

**NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
North Reading, Massachusetts

**Regular Meeting of the School Committee**  
*Open Session/Budget Workshop*

Date: March 14, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Superintendent's Conference Room

***School Committee Members Present***

Janene Imbriano

Julie Koepke

Mel Webster

Gerald Venezia

Clifford Bowers

***Staff Members Present***

Jon Bernard, Superintendent

Patrick Daly, Assistant Superintendent

Michael Connelly, Director of Finance and  
Operations

***Others Present***

Robert Mauceri, Chairman, North Reading  
Board of Selectmen

Marci Bailey

The workshop as called to order at 4:00 by Chair Janene Imbriano.

Superintendent Bernard provided a brief introduction to the FY17 budget draft noting the most up-to-date revenue projections available for FY17 that was provided by the Town's Finance Director on Friday, March 11, 2016 (an increase of \$495,808) then asked Mr. Connelly to review the FY17 Budget Draft (copies distributed).

Ms. Imbriano asked what the percentage is of the budget that is assumed by salaries. Mr. Connelly responded that the figure is approximately 83.5%.

Following the presentation, Mr. Venezia suggested that there be a discussion to achieve a consensus among the items in table one of page two of the presented document. Discussion was held on class sizes at the high school (request for additional academic teacher), Advanced Placement course offerings at the high school, the need for an additional school psychologist at the middle school, and meeting the needs of students with special needs at the high school (request for an additional special needs teacher).

Consensus among the School Committee members (reference Table One on page 2 of the presented document) to adopt the administration's recommendations:

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Yes
5. No

6. No
7. Yes
8. Yes
9. No
10. Yes

Mr. Connelly reviewed table three of page 2 of the presented document with respect to anticipated additional special education costs for FY17.

Mr. Mauceri spoke about the Finance Planning Team that exists and the anticipated topic of discussion to take place at the next meeting (March 25, 2015) around three-year budget projections and the level of risk to be incurred in FY18-FY20.

There was discussion around the four positions that the administration recommends as “new positions” for 2016-2017 and which are identified among the six positions noted in Year One of the school district’s strategic plan “NPRS 2021.”

Consensus of the School Committee members relative to the above positions:

1. Yes (Middle School Psychologist)
2. Yes (High School Special Education teacher)
3. No (Elementary Teaching and Learning Coordinator)
4. Yes (High School Core Academic teacher)

Mr. Connelly presented updated class size/enrollments for 2016-2017 and there was a brief review and discussion of the data; there were no conclusions made insofar as reductions of staff to be gained.

Mr. Webster suggested that the group identify a list of items to be restored should additional revenues be made available. Should the projected revenues available not close the gap of the “blended” recommended budget, the following items would be entertained, in priority order so as to achieve the recommendations of the administration:

Parking Fee

Increase in Athletic User Fee

1.0 FTE Custodian

Mr. Webster suggested moving forward and that all of the recommended fees be implemented and the custodian position and the three academic positions requested through “NRPS 2021” (an unbalanced budget with a gap of \$336,000).

Mr. Webster suggested moving forward with adopting the administrations recommendation that all of the recommended budget reductions in Table One be implemented and that the three identified positions from “NRPS 2021” be included in the recommended budgets leading to a new budget gap of \$336,000 in what is now being called a “blended budget.” There was consensus among the School Committee members to move in this direction.

Ms. Imbriano asked Mr. Mauceri if similar work is taking place among the municipal departments; Mr. Mauceri indicated that a second meeting is scheduled to take place later this month to work toward closing the gap that currently exists for the town (exclusive of the school department). Mr. Mauceri indicated that details of this work (reducing a gap that at present is between \$100,000 and \$200,000) will be shared at the Finance Planning Team on March 25, 2016.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Bowers made a motion to adjourn the workshop at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Imbriano. Motion passed 5-0.