



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

ALISON M. BOUCHARD
CITY CLERK

INÊS LEITE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MEETING: Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michelle M. Dionne,
Bradford L. Kilby, Trott Lee, Leo O. Pelletier, Linda M. Pereira and
Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: The Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
Edward F. Iacaponi, Consultant
Seth Thomas Aitken, City Administrator
Maria Pontes, Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools
Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools
Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools

President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

A roll call was taken of the School Committee Members:

PRESENT: Mayor Paul E. Coogan, Kevin Aguiar, Paul Hart, Mimi Larrivee,
Shelli Pereira and Sara Rodrigues

ABSENT: Bobby Bailey

The Administrative Assistant to the School Committee read a communication received from a city resident, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

1. Citizens' Input
Collin Dias, 560 Ray Street - Finances
2. Review of the Fiscal and Financial condition of the City, Revenue and Expense Forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau introduced Mayor Paul E. Coogan and stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the review of the fiscal and financial condition of the City, revenue and expense forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, which is required by City Charter. Mayor Paul E. Coogan made opening remarks, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Edward F. Iacaponi made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the municipal side of the discussion. Councilor Michelle M. Dionne asked for clarification regarding the water and sewer enterprise funds. She asked what percentage of these funds should be earmarked for retained earnings. Edward F. Iacaponi stated that he feels that the retained earnings for both enterprise funds are on track and mentioned that when the Administrator of Community Utilities presents the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget there will be a much more detailed presentation. Councilor Michelle M. Dionne then asked if the debt exclusion for the new B.M.C. Durfee High School will be a separate line item on the tax bills. Edward F. Iacaponi stated that there will not be a separate line item on tax bills, as all taxes are deposited into the General Fund. Mayor Paul F. Coogan stated that all residents will be informed as to how much extra will be added to tax bills for the debt exclusion. Councilor Trott Lee asked if the City Council will need to accept the second half of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Mayor Paul E. Coogan stated that an ARPA Administrator was hired to oversee these funds. President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau stated that this new position will need to be created. Mayor Paul E. Coogan stated that there is a percentage of the ARPA funds allowed to be used for the administration of the funds. He then stated that this position will be grant funded and only in effect until the funds are depleted. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime asked if any one-time funds will be used in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Edward F. Iacaponi stated that there will be some and those funds will be listed and broken down in the budget. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime then asked how many unions are still in negotiations with the City. The City Administrator stated that the City is very close to an agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union that represents the employees of Government Center and also Teamsters Local 251 that represents the Department of Community Maintenance (DCM) employees. He then stated that he does not have any definite cost figures for these contracts at this time. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime asked if the City has stopped collecting solid waste and recycling at businesses. The City Administrator stated that letters will be mailed to approximately 225 businesses in 7 to 10 days informing them that the service will end. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime asked what the cost savings will be. The City Administrator stated the savings will be between \$300,000 and \$500,000 per year. Councilor Michelle M. Dionne asked if the list of businesses that received ARPA funds is a public document. Mayor Paul E. Coogan stated that information is public record and can be released.

School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar said that he hasn't seen anything from the City regarding financial stability. He then stated that it was just stated that the City is in a good financial condition, but there is only approximately 2.7% in reserves when there should be approximately 10% according to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Department of Revenue (DOR). He also mentioned that until the City has 10% in reserves the City is not in good financial condition. He also stated that the School Committee voted on all Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds, and he believes that the City Council should do the same with the ARPA Funds. He stated that the original amount of the debt exclusion was \$3.6 million dollars per year for eight years. He then asked for the Administration to present an updated debt exclusion amount to both the School Committee and City Council, as this information can be very helpful. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar also mentioned that the City of Fall River still owes bus companies payments for services they were contracted for during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kenneth C. Pacheco stated that two of the bus companies are almost identical in the amount owed of approximately \$700,000. He then stated that what he does not have yet is if these companies received any Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) Funds or any other stimulus funds that would offset their losses. He then highlighted that there is another bus company that services the City and they did not request any additional funds. Councilor Joseph D. Camara stated that he does not believe that this

matter should be discussed as it is in litigation. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime stated that the figures in the 5 Year Financial Forecast are no longer valid. Edward F. Iacaponi stated that documents such as these are very fluid. The City Administrator stated that there were projections in the 5 Year Financial forecast that have since changed. He mentioned that health insurance increases were projected at 10%, but actually came in at 2.5%.

