

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

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

Date: May 2, 2018  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Superintendent's Conference Room

***School Committee Members Present***

Mel Webster  
Gerald Venezia  
Scott Buckley  
Janene Imbriano  
Julie Koepke (arrived at 4:10 p.m.)

***Staff Members Present***

Jon Bernard, Superintendent  
Michael Connelly, Director of Finance and  
Operations  
Cynthia Conant, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Services

***Others Present***

Marci Bailey, Community Member

Mr. Webster called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Webster provided an update on the Finance Planning Team meeting that was held on the morning of May 2, 2018 and stated that there was no additional revenue identified that would contribute further to closing the identified budget gap for Fiscal Year 2019.

Mr. Webster then turned the meeting over to Mr. Connelly, who provided an overview of the current status of the fiscal year 2019 budget. Mr. Connelly distributed a document that delineates the recommended budget reductions for FY19 that will achieve a balanced budget and also net three new positions that the administration is advocating for: (1) 1.0 FTE School Psychologist/Adjustment Counselor (High School); (2) 1.0 FTE Elementary Special Education TEAM Chairperson; (3) 0.4 FTE School Psychologist/Adjustment Counselor (Batchelder School). These three positions (2.4 FTE) are part of the 3.9 FTE positions that the administration had identified as the top priorities in its FY19 budget recommended to the School Committee.

Mr. Webster and Ms. Koepke expressed concern that one of the remaining priority positions, 1.0 FTE academic teacher for the High School, was not identified as a position to be funded for FY19. Following a discussion of this, it was determined that the administration would seek to identify the resources, most likely through anticipated employee attrition, to fund a portion (0.6 FTE) of the 1.0 FTE academic teacher for the High School. It was further requested of the administration that if additional funds are identified through attrition that they be applied to this High School academic teacher position to create a 1.0 FTE position.

Mr. Venezia expressed his support for the administration's plan to address the budget gap; he also expressed that he understood his colleague's concerns for the fact that additional staffing has been requested for the High School to address larger than desirable student/teacher ratios over the last few years.

Mr. Bernard and Mr. Connelly acknowledged the desire for adding the High School academic teacher as a position in the FY19 budget and committed that they would work with the leadership team of the school district to identify the resources to fund the position.

Mr. Bernard and Mr. Connelly informed the School Committee members that the plan to achieve the recommended budget is one with a great deal of risk, particularly as it has reduced offsets and that the budget is tight and leaves little room to accommodate an unanticipated expense(s).

At 5:10 p.m. Ms. Imbriano offered a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Buckley. The motion passed 5-0.