

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee

Open Session/FY18 Public Budget Hearing

Date: April 10, 2017
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Distance Learning Lab

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers
Julie Koepke
Janene Imbriano
Gerald Venezia
Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick Daly – Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connelly – Director of Finance and Operations

Visitors: Ms. Christine Molle (Principal, Little Elementary School), Mr. Glen McKay (Principal, Hood Elementary School), Mr. Sean Killeen (Principal, Batchelder Elementary School), Ms. Catherine O’Connell (Principal, NRMS), Mr. AJ Loprete (Principal, NRHS), Ms. Cynthia Conant (Pupil Personnel Services), North Reading Residents, Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chair Cliff Bowers called the Open Session to order at 6:30 PM.

II. A. Public Input:

No public input at this time.

II. B. Student Input:

No public input at this time.

**II. D.1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Public Hearing
Superintendent’s Professional Practice Goal
Superintendent’s District Improvement Goal #1**

During the budget workshop on March 23, 2017, the School Committee reviewed the current state of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

At the meeting of the Finance Planning Team on April 4, 2017, available revenue was identified that indicates the school department’s budget gap is currently at \$637,855 for the “Recommended Budget” and \$453,067 for the “Level Services Budget.”

An updated budget report that identifies the available revenue and an updated list of items identified to partially address the budget gap was presented by Superintendent Bernard and Mr. Connelly, Director of Finance and Operations.

The “Recommended Budget” for Fiscal Year 2018 represents a \$1,453,826 or 5.0% increase over the Fiscal Year 2017 budget appropriation. The “Level Services Budget” for Fiscal Year 2018 represents a \$1,269,038 or 4.4% increase over the Fiscal Year 2017 budget appropriation.

After the presentation, the hearing was opened to the public for comments/questions.

Scott Buckley, 5 Alden Street, said that it important to address what is driving the budget. Building in-district programs and funding the Elementary Team Chairperson position will reduce costs in future years. Hiring additional staff addresses the need to reduce class sizes.

Siobhan Fitzgerald, 31 Duane Drive asked about the teacher and paraprofessional positions proposed for full day Kindergarten, and whether there will be a tuition offset from additional enrollment. Mr. Connelly explained that there would be a partial offset.

Deanna Castro, 9 Bridle Way, asked about whether the budget numbers presented include information received today from Rep. Brad Jones. A slight increase in revenue from the state still does not address the underfunded and unfunded state mandates.

Mr. Webster stated that North Reading is moving in a good direction thanks to the Board of Selectmen’s work on the former Berry property, which should result in increased tax revenue in future years. The town needs more retail/industrial tax base, which will improve as the Selectman also work on getting sewer connections into the Concord Street area.

Marci Baily, 21 Duane Drive asked how this budget will affect NRPS 2021, the strategic plan for the district. Mr. Bernard responded that in order to close the budget gap, we may have to defer items on the strategic plan. He also said the district has become used to budget freezes implemented part way through the school year. Reductions in personnel may be necessary to close the gap.

Mr. Connelly and Cynthia Conant explained the importance of keeping students with special needs in the district, rather than spending for outside placements.

Hearing no additional questions or comments, Mr. Bowers closed the FY18 Public Budget Hearing.

II. C.1. School Committee Self-Evaluation Superintendent’s Professional Practice Goal

Ms. Koepke of the Evaluation Subcommittee presented the School Committee’s 2016-2017 composite self-evaluation results. The Committee will use these results during a goal setting workshop that will be held this summer.

II. E.1. Minutes: No minutes at this time.

II. E.2. Budget Update: No budget update at this time.

II. E.3. Staffing: There were no staffing updates.

II. E.4. Bids and Donations:

Superintendent Bernard requested the acceptance of the following donations:

- Anonymous; \$20.00 donation to benefit the North Reading High School Track Team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a total donation of \$20.00 from an anonymous High School parent to benefit the North Reading High School Track Team. Motion passed 5-0.

- Mr. and Mrs. John Spinney; \$50.00 donation to benefit the North Reading High School Track Team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a total donation of \$50.00 from Mr. and Mrs. John Spinney to benefit the North Reading High School Track Team. Motion passed 5-0.

- Reading Cooperative Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.; \$500.00 donation to support the presentation of Dr. Ruth Potee on May 18, 2017.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a total donation of \$500.00 from the Reading Cooperation Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc. to support the cost associated with the May 18, 2017 School Committee presentation by Dr. Ruth Potee on Adolescent Brain Development. Motion passed 5-0.

- Walmart; in-kind donation of 97 laser lights valued at \$2,910.00 to be used for drama performances districtwide.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude from Walmart an in-kind donation of 97 laser lights valued at \$2,910.00 for districtwide drama performances. Motion passed 5-0.

- North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame; \$4,000.00 donation to support the sod and irrigation/athletic field project at North Reading Middle/High School.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a total donation of \$4,000.00 from the North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame to support the sod and irrigation/athletic field project at North Reading Middle/High School. Motion passed 5-0.

- North Reading High School Hockey Boosters; \$4,500.00 donation to offset the cost of the winter 2017 ice rink rental fee.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a total donation of \$4,500.00 from the North Reading High School Hockey Boosters to offset the cost of the winter 2017 ice time. Motion passed 5-0.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Ms. Koepke gave an update from the March 29, 2017 Evaluation Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Venezia gave an update from the April 4, 2017 Finance Planning Team meeting.

Mr. Webster gave an update from the Athletic Facilities Committee meeting held on April 4, 2017.

Subcommittee Schedule:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| a) | Finance Planning Team | April 24, 2017 | 8:15 AM |
| b) | Athletic Subcommittee | April 25, 2017 | 12:30 PM |

II. F.2. Administrative Report: No Administrative Report at this time.

II. F.3. Correspondence: No Correspondence at this time.

III. Future Business:

April 24, 2017	3:30 PM	FY18 Budget Workshop – Superintendent’s Conference Rm
April 26, 2017	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Presentation - Town Hall, Room 5
May 1, 2017	6:30 PM	Regular Meeting – NRMS/HS Distance Learning Lab
May 15, 2017	6:30 PM	Regular Meeting – NRMS/HS Distance Learning Lab

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. North Reading School District Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Presentation
2. North Reading School Committee 2016-2017 Goal Reviews
3. Gift Acceptance Memo – Anonymous Donor
4. Gift Acceptance Memo – Mr. and Mrs. John Spinney
5. Gift Acceptance Memo – Reading Cooperative Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.
6. Gift Acceptance Memo – Walmart
7. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame
8. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading High School Hockey Boosters