the second highest total ever requested in our district. In addition, 25 students have notified us that they will not be attending Kindergarten in our district next year, but plan on attending either Kindergarten or Grade 1 the following year, which will add to the 2016-17 Kindergarten and Grade 1 class numbers. Moreover, we have been unable to contact 50 families from the original census numbers, which means, based on historical data and our original census, it is possible we will reach at least 310-320 kindergarten students for the 2015-16 school year. There may also be students who were not on the census or who have not moved to Reading yet that are unaccounted for in our count. This means that potentially an additional 30 or more students from the current registration numbers could be added between now and September. It should be noted that we currently have 296 students registered for next year, which is one of the highest projected kindergarten enrollments that we have had by the registration deadline.

Based on current data and the School Committee discussions at the December 22, 2014 meeting, the kindergarten classroom needs for the 2015-16 school year are listed below in Table 3. Please note that this will change as enrollment numbers increase. I have included two additional columns for classrooms needed, based on 100% full day participation and anticipated kindergarten classroom needs for the next 1 to 5 years. These numbers are based on current and historical enrollment patterns. The Joshua Eaton classroom needs include an additional Grade 1 classroom for next year in order to expand the current kindergarten classroom from 3 classrooms to 4 classrooms due to high class sizes in the current kindergarten class (current class sizes are 24/25).

**Table 3-Kindergarten Classroom Space Needs for 2015-16 and Projected 1-5 Years**  
*Based on current known enrollment for 2015-16 school year*

| School       | Half Day | Full Day | Total | #FD Classes | #HD Classes | # Integrated Classes | # Classrooms Available | # Additional Classrooms Needed for 2015-16 | # Additional Classrooms Needed for 100% FDK | # Additional Classrooms Needed for 1-5 years |
|--------------|----------|----------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Barrows      | 12       | 66       | 78    | 3           | 1           |                      | 2                      | 2  | 2   | 2  |
| Birch Meadow | 11       | 36       | 47    | 2           | 1           |                      | 3                      | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| Joshua Eaton | 9        | 45       | 54    |             |             | 3                    | 3                      | 1 (includes Grade 1 need)                  | 1   | 2 (Includes Grade 1 Classroom)               |
| Killam       | 19       | 55       | 74    | 3           | 1           |                      | 3                      | 1  | 2   | 2  |
| Wood End     | 18       | 25       | 43    | 1           | 1           |                      | 3                      | 0  | 0   | 0  |

I have included in Table 4 below a projection of classroom use for the next five years based upon current enrollment numbers and historical trends. I assumed in this projection that Killam and Eaton would continue to have 4 classrooms per grade, and Barrows, Birch Meadow, and Wood End would have three classrooms per grade. I also made the assumption that the 2014-15 school year is the baseline starting point for the number of classrooms. Barrows begins at a deficit of one classroom because we are currently using an under-sized former music classroom for kindergarten, which is not counted as a regular size classroom. Table 5 summarizes all of Table 4.

**Table 4-Classroom Use Projection for Next Five Years**

Please note that the charts below show only full size classrooms that are currently being used for classroom use and does not include classroom space used for art, music, PE, or special education.

**2014-15 School Year**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 17        | -1  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 3       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 21    | 21        | 0   |
| Killam   | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 22    | 22        | 0   |
| Wood End | 3       | 2       | 2       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 16    | 16        | 0   |

**2015-16 School Year**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 4       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 19    | 17        | -2  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 3       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 22    | 21        | -1  |
| Killam   | 4       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 23    | 22        | -1  |
| Wood End | 2       | 3       | 2       | 2       | 3       | 3       | 15    | 16        | +1  |



**2016-17 School Year**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 3       | 4       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 19    | 17        | -2  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 4       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 22    | 21        | -1  |
| Killam   | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 23    | 22        | -1  |
| Wood End | 3       | 2       | 3       | 2       | 2       | 3       | 15    | 16        | +1  |

**2017-18 School Year**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 3       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 19    | 17        | -2  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 22    | 21        | -1  |
| Killam   | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 4       | 23    | 22        | -1  |
| Wood End | 3       | 3       | 2       | 3       | 2       | 2       | 15    | 16        | +1  |

**2018-19 School Year**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 3       | 3       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 3       | 19    | 17        | -2  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 22    | 21        | -1  |
| Killam   | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 23    | 22        | -1  |
| Wood End | 3       | 3       | 3       | 2       | 3       | 2       | 16    | 16        | 0   |

