

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Superintendent's Report January 28, 2014

1. District Budget Proposal: I am pleased to present the FY 15 proposed budget for consideration by the School Committee and communities at large. The budget is 3.72% above the previous year with the majority of those increases driven by personnel costs (existing and new requests), site based requests, and capital maintenance at our high school. Assessments increases are at 4.83% Bolton, 4.55% Lancaster, and 5.94% Stow. The range of these increases are impacted by the local minimum contribution requirement for each community set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Our main emphasis is level services for our schools with three concentrated areas in each of our schools around Early Childhood Education, Response to Intervention and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We will be having a budget workshop on February 1, 2014, at the Emerson School to review each site based budget and the district accounts.
2. Student Recognitions: I am pleased to share that Joshua Bricknell of Stow has been selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Annually, 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become U.S. Presidential Scholars. This is an invitation to apply and Joshua will need to follow through on this, but it is an honor to be invited to apply.
3. RETELL Courses: This year a number of faculty and administrators have been taking the RETELL course required by the state as part of licensure beginning in 2016. The first course for our cohort is wrapping up. It has been a demanding course, but most agree the learning has broad applications to everyday experiences in the classroom. We are hosting the administrator course and hope to be hosting an educator course in the coming months. The requirement will mean that most educators take the course between now and July 2016 or risk not being eligible for renewing their license.
4. Rentals of Public Schools: As many of you are aware we rent the school buildings as both a public service and a way to recoup revenue. Since we allow rentals, we can not discriminate based on religious, race, or beliefs. We are able to require certain conditions be met based on what we believe will be the impact of the group using our buildings (custodial needs, security, etc.) We regret that the recent news that a religious group took people by surprise, as it is not our first rental to a religious affiliation. We have contacted the group to inform them that the advertisements should only list the address rather than the school name, so as not to continue any confusion that the school is promoting the group.
5. NASHOBA NOW: A new television program is on the air in all three communities. I have started hosting a monthly program to keep people current on the happenings in our schools and the district as a whole. Please check local listings for the air times.
6. Tri Town: The next meeting is on February 5th in the Town of Stow, Town Building. It begins at 7:00 pm and the agenda is still open at this time if there are any items that the school committee wishes to have listed.

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7. Annual Reports: Annual town reports are being developed. I will be sharing the drafts as they come due.

8. Unit A and Unit C negotiations: Our first meeting was postponed due to the forecast, however, our next meeting is scheduled for February 4th at 6:30 pm here at the Emerson Building. These meetings to open in public session and then go into executive session until their conclusion. Don Hawkes, Stow Board of Selectmen, is serving as the member chosen by the Boards.

9. Area District Proposed Budget Amounts (Assabet Collaborative Members only)

Berlin -	11.04
Boylston -	7.6
Grafton -	7.7
Hudson -	3.0
Marlborough -	NA
Maynard -	9.99
Millbury -	3.99
NASHOBA -	3.72
Northboro -	4.67
Southboro -	3.66
Shrewsbury -	14.99
Algonquin -	4.99
Assabet Valley Technical High School - Committee)	3.4% (Already Approved by School
Tahanto -	4.5 (Grades 6 -12)

10. Department of Children and Families (DCF): I am pleased to share with you that the newly appointed Director of Areas for the Worcester Area Offices has reached out to area superintendents to communicate contact information, website resources and other valuable information for educators to be fulfill their responsibilities as mandatory reporters. This is timely, and I think, necessary information for our principals, interventionists and classroom educators to have to do their work. I hope that it is first of many steps that DCF takes to be a partner with schools.

11. Governor's Proposed Budget (H2): The Governor's proposed budget adds 100 million in new Chapter 70 to local school districts, however, it doesn't increase our aide by much (+81,000). Additionally, the Regional Transportation line was level funded, which may mean that our direct receipt will be lower, since they add up the total costs and push back out a percentage of those costs. Most districts see annual increases so the best we can hope for is only a slight decrease. Circuit Breaker, a special education fund to reimburse for out of district placements, and those similar in-district programs, was also level funded. Homeless Transportation has also been level funded.

The Governor's proposal did expand the All Day Kindergarten grant by 3.1 million dollars. We will certainly apply for this money, however, it is targeted for schools who are just starting programs. Since

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we are adding classrooms we may get some additional aide in our current grant.