Council President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau called for a recess at 7:07 p.m. to allow the School Department to prepare their PowerPoint presentation and the meeting reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

Maria Pontes, the Superintendent of Schools, provided a brief overview of the process and highlighted that there is a substantial increase in positions, including paraprofessionals and teachers. She then stated that the proposed budget is very direct services focused. She also stated that there is a large increase in Chapter 70 Funds and she is advocating for 100% of net school spending. Kevin Almeida, the Chief Financial Officer for Fall River Public Schools provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the school side of the discussion. He stated that the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) provides a major infusion of new funds, as this addresses the real cost of educating special education students, as well as English language learners. He also mentioned that approximately 9,000 of the 12,000 students in the City are classified as low income students. He then highlighted that the School Committee has taken several votes to address various capital needs within the School Budget and School Lunch Revolving Fund, as follows:

- Durfee: Fieldhouse Façade - \$1,128,920
- Talbot: Drainage and parking lot - \$1,028,423
- PACE Building: New electrical service - \$572,000
- PACE Building: Chiller relocation and pump installation - \$420,000
- Henry Lord: Construction of egress road - \$408,643
- Durfee: Cafeteria Equipment - \$245,366

He also mentioned that the School Department is addressing various heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) needs and updates through ESSER funding at various schools across the district, and a major window replacement project at the Henry Lord School. Kevin Almeida then stated that the Proposed School Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$141,857,792, with a transportation budget of \$11 million dollars. He then highlighted that the Fiscal Year 2023 also includes 165 new positions, of which 66 are paraprofessionals and 51 are teachers. Councilor Linda M. Pereira asked if any of the new positions were for counselors. The Superintendent of Schools stated that there are 10 new counselors included in the new positions. Councilor Joseph D. Camara asked: "since transportation costs are at approximately \$11 million dollars, has there been any consideration of the City providing this service. Kevin Almeida stated that he believes that is not a good idea, as most cities and towns that had been providing transportation with their own buses are now contracting the service?" School Committee Member Sara Rodrigues stated that retention of employees is a great concern, but this is a problem that is affecting all districts, not just Fall River.

On a motion made by School Committee Member Paul Hart and seconded by School Committee Member Sara Rodrigues, it was voted 5 yeas to adjourn the School Committee Meeting at 7:47 p.m., with Bobby Bailey and Mimi Larrivee absent and not voting.

On a motion made by Councilor Andrew J. Raposo and seconded by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the City Council at 7:47 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

DVD of meeting

Citizens' Input Communication


Mayor Paul E. Coogan remarks

PowerPoint Presentation by Edward Iacaponi, Consultant

PowerPoint Presentation by Kevin Almeida, CFO, Fall River Public Schools

Five Year Financial Forecast

A true copy. Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alison M. Bouchard".

City Clerk

In City Council, April 26, 2022

Approved.

APRIL 7, 2022

COMMUNICATION

SUBMITTED

FOR

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

CITIZENS' INPUT

City Council

From: Collin Dias <collind00@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 3:31 PM
To: City Clerk; Leite, Ines; City Council; Laliberte-Lebeau, Pamela
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Citizens Input Fall River School Committee / City Council Joint Meeting 4/7/22

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 7, 2022

5:30PM

City Council Chambers

One Government Center

Agenda

Citizens Input -

Any City of Fall River resident is invited to offer

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Collin Dias <Collind00@aol.com>

Date: April 7, 2022 at 1:32:01 PM EDT

To: Debra Cabral <debracabral@fallriverschools.org>

Subject: Citizens Input Fall River School Committee / City Council Joint Meeting 4/7/22

Fall River School Committee / City Council Joint Meeting 4/7/22 Citizens Input 5:30 PM

Collin Dias

560 Ray Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, 02720

Good afternoon members of the school committee and the Fall River City Council,

Today is the joint meeting between the city council and the school committee, and today's meeting is supposed to be regarding the finances of our city and the school department. I first want to speak on the school department side. The school committee gave away their authority to appropriate funds in line items. The school committee can only approve the whole budget, or disapprove the whole budget. If you agree with 70 percent of the FY 23 budget however, if a school committee member moves to propose some changes, they cannot do so. The last school committee voted away their ability to make allocations and changes in the budget. Mr. Aguiar recently made a motion to allow the school committee to have back their power to line item authority, and the rest of the school committee didn't even second the motion or even vote on the fair proposal. Where is the transparency? Where is the accountability? The school committee, and the city council should deny any school committee budget until they allow back their own line item authority. The taxpayers of this community deserve nothing less.

