

Board of Education, Concord School District  
**Public Hearing**  
**October 26, 2016**

**Board members:** Rusty Cofrin, Clint Cogswell, Tom Croteau, Nathan Fennessy, Alana Kimball, Maureen Redmond-Scura (remotely, by telephone), Jim Richards, Jennifer Patterson

**Absent:** Barb Higgins

**Administrators:** Superintendent Terri Forsten, *Business Administrator* Jack Dunn, *Director of Human Resources* Larry Prince

The public hearing began at 5:43 p.m., with Jennifer Patterson noting that Maureen Redmond-Scura was attending by telephone. She explained that as required under RSA 91-A, a quorum must be present, the Board member who is participating remotely would be asked a few questions including why he or she could not be present and whether anyone else was with him or her, and roll call voting would be required in order to record her vote. Ms. Patterson asked Ms. Redmond-Scura to explain why she was unable to be physically present at the meeting; Ms. Redmond-Scura explained that she was in San Francisco and unable to be present. Ms. Patterson also asked her whether anyone else was with her; Ms. Redmond-Scura explained that she was walking down the street; her husband was walking about six feet in front of her; and no one else was around. Ms. Patterson confirmed that all Board members could hear Ms. Redmond-Scura and that she could hear everyone at the meeting. Ms. Patterson explained that all votes would need to be done by roll call to confirm Ms. Redmond-Scura's participation.

Business Administrator Jack Dunn reviewed the budget development and what has impacted the budget to this point. He noted that if the District had not received "payment holidays" last year in health and workers' compensation, the budget would have been approximately \$80,000 short. The one-time payment holidays are not available this year in those denominations; the total for this year is approximately \$83,000.

Of the total \$2.395 million unreserved fund balance, \$1.9 million is needed from the prior fiscal year to meet its obligations in the FY2017 budget. Any unreserved fund balance above this \$1.9 million would, without specific Board action of at least 2/3 of Board members or 7 votes, be returned to taxpayers in the form of a decrease in the local property tax rate.

The Board passed a preliminary budget in March, 2016; based on that projection, the tax rate would have risen 2.85% between the local and state tax rate for a total of \$15.18/\$1,000. Based on the actual valuation, the tax rate came in at \$14.96/\$1,000.

Mr. Fennessy noted that the cost of the required conversion from steam to natural gas heating for Abbot-Downing, Christa McAuliffe, Rundlett Middle, and Concord High Schools will be borne in the next budget year, FY 2017-2018, and beyond.

Mr. Dunn reviewed the five options for determining the final budget that the Board has available at the present, and offered the opportunity to develop a sixth option, for the Board to consider.

1. Option #1: Use \$490,000 of the unreserved fund balance to offset the additional cost of steam for this winter.
  - a. Impact on home valued at \$250,000 = \$48
2. Deposit \$495,475 into the reserves and increase the budget by \$490,000 to offset the additional cost of steam for this winter.
  - a. Impact on home valued at \$250,000 = \$83
3. Deposit \$495,475 into the reserves and increase the budget by \$243,000 to offset the additional cost of steam for this winter.
  - a. Impact on home valued at \$250,000 = \$65
4. Deposit \$495,475 into the reserves and increase the budget by \$373,000 to offset the additional cost of steam for this winter.
  - a. Impact on home valued at \$250,000 = \$75
5. Do nothing. This would result in a return of \$495,975 to reduce the tax rate. No change in appropriation.
6. The Board may create a sixth option.

Additional concerns about potential impacts on the FY2017 budget include the cost of snow removal if the winter snowfall is particularly heavy; special education out-of-district and transportation costs; and healthcare enrollments. Additional considerations include renovation or replacement of the childcare facility; bus replacement; technology replacement; and the potential impact of an early childhood education program.

Mr. Cogswell noted that the District has had in the past, when it was self-insured, a healthcare costs reserve fund, typically maintained at about \$2 million. Mr. Dunn noted that this fund is being used to offset changes in project healthcare enrollment costs, and is currently at about \$897,000.

**The Board voted 8-0 by roll call to adjourn the Public Hearing (motioned by Jim Richards, seconded by Ms. Patterson).**

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Croteau, *Secretary*

Terri Forsten, *Recorder*