

TriBoard Meeting
Select Board - Finance Committee – School Committee
Wednesday, March 9 2022 7:00 PM
Memorial Hall, Memorial Hall Library
2 North Main Street, Andover, MA 01810

I. Call to Order

Chairman Huntress called the Triboard Meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Memorial Hall in Memorial Hall Library. Present from the Select Board: Annie Gilbert, Alex Vispoli, Dick Howe.

Others in Attendance: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager Mike Lindstrom, Asst. Town Manager Patrick Lawlor, and Director of Finance Donna Walsh.

School Committee Chair Susan McCready called the School Committee to order. Members present: Shannon Scully, Tracey Spruce. Also present Dr. Magda Parvey.

Finance Committee Chair John Barry called the Finance Committee to order. Members present: Paula Colby-Clements, Yican Cao, Kevin O’Handley, Ken Russo, and Mary Ellen Logee, P. Russo.

II. [School Committee Budget Presentation](#) (click to see entire presentation)

Dr. Magda Parvey, Superintendent and School Committee Chair, Susan McCready presented the Andover Public Schools FY-2023 School Budget.

Susan McCready reported on the APS Budget presentations that have been given from December thru this evening and on the many activities that Dr. Parvey has overseen and attended this year. Dr. Parvey is honored to be here and to present her budget this evening.

Preliminary 2023 Base Budget Recommendation

Personnel	\$77,899,943	
General Expenses	<u>\$18,100,948</u>	
Total	\$ 96,000,891	(an increase of 3.68%)

On February 3, the School Committee approved the following budget

General Expenses	\$18,100,948
Debt Service/IT Offset to Town	(\$ 854,000)
Town HR Expense	<u>(\$ 20,000)</u>
General Expense Total	<u>\$17,226,948</u>
Total FY 2023 Preliminary Budget.	\$95,126, 891*

*FY-23 Base for FY-24 budget is maintained at \$96,000,891 (FY-23 at 3.68% increase). \$854,000 includes \$604,000 for items that do not realistically fit within the CIP and \$250,000 for device leases that are typically paid through CIP (IT-2) to the school

operating budget and to provide a test fleet to support MCAS and school-based assessments at AHS..

\$20,000 is a one-time transfer from the School HR budget to the Town HR budget to cover expenses as a result of the January 2022 Town & School HR functions split.

The attached presentation contains the major initiatives for FY-23 and beyond that includes expanding coaching and instructional support for math K-8; to begin the curriculum development process across grades and content areas; implement a new middle school schedule to enable increased core academic time and additional focus on social-emotional learning, and expanding supports for students with emotional behavioral needs.

It also includes improvements to the back-office effectiveness and efficiency through the implementation of electronic requisitions and purchase orders, hiring of a Business Manager (school accountant plus additional responsibilities, transportation support), and a Business Office Generalist.

Staffing recommendations to strategically allocate staff and maximize efficiencies to address the learning gap created by the pandemic, provide targeted support to schools/departments based on identified needs, provide structures to promote continuous professional learning and curriculum development and to support social emotional learning for students.

State Aid is budgeted at \$12,002,131 a rate of \$30 per student. Out-of- District Tuition Expenses of \$5,081,613 is budgeted for FY-23 compared to \$6,783,286 for FY-22. Chapter 70 State Aid for Education has not changed much due to Andover's tax base.

The budget stays below the Town Manager's recommendation of a 3.68% increase, meets all obligations, provides for personnel salary increases, meets all educational and curricular requests presented by Principals, Department Heads, and Assistant Superintendents. It includes budget increases for student activities, including requests from athletics and fine arts to assume expenses traditionally carried by parent/booster organization.

The budget invests resources in efficiencies for the Business Office, continues to move full-day kindergarten expenses into the operating budget, reduces student fees (bus and middle school extra curriculars), provides increased investment in instructional technology including student devices. The budget accelerates some facility projects that do not realistically fit into within the CIP and leverages ESSER and other grants for student supports in targeted areas. Out-of-District Tuition Expenses show a significant decrease this year.

Capital Projects (SCH-5)

The new West Elementary School will be coming on line in 2024 and Shawsheen Preschool in 2025. At the same meeting in 2016, they voted to form an Andover

Facilities Study Committee that included submitting Statements of Interest (SOI) to MSBA who once again notified us that they will not be accepting an AHS Renovation Project into their program.

Operating budget expense of \$604,000 (ongoing for term of borrow) for: Doherty Middle School Improvements and AHS Renovations. The plan is to use \$604,000 towards debt service to cover \$8M for the Facilities Dept and items identified as major projects for DMS to keep that school usable and functional.

Student Device Leasing

Operating Budget expense of \$250,000 ongoing (moving out of CIP and into the school operating budget) and enables us to create a testing fleet to support MCAS testing.

Town Human Resource expense transfer effective January 1, 2022 for Town and School Human Resource Functions.

The budget was presented to the Finance Committee on February 9th.

The Public Hearing will be held on March 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

The Preliminary APS Budget Book will be available the end of March.

Questions:

ESSER Funds: Are we repurposing FTE's for that support or hiring support? Response: *We are hiring personnel. Where does the funding for the support come from when grant monies run out? It's about building our own capacity. This person will spend 2 years to build our program and we will build our own internal capacity to maintain that. As the grants start to end we can determine if we need this 'person' in our budget or we at a point where we can sustain ourselves.*

Enrollment has declined and the School Department has done some restructuring similar to other districts. When enrollment comes back, will that restructuring built into this budget have us appropriately staged to meet the needs of students as the rebound in enrollment occurs? *Yes, based on our budgets, they will be looking at efficiencies and patterns in the numbers and looking at all of the positions and areas of support.*

Obligations: Question on the transition cost of \$343,754 for the full-day kindergarten (which is now offered at no cost).

In the summer of 2019, the School Committee came before the Select Board with a plan to eliminate Kindergarten tuition. At that time, the School Committee reduced the tuition every year for 4 years, by taking the funds in the revolving account and moving it into the operating budget. To eliminate tuition, they thought they would get a significant bump in Chapter 70 funding. However, the Student Opportunity Act went into effect that year and Andover became one of the 85% of districts whose funding went down to the minimum. Instead of using all of the remaining money in the revolving account to bring our tuition down to zero, we took a little out of the operating budget each year. This \$3,475 is a continuation of this plan. It is a plan in a multi-year transition.

The Select Board and Finance Committee thanked Dr. Parvey for her excellent presentation.

III. Adjourn

At 7:51 PM Annie Gilbert moved that the Select Board adjourn from the Triboard Meeting. Motion seconded by Dick Howe. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, D. Howe-Y, L. Gregory-Y, C. Huntress-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

On a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Shannon Scully, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, Susan McCready-Y. Motion passes 3-0.

On a motion by Kevin O'Handley and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, the Finance Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: Cao-Y, K. O'Handley-Y, K. Russo-Y, M. Logee-Y, P. Russo-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, J. Barry-Y. Motion passes 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary**