

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session – Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop

Date: April 3, 2023

Time: 8:45 AM

Place: Superintendent's Conference Room and virtual

School Committee Members Present:

Scott Buckley
Rich McGowan
Dyana Boutwell
Jeff Friedman
Noelle Rudloff

Staff Members Present

Patrick Daly, Superintendent
Michael Connelly, Assistant Superintendent
of Finance and Operations

Mr. Buckley called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Buckley asked Mr. Connelly to review the current state of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Mr. Connelly distributed a document to guide his presentation ("School Committee Budget Workshop Meeting; April 3, 2023"). The presentation included a review of the current revenue available for FY24, budget drivers and the remaining budget gap; the state budget and COVID-19 grant status; elementary class sizes and enrollment breakdown; and one-time costs and budget gap closing ideas.

The discussion included updates on the state budget process, ESSER grants, and gap closing ideas. The discussion focused upon the need for eliminating everything in the recommended budget (modified level services) in order begin to consider the cuts necessary to deliver level services for FY24. The discussion included a timeline of events wherein the Administrative Council would make recommendations to the Superintendent in order to help strategize gap closing ideas prior to the Budget Hearing, scheduled for April 10, 2023.

Mr. Connelly further reviewed the key next steps in the budget process, the projected needs for FY24, and enrollment projections for 2023-2024.

In closing, the administration's recommended budget to the School Committee to be shared at the Budget Public Hearing on April 10, 2023 is \$37,709,330 for level services and \$37,768,204 for modified level services. The current gap for level services is \$353,785.

At 9:43 a.m. Ms. Boutwell offered a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mr. McGowan. The motion passed 5-0.