

**North Reading Public Schools**  
North Reading, Massachusetts

**Regular Meeting of the School Committee**  
*Open Session*

Date: April 26, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Hybrid: Distance Learning Lab / Virtual Meeting (+1 475-441-4825 / PIN: 932 356 195#)  
meet.google.com/cxq-kauo-muy

***School Committee Members Present***

Dyana Boutwell

Scott Buckley

Jeff Friedman

Rich McGowan

Noelle Rudloff

***Staff Members Present***

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly – Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
and Operations

Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

**I. Call to Order Open Session**

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 6:40 pm.

**II. A. Public Input:** No public input.

**II. B. Student Report:**

Sophie Saquet, Class of 2024 provided the student report and presented her class work.

**II. D.2. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Vote:**

Michael Connelly, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations presented the final update and status of the fiscal year 2024 budget. The public hearing on the fiscal year 2024 budget was held on April 10, 2023. Since that meeting there has been an update to the fiscal year 2024 revenue plan and additional revenue has been identified.

*The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman that the School Committee approve and hereby adopt the Final FY'24 School Operating Budget of \$37,319,595; this represents an increase of 4.5% or \$1,610,265 over FY'23. Motion passed 5-0.*

*The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to open the Public Hearing on School Choice at 7:20 pm. Motion passed 5-0.*

**II. D.1. School Choice Vote:**

Under the Education Reform Act of 1993 there is a requirement to hold an annual public hearing on School Choice. Becoming a Choice District means that North Reading will accept students from other cities and towns for enrollment in its schools. Once a student is accepted as a choice student, that student is enrolled in North Reading Public Schools until the student opts out. The District receives additional revenue from the sending district's chapter 70 funds for each student accepted. The vote to participate or not is then reported to the DESE by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

A motion was made by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff that the School Committee vote to not participate in School Choice because of the financial burden that the program might impose on the District. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to exit the Public Hearing on School Choice at 7:25 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. D.3. School Committee Self-Evaluation:**

Mr. Friedman reviewed the School Committee Self-Evaluation and the next steps for the self-evaluation.

**II. E.1 Minutes:**

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the March 27, 2023 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the March 27, 2023 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the Open Session Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 3, 2023 as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the April 10, 2023 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. E.2. Budget Update:** There was no budget update for FY 2023.**II. E.3 Staffing:** No staffing update.**II. E.4. Bids and Donations:**

- NRHS Hornet Hall of Fame – Donation of \$10,205.00 to be used for weight room equipment.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$10,205.00 from the North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame to purchase weight room equipment to benefit the students at the High School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Andrew Graham – Donation of \$50.00 donation towards the HS Track and Field Team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Andrew Graham to support the NRHS Track and Field Team. Motion passed 5-0.

- Laura McCoy – Donation of \$50.00 donation towards the HS Track and Field Team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Laura McCoy to support the NRHS Track and Field Team. Motion passed 5-0.

**III. E.5. Grants:** None at this time.

**II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:**

The Finance Planning Team met on April 14, 2023 and April 25, 2023.

Mr. Friedman and Mr. Connelly gave an update of the last Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) meeting and the District's capital projects under consideration.

**Future Subcommittee Schedule**

- |                          |              |            |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| • Finance Planning Team  | June 5, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.  |
| • Athletic Subcommittee  | May 23, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. |
| • Fine Arts Subcommittee | May 24, 2023 | 3:15 p.m.  |

**II. F.2 Administrative Report:**

- Dr. Daly referenced an article that named the top high school sports programs in the state. North Reading came in number eighteen, and is one of the top public high schools in the state.

**II. F.3. Correspondence:** None at this time.

**III. Future Business:**

Monday	May 8, 2023	6:30 PM	L.D. Batchelder School Presentation
			School Committee Reorganization
Monday	May 22, 2023	6:30 PM	E. Ethel Little School Presentation
Monday	June 12, 2023	5:00 PM	SEPAC Presentation
Monday	June 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Town Meeting

**IV. Adjournment:**

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. McGowan to adjourn at 8:11 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

**Documents and Exhibits:**

1. PowerPoint – NRPS FY24 School Budget / Budget Vote April 26, 2023
2. School Choice Guidance
3. Minutes – Executive Session – March 27, 2023
4. Minutes – Open Session – March 27, 2023
5. Minutes – Open Session – Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop – April 3, 2023
6. Minutes – Open Session – April 10, 2023
7. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame
8. Gift Acceptance Memo – Andrew Graham
9. Gift Acceptance Memo – Laura McCoy