Now on to the city side of the budget. Mr. Mayor, where is your budget? Why hasn't it been released yet? I believe it is important for members of the community to know that the Coogan Administration wants to raise the water rates, raise the sewer rates, raise property taxes all the way to 2 and a half percent and include a debt exclusion for Durfee. This administration also wants a second debt exclusion for diman. I would like to see, in my wish list for the new budget, answers to the ARPA situation. The Mayor is being secretive with the budgeted ARPA funds. He is holding non public, secretive ARPA committee meetings to, quote on quote, approve his ARPA allocations. The mayors office told me a lie on 1/13/22. The mayors office told me in writing that BCEDC would report all of the small business ARPA allocations they administered to the city. They told me the allocations would be public records. I made a public records request with the city clerks office and the response I received yesterday was that the records are held with Ken Fiola the city does not have the records. The mayors office referred me to Mr. Fiola. I am now expected to ask a private organization for public records? That's ridiculous. I still did so, and Mr. Fiola has not gotten back to me. He has no obligation to. BCEDC is not a public organization. The city has no record on what businesses have received ARPA funds? That is secretive, that is corrupt. The mayor doesn't want the public to see where the ARPA funds are going.

Again, I believe this city was lied to, we have a person on the 6th floor who is being controlled. I don't think he knows how to make decisions for himself. He shows absolutely no leadership and always defers questions and comments. He allows scandal after scandal to

continue on the taxpayer dollar. And I find it really embarrassing that school committee and city council members coddle up to him for votes and support, when we should be holding the administration accountable. No one wants to hold him accountable anymore like we did last year. I will continue to hold him accountable as a private citizen. It is the job of our elected officials to hold the administration accountable and I don't think we are living up to that.

Thank you very much,

Collin Dias

Sent from my iPhone



PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

**City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor**

RECEIVED

2022 MAR 28 P 3:57

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 AT 5:30 PM

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER

AGENDA

- 1. Citizens Input**
- 2. Review of the fiscal and financial condition of the city, revenue and expense forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.**

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

Madam President, Members of the Honorable Council and School Committee, and Superintendent Pontes,

The annual joint budget meeting of the City Council and School Committee is an opportunity to review the fiscal and financial condition of the city and to assist in developing a coordinated budget.

The budget being proposed here today reflects the needs of our various Departments to make certain that we can provide high-quality services to the residents of Fall River. The final budget will be crafted with collaboration and feedback from our financial team, department heads and members of the City Council and School Committee and the school administration.

In making certain we will have a balanced budget we worked with our federal delegation specifically Congressman Jake Auchincloss to increase the Loss Revenue provision in the ARPA Funding Bill to 10 million. This money is available to be used for any of our City's traditional cost. In addition we still have 1.6 million in free cash and 7.2 million in our stabilization fund. We have future expected increases in revenue from additional sources such as business trash pickup, savings from health insurance, new growth, potential additional state aid and reworking a portion of the school transportation bill.

One part of this plan presented tonight is to reduce the Durfee Debt Exclusion by 2.2 million by using ARPA funds to offset half of the increase on our residential and commercial rate payers.

As we continue to plan for the use of the City's ARPA funding, as well as additional funding that may be coming from the State and County, we are guided by one vision- to ensure that our residents receive the services they need, that our students receive a quality education, that our streets are safe and that Fall River continues to be an inviting place for businesses and entrepreneurs.

Fall River is currently seeing the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and decades of financial strain. From our housing market to the industrial park to our growing waterfront district, we are seeing renewed investment and excitement in Fall River. The pandemic hardly slowed the economic growth that we are seeing today, and the budget message we are presenting today reflects the positive nature of Fall River's economic future.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the City Council and School Committee to ensure that we use this year's financial plan to better the lives of our families, our children, our seniors, our veterans and all of our residents. As always, we will work with the goal of making sure that Fall River becomes a safer, better and more livable community for all.

Thank you.

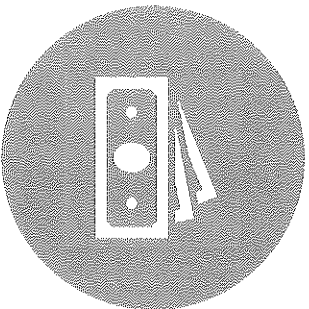
Joint Meeting of the City Council & School Committee – April 7, 2022

*Review of the Fiscal and Financial Condition of the City, General
Fund Revenue, Expenditure Forecasts, and Other Relevant
Information.*