**2019-20**

| School   | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Total | Available | Net |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| Barrows  | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 19    | 17        | -2  |
| B.Meadow | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 18    | 18        | 0   |
| Eaton    | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 4       | 23    | 21        | -2  |
| Killam   | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 3       | 23    | 22        | -1  |
| Wood End | 2       | 3       | 3       | 3       | 2       | 3       | 16    | 16        | 0   |

As you can see from the charts above, we will need a minimum of 4 modular classrooms for the 2015-16 school year; two at Barrows and one at Joshua Eaton and Killam. We will begin to need five classrooms (2 at Barrows, 2 at Eaton, and 1 at Killam) for the 2019-20 school year. Having six modular classrooms (two at Barrows, Eaton, and Killam) will provide adequate space for all kindergarten programs, the Grade 1 classes at Eaton, and moves music classes at Joshua Eaton and Killam from the stage to a classroom. It will also provide some swing space at Joshua Eaton and Killam if there is an unanticipated enrollment increase.

**Table 5: Net Classroom Space Needed for Grade Level Classrooms Only (2014-20)**

| <b>School</b>       | <b>2014-15</b> | <b>2015-16</b> | <b>2016-17</b> | <b>2017-18</b> | <b>2018-19</b> | <b>2019-20</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Barrows</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-2</b>      | <b>-2</b>      | <b>-2</b>      | <b>-2</b>      | <b>-2</b>      |
| <b>Birch Meadow</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>Eaton</b>        | <b>0</b>       | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-2</b>      |
| <b>Killam</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      | <b>-1</b>      |
| <b>Wood End</b>     | <b>0</b>       | <b>+1</b>      | <b>+1</b>      | <b>+1</b>      | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |

### **Funding**

The estimated total costs to install the six modular classrooms will be in the range of \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000. One of the variables in the cost estimate will be the location of the modular classrooms at each site and the proximity to utilities such as electricity, water, and sewer. We are currently working with town officials and an architect to determine the best locations for the modular classrooms at the three sites. We are also going to factor into the estimated costs the use of an outside contractor to do site preparation work because of the number of projects that the Reading DPW will be involved with this spring and summer.

### **Operating Costs**

For the 2015-16 school year, we do not anticipate additional personnel costs with the installation of the modular classrooms. Existing kindergarten staff will be reassigned to the schools with population increases.

For utility costs, we are anticipating approximately \$15,000-\$25,000 per year in electricity and heating costs. The cost will be dependent on whether we will be using electric or natural gas to heat the modular, depending on the location of the modular to those utilities. We are still calculating water and sewer costs. The final cost will depend upon if we are able to use natural gas versus electric for heating the modular with natural gas being the less expensive option.

### **Educational Impact of Modular Classroom Decision**

If we are able to secure the six requested modular classrooms, we will be able to ensure elementary class sizes that conform to the School Committee guidelines, offer dedicated art and music space at all five elementary schools, and continue to offer tuition-based full day kindergarten for families who request it. If we are not able to secure modular classrooms for the 2015-16 school year, approximately 80 students will not have access to full day kindergarten at their own neighborhood schools, including Barrows, Killam, and Joshua Eaton. We will have some slots available at Birch Meadow and potentially at Wood End for full day kindergarten for those families, but not all families who request full day kindergarten will receive full day kindergarten next year. Without these modular classrooms, we will continue to have reduced art and music classroom space at Barrows, Killam, and Eaton to accommodate increase enrollment or “population bubbles.”

The classroom space problem will resurface in the 2016-17 school year if we do not purchase modular classrooms next year because the kindergarten students will be moving from half day classrooms to full day classrooms in Grade 1. For example, at Barrows, we will need to have four classrooms available in Grade 1 for the 2016-17 school year; currently only three

classrooms exist in that grade and no other classroom space is available. Without the modular classrooms at Barrows, first grade class sizes in the 2016 – 2017 school year are projected to be more than 26 students per class, well above the School Committee guidelines of 18 – 22 students in a grade 1 class.

**Community Impact of Modular Classroom Decision**

During this process we have heard from kindergarten families that some of the reasons they moved to Reading include the quality of our schools and the opportunity to access full day kindergarten in their neighborhood setting. The additional space from modular classrooms will create equitable opportunities for families to access tuition-based full day kindergarten across the district, as well as equitable class sizes for our K-2 students across all five elementary schools. Without the modular classrooms, we will be conducting lotteries at some of our elementary schools for full day kindergarten slots.

**Financial Impact of Modular Classroom Decision**

Not having modular classrooms next year will also have a significant financial impact on an already strained projected FY16 budget. If 80 students who are currently registered for full day kindergarten next year do not receive full day kindergarten, there will be a staffing reduction of 2.0 FTE Teachers, 2.0 FTE Paraeducators *and* an additional budgetary reduction of \$200,000 to the FY16 budget. In addition, approximately 30% of our full day kindergarten students access our tuition based extended day programs, resulting in a decrease of an additional \$37,000 to the budget. Therefore, the overall impact of not having modular classrooms next year will result in a decrease in the FY16 budget of up to \$237,000, in addition to the \$849,000 we are already reducing in the level serviced FY16 budget, as well as, a reduction of up to 2.0 FTE Kindergarten Teachers and 2.0 FTE Paraeducators.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Finance Committee recommends the proposed amendments to the FY 2015 – FY 2024 Capital Improvements Program by a vote of 8-0 at their meeting on January 21, 2015. Placing items in the Capital Improvement Program is a prerequisite but in itself does not authorize spending funds towards these items. For this issue, the FINCOM did suggest the full presentation be given in this Article.

**Bylaw Committee Report:** No report.

---

**ARTICLE 6** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2014, as adopted under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 28, 2014 and amended by Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting of September 29, 2014 and by Article 5 of the Subsequent Town Meeting of November 10, 2014 and Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting of January 5, 2015; and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to be added to the amounts appropriated under said Article, as amended, for the operation of the Town and its government, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Finance Committee

**Background:**

**General Fund – Wages and Expenses**

| <b><u>Account Line</u></b>   | <b><u>Description</u></b>   | <b><u>Decrease</u></b> | <b><u>Increase</u></b> |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| C99 – Capital                | School Facilities – modular classrooms \$1.2 million<br>Morton Field \$40,000   |                        | \$1,240,000            |
| J91 – Public Safety wages    | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability |                        | \$31,500               |
| J92 – Public Safety expenses | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability | \$31,500               |                        |
| K91 – Public Works wages     | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability |                        | \$13,800               |
| K92 – Public Works expenses  | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability | \$13,800               |                        |
|                              |   |                        |                        |
|                              | <b>Subtotals</b>  | <b>\$45,300</b>        | <b>\$1,285,300</b>     |
|                              | <b>Net Operating Expenses</b>   |                        | <b>\$1,240,000</b>     |
|                              | <b>From Free Cash</b>   |                        | <b>\$1,240,000</b>     |

**Enterprise Funds – Wages and Expenses**

| <b><u>Account Line</u></b>      | <b><u>Description</u></b>   | <b><u>Decrease</u></b> | <b><u>Increase</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| W99 - Water Fund Wages          | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability |                        | \$6,000                |
| W99 - Water Fund Expenses       | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability | \$6,000                |                        |
| X99 - Sewer Fund Wages          | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability |                        | \$2,500                |
| X99 - Sewer Fund Expenses       | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability | \$2,500                |                        |
| Y99 – Storm Water Fund Wages    | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability |                        | \$1,500                |
| Y99 – Storm Water Fund Expenses | Clothing allowance moved into wages due to recent IRS decision about taxability | \$1,500                |                        |
|                                 |   |                        |                        |
|                                 | <b>Subtotals</b>  | <b>\$10,000</b>        | <b>\$10,000</b>        |
|                                 | <b>Net Operating Expenses</b>   |                        | <b>\$0</b>             |
|                                 | <b>From Enterprise Fund Reserves</b>  |                        | <b>\$0</b>             |

In addition to the school capital request described in Article 5, fundraising is in place for \$40,000 in improvements to Morton Field. Approximately half of the total has been raised thus far and the other half will be raised before the end of the fiscal year. All funds raised will be deposited to the general fund. Improvements to Morton Field were in the capital plan as part of a larger Birch Meadow complex, so that future portion is reduced. In addition, net neutral Town budget adjustments are made as a result of a recent IRS ruling combined with collective bargaining changes to move certain uniform expenses into employee wages. This change took effect

during FY15, so this budget adjustment is needed for the current fiscal year, and also helpful in comparing budget changes in FY16.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Finance Committee recommends the proposed amendments to the FY 2015 budget by a vote of 8-0 at their meeting on January 21, 2015.

**Bylaw Committee Report:** No report.

---

and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof in at least one (1) public place in each precinct of the Town not less than fourteen (14) days prior to February 23, 2015, or providing in a manner such as electronic submission, holding for pickup or mailing, an attested copy of said Warrant to each Town Meeting Member.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this \_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Arena, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marsie K. West , Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Ensminger, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Halsey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Sexton

SELECTMEN OF READING

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Constable