

FY2022 Budget School Department

Public Hearing Presentation

March 9, 2021

SY 2021-2022: A New Beginning

This school year, 2020-2021, has been a year like none we've ever experienced, and it has presented our district and its students, staff and families, with many unique and difficult challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic not only compromised the physical and mental well-being of our students and staff every day, but it created an extremely challenging educational environment in which equity, achievement and personal success were compromised for many students.

We have seen increased social-emotional issues and declining mental health, increased levels of student regression, and an overall decrease in typical levels of academic achievement and engagement across all schools and grade levels.

Due to the unpredictable course and length of the pandemic, plans to address these issues have unfortunately been more reactive than proactive. And though we continue to develop and implement new strategies and opportunities for remediation and support, and we will continue to do so through the end of the 2020-2021 school year and throughout the summer, many will not be resolved before the new school year begins.

We already know that the 2021-2022 school year is going to be a year of transition for many of our staff and students, as we open our beautiful new PK-5 building, and we move the 5th grade out of the middle school and back to elementary. We hope that this proves to be a positive and exciting opportunity for our students. However, for some students, particularly our high needs students, the transition may be an added difficulty for which additional academic and social supports will be needed.

We also know that, though we may not be facing identical COVID-19 related challenges next year, the adversity that many of our students and their families faced this year will still have residual effects and implications for student success in the 2021-2022 school year.

However, *with challenge comes opportunity*. And, our resilient NPS staff has embraced the challenges presented by remote and hybrid learning and developed new and exciting technology skills, as well as other innovative instructional strategies to engage students in diverse learning environments.

We are sure that these new skills and strategies will enhance the quality of teaching and learning when we are back to a “normal” in-person school year.

Focus for the FY22 Budget

Promote a STRONG opening of our school district this fall by ensuring that personnel, programming and practices:

- Support a successful transition of NES, Balmer and Grade 5 staff and students into the new Northbridge Elementary School
- Meet the academic and emotional needs of all NPS students **where they are** at the start of the 2021-2022 school year
- Focus on building trusting and collaborative relationships with students and their families to build a stronger and more inclusive NPS community
- Promote an innovative and rigorous curriculum for ALL students

ESSER II – CONTINUED COVID FUNDING

- These grant funds are intended to help school districts safely reopen schools and measure and effectively address significant learning loss
- Allocation: \$931,432
 - Per DESE : *Funding is contingent upon availability. All dollar amounts listed are estimated/approximate and are subject to change*
- Time frame: Funding available through 9/30/2023
- These funds are not included in the FY22 operating budget

ESSER II – CONTINUED COVID FUNDING

- This grant will be the primary source of funds to acquire necessary staffing and resources during the 2021-2022 school year to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our students where they are academically, socially and emotionally when they start the new school year.
- The goals and objectives of the new Strategic Plan, which will be identified as a result of our data and assessment review and root cause analysis process, will help guide the spending of this grant.
- Student Support has already been identified by the leadership team as a clear and necessary area of focus across the district.
- Potential expenses may include: additional SpEd staffing, after school programming, social worker, interventionists, differentiated instructional resources

FY22 Revenue (current projections)

Chapter 70 State Aid: \$15,664,621

- Minimum required increase of \$30 per student
- Minimum required increases since 2014

Town Contribution: \$9,074,492

- Increase of \$424,391 over FY21

Appropriation: \$24,739,113

- Chapter 70 + Town Contribution
- Attempt to maintain 2% increase despite basically flat state aid increases

Year	Chapter 70	Increase	% of Appropriation
2018	15,473,041	69,150	67.5%
2019	15,539,941	66,900	66.4%
2020	15,603,931	63,990	65.5%
2021	15,603,931	-	64.3%
2022	15,664,621	60,690	63.3%

Year	Appropriation	\$ Increase	% Increase
2018	22,910,443	481,000	2.1%
2019	23,389,965	479,522	2.1%
2020	23,839,465	449,500	1.9%
2021	24,254,032	414,567	1.7%
2022	24,739,113	485,081	2.0%

FY22 Revenue (current projections)

- **Grants: \$1,156,096**

- Allocations not announced until after July 1
- FY21 budget utilized FY20 carryover funds not available in FY22
- ESSER I funds allowed to supplant budget expenses – included in grant funding

- **Revolvers: \$3,037,286**

- School Choice, Tuition Revolver, Circuit Breaker, Athletic Revolver, Transportation Revolver, Use of School
- Anticipated amount needed to fund proposed operating budget
- Closes the gap between the operating budget and the appropriation/grants
- Throughout the year, if operating budget expenses come in lower than budgeted, less revolver funds are utilized. If operating budget expenses come in higher, more revolver funds could be utilized (or reductions made).

FY2021 Revolver Projections

Starting Balance	3,704,840
2021 Revenue	1,400,874
2021 Expense	2,366,308
Ending Balance	2,739,406

FY2022 Revolver Projections

Starting Balance	2,739,406
2022 Revenue	1,517,855
2022 Expense	3,037,286
Ending Balance	1,219,975

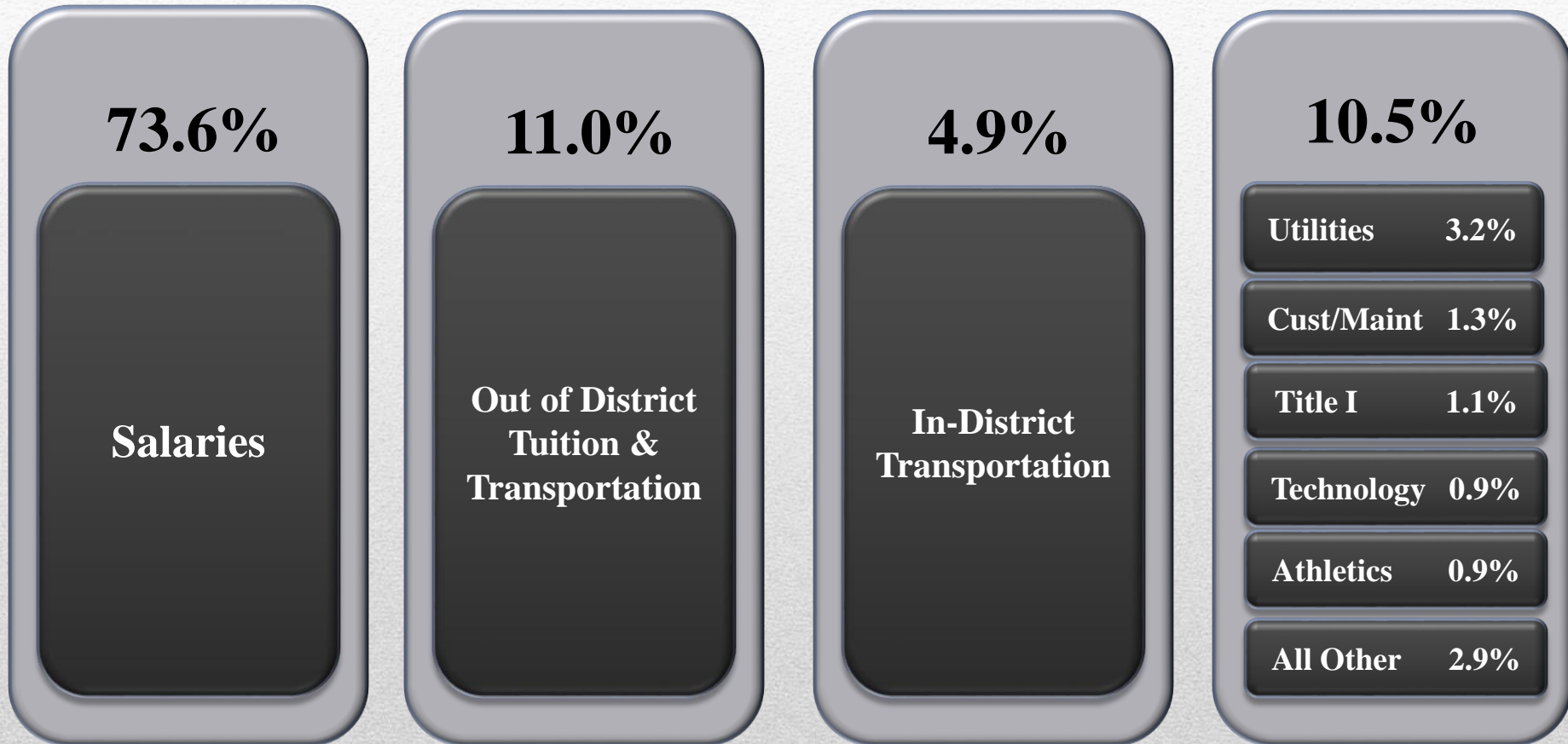
FY21 operating budget expenses are trending under budget = less expenses to be paid from FY21 revolvers = higher FY21 revolver ending balance = additional revolver funds to carry forward into FY22

FY22 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

\$28,932,495

- \$80,967 or 0.28% increase over FY21 Approved Budget
- Level Services = close to level funded
- Includes elementary school consolidation and proposed staff reorganizations

FY22: Where Does the Money Go?