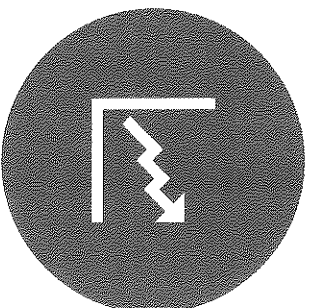
CITY OF FALL RIVER, MA

MAYOR PAUL E. COOGAN

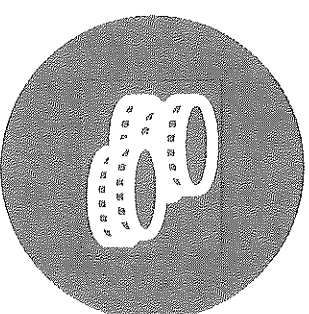
FY 23 General Fund / Financial Highlights



BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS



PROJECTED REVENUES



PROJECTED
EXPENDITURES

Budget Assumptions

FY 2023 budget estimates are just over \$325 million for revenues and expenses. This represents an increase of roughly 6.8% over FY 2022. General government expense line items are not finalized. *

Budget does include the debt exclusion for the high school totaling \$2,250,000, as voted by the taxpayers.

Other revenue sources include the revenue loss due to the pandemic, authorized as a *Use of Funds*, as outlined in the American Rescue Plan Act. **

* Includes an 18% increase in school revenues (significant increase in Chapter 70 revenues)

** New guidelines from the US Treasury have been established, allowing the City more flexibility over ARPA funds.

Budget Assumptions (*Cont'd*)

Salaries & wages may include filling vacancies that were eliminated in the FY21 budget, and unfilled in FY22 due to many uncertainties.

Expenses will include the operating needs of the departments to provide the citizens of the City the best services possible.

The budget will include funding School operations at 100% of Net School Spending.

Budget Assumptions (*Cont'd*)

Negotiations between City administration and collective bargaining units are ongoing.

The City will continue to review all Capital items on an ongoing basis to evaluate which one time purchases may qualify for the use of ARPA funds.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Proposed Budget

RESOURCES:

State Aid:

General government, net of assessments
Education, net of assessments
Real Estate Taxes, net of abatements
Local Receipts
Indirects
Other Sources
American Rescue Plan Act(ARPA) - Revenue Loss
American Rescue Plan Act(ARPA) - Rehire Provision
From Free Cash
From Stabilization - Capital
From Stabilization - Operating
TOTAL RESOURCES - GENERAL FUND
Water
Sewer
EMS
TOTAL RESOURCES - ENTERPRISE FUNDS

LESS: NON-APPROPRIATED USES

Other Amounts to be Raised:
Appropriation & Snow & Ice Deficits
Transfer to Trust & Agency
Prior Year Expenditures

TOTAL NON-APPROPRIATED USES

- RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION

| | Original FY 22 | Revised FY 22 | FY 23 Budget | FY 23 vs. FY 22 Increase (Decrease) | Percentage |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|------------|
|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|------------|

| Budget | Budget | Budget | Dollars | Percentage |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| \$ 25,904,348 | \$ 25,461,185 | \$ 26,050,161 | \$ 488,976 | 1.9% |
| \$ 121,259,577 | \$ 121,307,423 | \$ 144,029,749 | \$ 22,722,326 | 18.7% |
| \$ 116,634,040 | \$ 116,846,571 | \$ 123,880,996 | \$ 7,034,425 | 6.0% |
| \$ 22,642,489 | \$ 22,809,906 | \$ 22,759,992 | \$ (49,914) | -0.2% |
| \$ 6,990,036 | \$ 6,990,036 | \$ 6,990,036 | \$ - | 0.0% |
| \$ 125,000 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 125,000 | \$ - | 0.0% |
| \$ 4,509,378 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 2,909,785 | \$ - | \$ (2,909,785) | 200.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 3,807,488 | \$ - | \$ (3,807,488) | 100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 1,677,400 | \$ - | \$ (1,677,400) | -100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 389,200 | \$ - | \$ (389,200) | 100.0% |
| \$ 298,064,868 | \$ 302,423,994 | \$ 323,835,934 | \$ 21,411,940 | 7.1% |
| \$ 14,045,105 | \$ 14,053,308 | \$ 14,289,038 | \$ 235,730 | 1.7% |
| \$ 26,300,335 | \$ 26,302,756 | \$ 26,603,402 | \$ 300,646 | 1.1% |
| \$ 9,000,000 | \$ 9,556,971 | \$ 9,651,000 | \$ 94,029 | 1.0% |
| \$ 49,345,430 | \$ 49,913,035 | \$ 50,543,440 | \$ 630,405 | 1.3% |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| \$ - | \$ 1,299,433 | \$ - | \$ (1,299,433) | -100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 105,408 | \$ - | \$ (105,408) | -100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 543,628 | \$ - | \$ (543,628) | -100.0% |
| \$ - | \$ 1,948,469 | \$ - | \$ (1,948,469) | -100.0% |
| \$ 347,410,298 | \$ 350,388,660 | \$ 374,379,374 | \$ 23,990,814 | 6.8% |

