



Dear Newton Schools Community:

On Thursday evening, August 17, 2023, the community and the School Committee were notified of possible additional funding from the City. This additional funding, which would result from the creation of a stabilization fund made possible by changes to tax abatement reserves, is part of a plan that is subject to the review and approval of the City Council. If this plan is approved, Newton Public Schools would first receive additional funds beginning in FY25 (the 2024-2025 school year). Any possible funding to be used to support our young people is appreciated. However, the amount of the proposed funding is modest over the next three years. The Mayor's proposal includes no additional money for this coming fiscal year, 2023-24. In the following year, 2024-25, it would add a bit under \$500,000, or about 0.18% of the schools' budget. And in 2025-26, it would add an additional \$500,000. We understand that the City Council will begin its deliberations on this proposal in September.

The School Committee, in consultation with Superintendent Nolin and the District's leadership team, will be identifying the best use of these potential additional funds to positively impact the education of our students. We are grateful to the Mayor for her vigilance in identifying these potential additional funds to support our schools. We also look forward to our continued discussions with the Newton Teachers' Association (NTA). Like the NTA, we share a desire for a strong contract for teachers, but are also responsible for a stable student experience, many maintenance, staffing and pandemic recovery needs, and a budget that does not outpace available funds now or in the future of the contract.

By way of an update on contract negotiations, we asked the Department of Labor Relations to assign a mediator in July because we felt that the parties had reached an impasse in their bargaining. The NTA asked for more time to make additional responses past the deadline for mediator appointment. More submissions were filed today and we hope that the state will appoint a mediator very soon.

Sincerely,
Newton School Committee

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