All Other includes: Supplies/Materials/Text (0.8%); Professional Development (0.3%); Instructional Contracted Services (0.9%); Other Expenses (0.9%)

FY2022 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	Increase/ Decrease	% Change
Salary/Other Compensation	20,765,572	21,293,626	528,054	2.5%
Supplies/Materials/Texts	241,692	239,650	(2,042)	-0.8%
Professional Development	84,209	84,267	59	0.1%
Instructional Contracted Services	267,408	252,923	(14,485)	-5.4%
Athletics	271,011	274,663	3,652	1.3%
Technology	304,934	268,484	(36,450)	-12.0%
Utilities	854,036	925,188	71,152	8.3%
Custodial/Maintenance	440,770	388,053	(52,717)	-12.0%
Transportation	1,345,167	1,416,250	71,083	5.3%
Out of District Tuition & Trans	3,675,125	3,191,664	(483,461)	-13.2%
Title I	287,026	324,868	37,842	13.2%
Other Expenses	314,578	272,859	(41,719)	-13.3%
	28,851,528	28,932,495	80,967	0.28%

- Other expenses includes: copiers, legal, dues, accreditation. advertising, Medicaid billing, postage, MTRS grant expenses, etc.

FY22 Expense Drivers

Category	Increase/ (Decrease)	Notes
Salaries	\$ 528,054	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps/Lanes/COLAs • 2 union contracts not yet negotiated for FY22 • Minimum wage increase / increase in substitute rates • Limited retiree offsets (1 at end of FY21, 1 in March FY22)
Out of District Tuition & Transportation	(\$ 483,461)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 students budget in FY22 vs 31 students in FY21 • 5 less placements (3 graduating, 1 moving, 1 no longer attending) • 2 additional placements (students moving into Northbridge) • 2 students in residential placements aging out in FY22 (pro-rated tuition = 336K less than full year) • Transportation: 2 less runs; higher daily rates = small increase
Utilities	\$71,152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity – New Elementary School
Transportation	\$71,083	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6% increase in-district contract rates • Modified allocation for agricultural school transportation – instead of evenly splitting by participating towns, allocating cost based on # of students from each town attending = increase for Northbridge
Custodial/ Maintenance	(\$52,717)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of NES modular classrooms = no longer lease land • Anticipated decrease in trade contractor expenses due to new NES and new MS boilers
Technology	(\$36,450)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in hardware budget due to new NES technology funded through project budget & purchases with COVID grants

Reorganization of Positions:

Positions Added

School	FY22 Position Added	FTE
High	Library Clerk (Librarian transfer to NES)	0.5
NES	Dean of Students	1.0
NES	Instructional Assistant	1.0
NES	Instructional Assistant	1.0
NES	Instructional Assistant	1.0
NES	Instructional Assistant	1.0
NES	Art Teacher	0.5
NES	Lunch Aides (3) (increase from 2.75 to 3 hours)	0.1
NES	Speech & Language Pathologist	1.0
	Total Additions	7.1

Reorganization of Positions:

Positions Reduced

School	FY22 Position Reduced	FTE
High	Vocational Coordinator (add role to guidance)	1.0
MS	Nurse	0.5
MS	Music Teacher	0.5
MS	Health Teacher	1.0
MS	Speech & Language Pathology Assistant	1.0
NES	Crossing Guard	0.3
MS	Title I Specialist (grant funded)	1.0
	Total Reductions	5.3

Reorganization of Positions:

Positions Transferred

FY21 School	FY22 School	Position	FY 21 FTE	FY 22 FTE
MS	NES	Grade 5 Teachers	7.0	7.0
MS	NES	Grade 5 Special Ed Teachers	2.0	2.0
NES/BAL	NES	Technology Teacher	1.1	1.5
NES/BAL	NES	Instructional Technologist	0.9	0.5
High	NES	Library Media Specialist	1.0	1.0
BAL		Grade 3 Teacher	1.0	
	NES	Grade 2 Teacher		1.0

Looking Ahead to FY2023

- The proposed FY22 budget utilizes \$3M in revolver funds to balance the budget. If \$1.3 million is received as revolver revenue for FY23 (lower than projected for FY22 due to unknown CB), only \$1.5 million of revolver funds will be available to balance the FY23 budget in order to leave a \$1M balance. This is \$1.5 million less than FY22 = potential revenue deficit.
- If FY21/FY22 expenses comes in under budget and less revolver funds are needed to balance the budget in those years, and/or if FY21/FY22 revolver revenue comes in higher than projected, additional revolver funds will be available to help fund the FY23 budget.
- Student Opportunity Act should result in additional OOD transportation circuit breaker reimbursement, but decreasing OOD tuition expenses will result in less tuition based CB revenue as CB is a reimbursement program.
- ESSER II grant funds will be available to fund continued COVID related expenses and student remediation services in FY22 & FY23. Any remaining ESSER II funds may be able to help fund FY23 budget.

FY2022 Revolver Projections	
Starting Balance	2,739,406
2022 Revenue	1,517,855
2022 Expense	3,037,286
Ending Balance	1,219,975

FY2023 Revolver Projections	
Starting Balance	1,219,975
2023 Revenue	1,300,000
2023 Expense	1,519,975
Ending Balance	1,000,000

Calculation for visual purposes only

Important Upcoming Dates

- Presentation to Finance Committee - March 10, 2021
- School Committee Votes on the Budget - March 23, 2021
- Annual Spring Town Meeting - May 4, 2021