Projected Revenue

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Proposed Budget

| Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Proposed Budget | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|------------|--|
| | Original FY 22 Budget | Revised FY 22 Budget | FY 23 Budget | FY 23 vs. FY 22 Increase (Decrease) Dollars | Percentage | |
| General Government | \$ 3,986,111 | \$ 3,971,711 | \$ 4,089,245 | \$ 117,634 | 3.0% | |
| Administrative Services | \$ 4,378,274 | \$ 4,763,674 | \$ 5,259,542 | \$ 495,868 | 10.4% | |
| Financial Services | \$ 1,745,998 | \$ 1,688,582 | \$ 1,839,769 | \$ 151,187 | 9.0% | |
| Facility Maintenance | \$ 2,740,973 | \$ 2,829,073 | \$ 2,827,420 | \$ (1,653) | -0.1% | |
| Community Maintenance | \$ 17,227,015 | \$ 18,119,112 | \$ 17,495,351 | \$ (623,761) | -3.4% | |
| Community Service | \$ 3,785,194 | \$ 3,753,794 | \$ 3,594,364 | \$ (159,429) | -4.2% | |
| Education | \$ 135,539,859 | \$ 136,967,925 | \$ 155,009,615 | \$ 18,041,690 | 13.2% | |
| Public Safety | \$ 40,813,187 | \$ 41,143,398 | \$ 42,065,616 | \$ 922,218 | 2.2% | |
| Debt | \$ 13,904,975 | \$ 13,904,975 | \$ 13,903,341 | \$ (1,634) | 0.0% | |
| Retirement | \$ 33,617,282 | \$ 33,617,282 | \$ 36,072,580 | \$ 2,455,298 | 7.3% | |
| Insurance & Other | \$ 40,126,000 | \$ 39,716,000 | \$ 40,026,890 | \$ 310,890 | 0.8% | |
| Reserve | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 657,817 | \$ 657,817 | 0.0% | |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS - GENERAL FUND | \$ 298,064,868 | \$ 300,475,525 | \$ 322,841,649 | \$ 22,366,125 | 7.4% | |
| Water | \$ 14,045,105 | \$ 14,053,308 | \$ 14,289,038 | \$ 235,730 | 1.7% | |
| Sewer | \$ 26,300,325 | \$ 26,302,756 | \$ 26,603,402 | \$ 300,646 | 1.1% | |
| EMS | \$ 9,000,000 | \$ 9,556,971 | \$ 9,651,000 | \$ 94,029 | 1.0% | |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS - ENTERPRISE FUNDS | \$ 49,345,430 | \$ 49,913,034 | \$ 50,543,440 | \$ 630,405 | 1.3% | |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS - ALL FUNDS | \$ 347,410,298 | \$ 350,388,559 | \$ 373,385,088 | \$ 22,996,529 | 6.6% | |
| PLANS APPROPRIATED USES | | | | | | |
| None | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.0% | |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATED USES | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.0% | |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS | \$ 347,410,298 | \$ 350,388,559 | \$ 373,385,088 | \$ 22,996,529 | 6.6% | |

Projected Expenditures (not finalized)

| | | |
|---|----|-------------|
| City Stabilization & Free Cash | \$ | 8,791,336 |
| Anticipated Resource in FY23 Budget for Capital Items | \$ | - |
| | \$ | 8,791,336 |
| FY 23 General Fund Proposed Budget | \$ | 323,835,934 |
| Reserves as a percentage of the Budget | | <u>2.7%</u> |
| GFOA & DOR Recommended Balance (10%) | \$ | 32,383,593 |

Reserve Funds (Stabilization & Free Cash)

***The City's General Fund reserves total \$8,791,336 as of April 5th, 2022**

| | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| EMS Stabilization & Free Cash | \$ | 3,247,542 |
|--|----|-----------|

| | | |
|--|----|---------|
| Water Stabilization & Free Cash | \$ | 718,579 |
|--|----|---------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------|
| Budgeted as a Resource in FY22 Budget | \$ | 200,000 |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------|

| | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Anticipated Resource in FY23 Budget for Rate Reduction | \$ | (296,571) |
|--|----|-----------|

| | | |
|-------------------|----|---------|
| Projected Balance | \$ | 522,008 |
|-------------------|----|---------|

| | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Sewer Stabilization & Free Cash | \$ | 2,380,169 |
|--|----|-----------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Budgeted as a Use in FY22 Budget | \$ | (350,000) |
|----------------------------------|----|-----------|

| | | |
|--|----|-------------|
| Anticipated Resource in FY23 Budget for Rate Reduction | \$ | (1,735,368) |
|--|----|-------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|----|---------|
| Projected Balance | \$ | 294,801 |
|-------------------|----|---------|

