

Memo

To: Melrose School Committee
From: Cyndy Taymore, Superintendent
Date: May 5, 2015
Re: Proposed Balanced Budget for FY16

On April 23, 2015, Mr. Picone and I met with Patrick Dello Russo, Chief Financial Officer for the city, to reconcile the FY16 budget request with the city's available funding. The Draft FY16 Balanced Budget in your packet is the result of that meeting.

The balanced budget total is \$28,125,696. The total amount provided by the city will be \$25,172,196. This includes an increase of \$800,000 above last year (\$24,372,195). Moreover, already included in this amount is the \$300,000 replacement revenue in Medicaid funding we receive each year. In the fall, other funding sources will provide the \$640,000 that is the yearly structural deficit. However, this still left us with a negative difference of \$328,800.

In January, we outlined both a growth budget and a status quo plus budget for the district. The growth budget included additional positions we believe we need to continue improving teaching and learning, as well as additional funding for technology, curriculum materials, and professional development. The status quo plus budget maintained our current level of service plus four additional positions we need immediately.

- Academic Interventionist for the Horace Mann to replace the loss of funding for the Title I tutor.
- Elementary English as a Second Language teacher.
- Fourth grade teacher at the Winthrop School for the increase in the number of classes.
- Fifth grade teacher at the Lincoln School for the increase in the number of classes.

The status quo plus budget also included requests for increases in non-salary line items based on building and department needs.

The balanced budget is a further revision of the budget. It is not a status quo plus budget since it required us to reduce non-salary items and use reserves for funding. The balanced budget includes five positions: the academic interventionist, the fourth and fifth grade teachers, and two new Kindergarten teachers. Balancing the budget required the following:

- Replace the requested third ESL teacher with one of the Kindergarten teachers.
- Eliminate seven Kindergarten paraprofessionals (loss of state's Kindergarten grant).
- Reduce non-salary items by \$140,000.
- Close the \$328,000 through the following changes:

✓ Additional circuit breaker offset	\$80,000
✓ Additional facilities offset	\$10,000
✓ Additional school choice offset	\$5,000
✓ Additional Medicaid offset	\$60,000

✓ Additional Instrument music offset	\$10,000
✓ Additional Ed Stations offset	\$30,000
✓ Adjustment to structural deficit	(\$60,000)
✓ Reduction to legal line	\$10,000
✓ Reduction to Special Ed transportation	\$20,000
✓ Reduction to contractual obligations	\$20,000
✓ Remove technology (hardware)	\$67,000
✓ Reduction to consultants line	\$5,000
✓ Special Ed other adjustment	\$20,000
✓ Remove new classroom set up costs	\$50,000
✓ Salary Adjustment	\$1,711

The balanced budget will not be able to fund a number of requests for additional positions and for additional funding for resources that are included in the growth budget. In addition to the changes/reductions listed above, the balanced budget does not include the following items that are in the growth budget.

• 1.5 Library Media Specialists	\$75,000
• 1.0 Elementary Social Worker	\$50,000
• 1.0 Elementary Academic Facilitator	\$65,000
• 3.0 High School Educators (art/music, STEM, history)	\$165,000
• 2.0 Middle School Educators (art/music, math)	\$100,000
• 1.0 Director of Instructional Technology/Media	\$85,000
• 1.0 Elementary Specialist (art/music/physical ed.)	\$45,000
• 1.0 Instructional Coach (science/social studies)	\$70,000
• 1.0 Alternative Education Teacher	\$60,000
• Technology line increase (software, licenses)	\$100,000
• Special education increase	\$50,000
• Curriculum materials increase	\$150,000
• Professional development increase	\$50,000
Total	\$1,065,000

It is disappointing not to be able to fund these positions and additional resources we believe are necessary for the growth and improvement of teaching and learning in the Melrose Public Schools. We are proud of the work we have accomplished the last three years and believe the district is poised to raise the bar even further for both staff and students. These positions and additional resources are instrumental to that effort.

At this point in the school year, the balanced budget appears to enable us to preserve the current teaching level we have and add prioritized classroom and direct service positions for next year. I will be reporting on final registrations numbers, Kindergarten through grade 12, prior to the opening of school. At that time, the School Committee may want to review our FY16 staffing and resources.