

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session / Budget Workshop

Date: April 28, 2016
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Superintendent's Conference Room

School Committee Members Present

Janene Imbriano
Mel Webster
Clifford Bowers
Julie Koepke
Services
Gerald Venezia (not present)

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools
Patrick Daly – Assistant Superintendent
Michael Connelly – Director of Finance & Operations
Cynthia Conant – Director of Pupil Personnel

Visitors: Michael Gilleberto, Town Administrator

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Chairman Imbriano.

II. FY17 Budget Workshop:

The Superintendent provided an introduction to the discussion that was hoped to take place in the form of a budget “workshop.”

He provided a summary of the Finance Planning Team meeting that was held on April 27, 2016, with a note that additional revenue of nearly \$150,000 was presented resulting in a current FY17 budget gap of \$199,547.

Mr. Bernard then turned the presentation over to Mr. Connelly who reviewed the documents which guided the workshop (see attached).

Mr. Connelly noted that there are three pending cases of students with special needs that may result in out of district placements at an estimated cost of \$175,000 (noted at previous budget discussions). Mr. Webster asked Ms. Conant for an explanation as to how such cases are “tracked.”

Ms. Imbriano expressed her opinion that the middle school psychologist and high school special education teacher positions appear to be critical.

Members of the School Committee engaged in conversation with the administration around the possibility of other areas that could be reduced. The Superintendent expressed his belief that all potential and reasonable areas had been explored.

Mr. Bernard and Mr. Connelly reviewed further the areas they had previously explored with the members of the Administrative Team for possible reductions. Each member of the School Committee expressed his/her displeasure with the proposal of a student parking fee at the High School and further indicated the likelihood that this would be removed from consideration at the May 2, 2016 meeting of the School Committee.

Ms. Koepke asked about the Digital Learning Paraprofessional positions in the district and if there had been consideration of reducing or eliminating these positions. Both Mr. Bernard and Dr. Daly expressed that these positions were critical to the success of the Digital Learning Model. Discussion then centered on possible reductions in Buildings and Grounds.

There was consensus among the School Committee members present that the administration should move forward with identifying possible reductions to mitigate the budget gap.

III. Adjournment:

At 5:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.

FY17 School Budget Update

School Committee Budget Workshop April 28, 2016

FY17 Budget Drivers for Preliminary Modified Level Services Budget
as of April 28, 2016

	Modified Level Services	
	Budget	%
FY17 Preliminary Revised Budget	28,665,689	
FY16 Final Budget	27,495,074	
Increase (\$)	1,170,615	4.3%
FY17 Preliminary Budget(s)	28,665,689	
FY 17 Available Revenue as of April 27th	28,466,142	3.5%

Projected Budget Gap	199,547	0.7%
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FY 17 Preliminary Budget Drivers	Modified Level Services Change	%	Major Budget Drivers
Salaries			
Salary Increases Contractual Obligations	701,686	2.6%	Salary Obligations
Teacher Lane Advancements	20,000	0.1%	
Sped Program Transition Adj. (3.0 FTE)	148,934	0.5%	
Buildings and Grounds Restructure (-1.0 FTE)	-71,815	-0.3%	
Reduction in PreK Budgeted Offset	10,000	0.0%	
NRPS 2021: Requests (3.0 FTE)	185,592	0.7%	NRPS 2021: Year 1
Unidentified Reductions	-30,000	-0.1%	
Total Salaries	964,397	3.5%	
Expenses			
New Busing Contract Rate Increase	83,175	0.3%	Fixed Cost Increases
Utility Increase (Water, Phone)	15,750	0.1%	
Tuition Reimbursement New Contract	15,000	0.1%	
New Building B & G / Restructure Plan	61,275	0.2%	New Building Costs
New Building Tech Costs	6,428	0.0%	
Sped Tuitions & Transportation	276,890	1.0%	Sped OOD Costs
Contracted English Language Learner Serv.	12,000	0.0%	
Increase Facility Rental Offset	-10,000	0.0%	User Fee Increases \$127,000
Cost Savings (Food Service Offset Reduction)	-27,300	-0.1%	
Special Education Pre-Payments (Offset)	-100,000	-0.4%	
Proposed Increase in Bus User Fee (Offset)	-45,000	-0.2%	
Extra-Curricular Offset Increase	-27,000	-0.1%	
Parking Fee \$200	-45,000	-0.2%	
Athletic User Fee 3rd Sport \$200 / \$1,300	-10,000	0.0%	
Total Expenses	206,218	0.8%	
Grand Total	1,170,615	4.3%	

Plan to Close the FY 17 Budget Gap

Remaining Budget Gap to Achieve Balanced Budget:

199,547

The Superintendent and Central Office Administrators have prepared the tables below for consideration by the School Committee that would fully, partially, or not at all balance the fiscal year 2017 budget. It is noteworthy that there is a strong belief that all requested positions (6.0 FTE) presently reflected in the FY17 proposed budget are critical to meeting the needs of all students and thus advancing the school district in a manner that reflects the expectations of the district administration and the community.

Furthermore, there is the potential for significant financial risk to the school district and town in not funding five of the six recommended new positions (excluding the high school academic teacher) as there is the likelihood of incurring expenses greater than the salary of the positions as the result of not being able to meet the social, emotional, and/or academic needs of all students in district.

Absent from the information below is any reference to reductions of existing staff/programs/expenses as these have been reflected in previously issued documents and discussions around the FY17 budget. It is believed that recommending any additional reductions or further eliminating existing staff to fund the salaries for the proposed new positions is not educationally sound.

Table 1: (Adds none of the three requested "NRPS 2021" positions; fully balances FY17 budget)

Cost Center	Reductions (In Priority Order)	Amount	Total
High School	Elimination of Student Parking Fee \$200	45,000	45,000
Special Education	Circuit Breaker Additional Offset	-58,955	-13,955
High School	1.0 Academic Teacher (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-75,819
High School	1.0 Special Education Teacher (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-137,683
Middle School	1.0 School Psychologist (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-199,547
Total	3.0 FTE	-199,547	

Table 2: (Adds one of the three requested "NRPS 2021" positions; partially balances FY17 budget)

Cost Center	Reductions (In Priority Order)	Amount	Total
High School	Elimination of Student Parking Fee \$200	45,000	45,000
Special Education	Circuit Breaker Additional Offset	-58,955	-13,955
High School	1.0 Academic Teacher (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-75,819
High School	1.0 Special Education Teacher (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-137,683
Total	2.0 FTE	-137,683	

Remaining Budget Gap

61,864

Table 3: (Adds two of the three requested "NRPS 2021" positions; partially balances FY17 budget)

Cost Center	Reductions (In Priority Order)	Amount	Total
High School	Elimination of Student Parking Fee \$200	45,000	45,000
Special Education	Circuit Breaker Additional Offset	-58,955	-13,955
High School	1.0 Academic Teacher (NRPS 2021)	-61,864	-75,819
Total	1.0 FTE	-75,819	

Remaining Budget Gap

123,728

Table 4: (Adds three of the three requested "NRPS 2021" positions; status quo FY17 budget gap)

Cost Center	Reductions (In Priority Order)	Amount	Total
High School	Elimination of Student Parking Fee \$200	45,000	45,000
Special Education	Circuit Breaker Additional Offset	-45,000	0
Total		0	

Remaining Budget Gap

199,547