Reserve Funds (Stabilization & Free Cash)

*Enterprise Funds



Fall River Public Schools FY23 Joint School Committee & City Council Meeting

Presented by Maria Pontes, Superintendent and Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer
April 7, 2022

The Student Opportunity Act

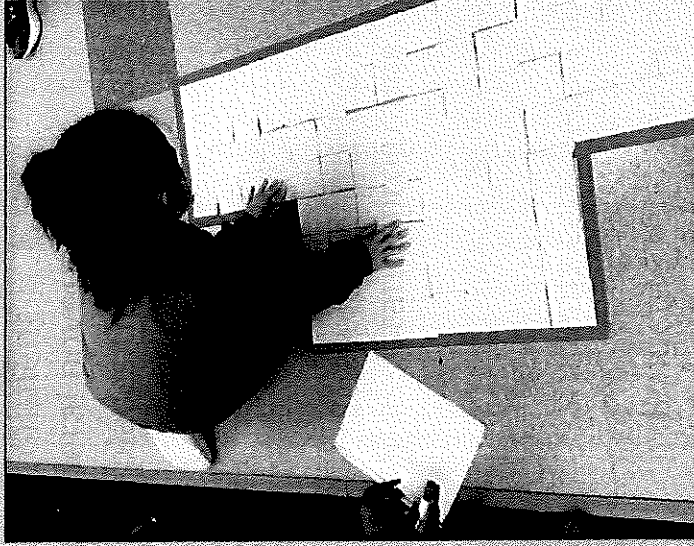
The Student Opportunity Act (SOA), signed into law in November 2019, provides a major infusion of new funding to the public schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The SOA was bi-partisan effort involving both policy makers, labor unions, and grass-roots organization to improve educational funding. The new law, Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019, updates the foundation budget established in the Education Reform Law of 1993, which codified the minimum level of education spending required to adequately educate a school district's students.

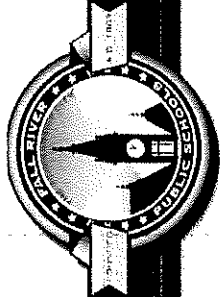
The SOA addresses the real costs of educating low-income students, special education students, English language learners, SEL services, and employee health insurance costs. The SOA also includes increased circuit breaker funding, creates an innovation fund, and requires increased accountability for local districts.

**Originally to be phased in over 7 years; this is the actual 1st year of funding 1/7 per language in law to fully fund by 2027.*

Student Opportunity Act - Low Income

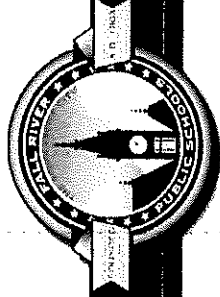


- The Act reinstates the definition of low-income enrollment used prior to FY2017, based on 185% of the federal poverty level.
- Replaces the economically disadvantaged designation (based on 133% of the federal poverty level) used from FY2017 through FY2022.
- For FY2023, a district's low-income enrollment is based on three eligibility categories:
 - Students identified as participating in state public assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), MassHealth, and foster care; or
 - Students certified as low income through the new supplemental data collection process; or
 - Students reported by a district as homeless through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance program application.



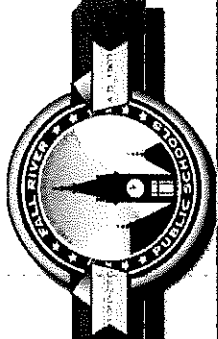
Chapter 70: 2018-2023

| Fiscal Year | Chapter 70 Funding | Change |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2018 | \$112,435,190 | |
| 2019 | \$119,649,166 | \$7,213,976 - 6.4% increase |
| 2020 | \$130,926,689 | \$11,277,523 - 9.4% increase |
| 2021 | \$137,016,364 | \$6,089,675 - 4.7% increase |
| 2022 | \$145,182,843 | \$8,166,479 - 6.0% increase |
| 2023 Governor's Budget | \$168,421,258 | \$23,238,415 - 16.0% increase |



