



TO: School Committee
FROM: Tamika Olszewski and Kathy Shields
DATE: February 2, 2023
RE: Resolution

Resolution in Support of Securing Needed Funding for the Newton Public Schools

Whereas, each member of the Newton School Committee is charged with a fiduciary duty of financial oversight, review and approval of the Newton Public School budget so that our district can effectively and sustainably meet our goals and provide excellent academic opportunity to our students.

Whereas, on October 17, 2022, the Mayor presented a proposal for a general operating override and two debt exclusion overrides, which will be on the ballot before voters on March 14, 2023.

Whereas, the override will fund the renovation or replacement of Countryside and Franklin Elementary, renovation and expansion of Horace Mann Elementary, and the replacement of an inefficient boiler at Peirce Elementary, which assists NPS with the maintenance and care of our 23 school buildings.

Whereas, receipt of \$20 million dollars of state funding, provided by the Massachusetts State Building Authority, is dependent upon successful passage of a separate ballot question on Countryside Elementary, whose current condition ranks among the worst in the state.

Whereas, on January 23, 2023, the Superintendent and her team warned of a \$6 to \$8 Million deficit in the FY24 budget if the override is unsuccessful, which would require reductions across the board, including the elimination of 40 to 50 educator positions, larger class sizes, reductions in academic and social emotional support, a contraction in the breadth and depth of programming for students and impairs the district's ability to meet Systemwide Goals and the School Committee Budget Guidelines.

Whereas, the School Committee, whose members serve as policy-makers that are routinely expected to take a position on matters concerning our statutory responsibilities, is authorized by state law to take a position on a ballot question and issue an official statement reporting that position. See State Ethics Commission Advisory 11-1.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Newton School Committee endorses a Yes Vote on All Three ballot initiatives that will improve the fiscal stability of NPS and allow our district to meet its goals of academic excellence.

Be it further resolved that the Newton School Committee will serve as responsible stewards of the public investment to maintain NPS's ability to provide quality education to students and to attract and retain excellent staff.