

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session / FY15 Budget Public Hearing

Date: April 7, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Town Hall – Room 14

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers

Karen Errichetti

Janene Imbriano

Gerald Venezia

Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

Kathleen Willis – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly – Director Finance and Operations

Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

Visitors: Ms. Emma Hoey (Student Representative), North Reading School Department Administrators, Members of the North Reading Board of Selectmen, Members of the North Reading Finance Committee, Members from NRUE (North Reading United for Education), Mr. Dan Tomasello (North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

II. A. Public Input:

None at this time

II. B. Student Report:

Emma Hoey provided the student report and presented her class work.

II. D. 2.1. FY 15 Budget Hearing:

Chairman Webster opened the FY 15 Budget Hearing and turned the floor over to Michael Connelly, Director of Finance and Operations.

The School Committee participated in a budget workshop on March 20, 2014 to review the preliminary FY15 budget and make recommendations for reductions to close the then existing budget gap. Based on the workshop, internal preliminary budget deletions were made due to shifting in enrollment. A level serves budget for FY15 required a 6.5% increase over FY14. The Committee requested a lower percent increase to the budget and directed the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Operations to meet with the members of the Administrative Council to adjust the budget. As a result, the team

formulated a modified level services budget that totals \$26,892,029 and represents a 4.9% increase over FY14.

On March 28, 2014, the updated Town revenue plan identified a total of \$26,724,015 available funds representing an increase of 4.3% for the FY15 school budget. That figure reduces the budget gap to \$168,014. Recommendations for reductions made by the School Committee and the Administrative Council were used to close this budget gap.

After the Director of Finance and Operations presented the proposed budget the meeting was made open to the public for questions.

II. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) The last SSBC meeting was held on March 25, 2014.
- b) Construction Update: The WWTP is on track and there will be a test at the end of April; final grading of the site is taking place; spreading loam; the catch basin is set to elevation; drainage work is taking place at the back of the MS near the parking lot; the floor is down in Building A; work in the auditorium above the ceiling is ongoing; stage lighting has arrived; installing wall tile in the kitchen, locker rooms, shower, and bathrooms; installing basketball hoops in the gym; the gym floor work will begin around May 1; Main Street finishes will begin over April vacation and the MS wall surface will be finished; the freight elevator installation is on track to be completed by the end of May.
- c) The access road to the High School at Rt. 62 will be closed at the start of the April vacation so that intersection work can commence. The road will remain closed until September. Abutters will be notified. There will be a police detail assigned during the first week and an electronic sign will be located on Rt. 62 that notifies the community of the change.
- d) Design Update: The focus continues to be on finishes. The installation of acoustic ceiling panels and Eno Boards is underway along with ceiling speakers, clocks, and drinking fountains.
- e) Change order #14 totaling \$191,843.13 was approved.
- f) The next SSBC meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014.

II. C.2. Policy Manual Review/Revision-Second Reading:

Policy JQE: Pregnant Students was presented for a second reading.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to approve the second reading of Policy JQE: Pregnant Students. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.2. 2013-2014 School Committee Self-evaluation:

Mr. Webster and Mrs. Imbriano reviewed the process for completing the evaluation and the timeline for completion.

Timeline for the evaluation process is as follows:

- April 7 Distribute the evaluation forms
- April 28 Collect individual evaluations
- May 16 Compile results for Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting
- May 27 Present results at the School Committee Meeting

- II. **E.1. Minutes:** None at this time
- II. **E.2. Budget Update:** None at this time.
- II. **E.3. Staffing:** None at this time.
- II. **E.4. Bids and Donations:**

Middle School Principal Catherine O’Connell requested the School Committee accept the following donation: Private donation of \$1,000 to the North Reading Middle School to be spent at the discretion of the Middle School Principal.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Bowers to accept with gratitude a \$1,000 donation from a private donor, to be spent at the Middle School Principal’s discretion in support of education. Motion passed 5-0.

II. **F.1. Subcommittee Reports:**

Mr. Bowers provided a brief update from the Evaluation Subcommittee.
Mr. Webster provided a brief update from the Finance Planning Team.

Subcommittee Schedule:

a) Finance Planning Team	April 10, 2014	8:15 AM
b) Athletic Subcommittee	April 10, 2014	12:30 PM
c) Policy Subcommittee	April 30, 2014	10:30 AM
d) Evaluation Subcommittee	May 16, 2014	10:00 AM

- II. **F.2. Administrative Report:** None at this time
- II. **F.3. Correspondence:** No correspondence at this time

III. **Future Business:**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Little School
Monday, April 28, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Budget Vote Town Hall
Monday, May 12, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Hood School

IV. **Adjournment:**

At 8:57 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Work
2. PowerPoint – NRPS FY15 Preliminary Budget
3. Policy JQE - Pregnant Students
4. North Reading School Committee Self-Assessment Tool
5. March 24, 2014 Memo from Michael Connelly, Requesting Gift Acceptance