Required Local Contribution: 2018-2023

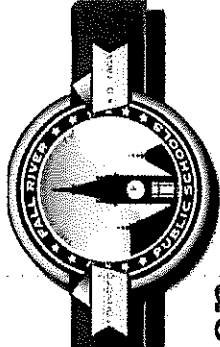
| Fiscal Year | Local Contribution | Change |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2018 | \$27,932,437 | |
| 2019 | \$29,668,942 | \$1,736,505 - 6.2% increase |
| 2020 | \$31,184,570 | \$1,515,628 - 5.1% increase |
| 2021 | \$32,906,432 | \$1,721,862 - 5.5% increase |
| 2022 | \$34,286,248 | \$1,379,816 - 4.2% increase |
| 2023 Governor's Budget | \$36,332,032 | \$2,045,784 - \$6.0 increase |



Net School Spending: FY 2018 - FY 2023

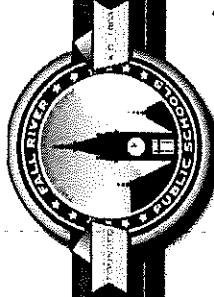
| Fiscal Year | Net School Spending | Change |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2018 | \$140,367,627 | |
| 2019 | \$149,318,108 | \$8,950,481 - 6.4% increase |
| 2020 | \$162,111,259 | \$12,793,151 - 8.6% increase |
| 2021 | \$169,922,796 | \$7,811,537 - 4.8% increase |
| 2022 | \$179,469,091 | \$9,546,295 - 5.6% increase |
| FY 2023 Governor's Budget | \$204,753,290 | \$25,284,199 - 14.1% increase |

Indirect Cost Agreement



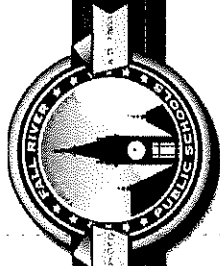
Costs are broken down in the signed Indirect Cost Allocation Agreement.

- This agreement outlines which costs are funded out of the City side of the ledger for schools.
- If/when a discrepancy occurs, the agreement can be modified through agreement by both parties or by bringing the DESE in as the final arbiter.



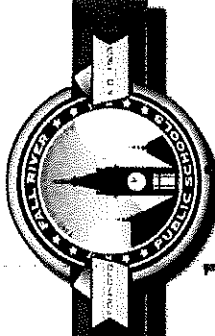
City Costs Reported on the End of Year Report – Eligible NSS

- Per Pupil Administrative Cost (FY22 amount is \$129.48 per FRPS student)
- Cost of Financial Audit
- School Snow Expense Incurred by City
- Fall River Retirement Contributions
- Health, Life, Dental Insurance Expense
- Portion of Legal Expenses attributed to schools
- Property, Liability Insurance
- Assessments:
 - Special Education
 - School Choice
 - Charter School



City Costs Reported on the End of Year Report - Not Eligible NSS

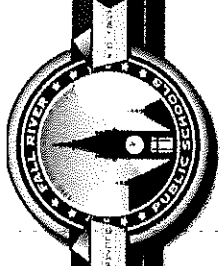
- Long-Term Debt - Principal & Interest
- Bond Anticipation Note Interest
- School Crossing Guards
- Regional School Assessments
 - Diman
 - Bristol Aggie
- Purchase of Land & Buildings
- Equipment over \$150,000



Transportation - Not Eligible NSS

Transportation is reported on the School side of the Ledger, but is not eligible for Net School Spending.

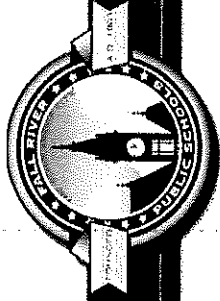
| Fiscal Year | Transportation Expenses | Notes |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| 2018 | \$9,405,442 | |
| 2019 | \$9,255,607 | |
| 2020 | \$7,538,441 | Decrease due to COVID-19 closure in March |
| 2021 | \$8,093,285 | |
| 2022 | \$7,485,860 | Spent to date through 4/6/22 |



Health Insurance - Actual Spending - Operating Only: FY 2016 - FY 2021

FY 2016 - \$21,710,374
FY 2017 - \$21,616,721
FY 2018 - \$22,210,692
FY 2019 - \$20,954,236
FY 2020 - \$22,292,777
FY 2021 - \$22,480,330

- Health care expenses have been very stable on the school side.
- Actual increases have ranged from a 5.7% drop in FY 2019 to an 6.4% increase in FY 2020.
- FY 2022 is not included above as year has not ended



Net School Spending Compliance: FY 2016 – FY 2021

The following breakdown shows actual spending and includes the percentage met of required NSS over the last five years:

FY 2016: short \$1,500,001 – 98.9%

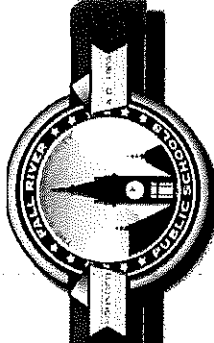
FY 2017: short \$132,418 – 99.9%

FY 2018: over \$67,615 – 100.0%

FY 2019: short \$1,870,294 – 98.7%

FY 2020: short \$1,332,786 – 99.2% (amount included prepaid tuition of \$1,709,100)

FY 2021: short \$3,230,046 – 98.1% (amount includes prepaid tuition of \$1,802,816)

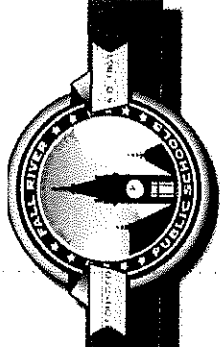


Section 68: Duties of towns to maintain schools; transportation of children; school building committee representation

Every town shall provide and maintain a sufficient number of schoolhouses, properly furnished and conveniently situated for the accommodation of all children therein entitled to attend the public schools. If the distance between a child's residence and the school he is entitled to attend exceeds two miles and the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from such residence, and the school committee declines to furnish transportation, the department, upon appeal of the parent or guardian of the child, may require the town to furnish transportation for children in grades kindergarten through six for a part or for all of the distance between said child's residence and the school. If said distance exceeds three miles, and the distance between the child's residence and a school in an adjoining town giving substantially equivalent instruction is less than three miles, and the school committee declines to pay for tuition in such nearer school, and for transportation in case the distance thereto exceeds two miles, the department, upon like appeal, may require the town of residence to pay for tuition in such nearer school for children in grades kindergarten through six, and if necessary provide for transportation for a part or for the whole of said distance to, such nearer school for children in said grades. Nothing contained in the preceding two sentences shall be construed to limit the obligation of regional school districts to provide transportation for all school children in grades kindergarten through twelve, pursuant to the provisions in section sixteen C of this chapter. No school committee shall be compelled to furnish transportation on a private way. In the case of transportation provided to students that is not required by this section or by any other general or special law, a school committee may assess fees to the transported student up to an amount sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the district; provided, however, that no student eligible for free or reduced lunch, under the federal school lunch program, shall be required to pay the fee; and provided further, that a school committee may choose to exempt families at other income levels as it may determine. The school committee, unless the town otherwise directs, shall have general charge and superintendence of the schoolhouses, shall keep them in good order, and shall, at the expense of the town, procure a suitable place for the schools, if there is no schoolhouse, and provide fuel and all other things necessary for the comfort of the pupils. Each school shall comply with the requirements regarding pesticide applications as set forth in sections 6C to 6I, inclusive, of chapter 132B. Whenever a town shall undertake to provide a schoolhouse, the town shall appoint at least one member of the school committee, or its designee, to serve on the agency, board or committee to which the planning and construction or other acquisition of such schoolhouse is delegated.

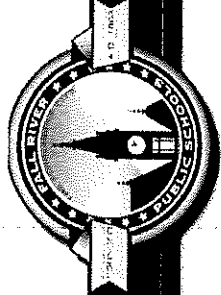
Over the last several years, schools have spent a significant amount of funds in addressing these capital needs.

\$1,427,230 City Council Appropriation



On April 12, 2022 the City Council will receive a transfer for the School Department to meet the compliance needs of the end of year report. With this transfer, we will still be short in meeting Budgeted Net School Spending as submitted to the DESE but are working with the City to address the remainder of the funding for FY 2022.

The above transfer will be brought forward to the School Committee after we receive the funding and will address additional capital needs.



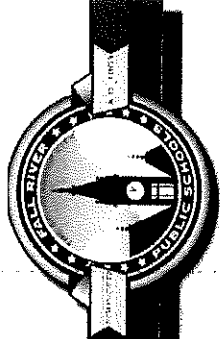
Capital Items spent on School Side

The School Committee has taken several votes to address various capital needs within the School Budget and School Lunch Revolving Fund.

Below is a list of a few projects that have been addressed:

- Durfee: Fieldhouse Facade - \$1,128,920
- Talbot: Drainage and Parking Lot - \$1,028,423
- PACE Building: New Electrical Service - \$572,000
- PACE Building: Chiller Relocation and Pump Installation - \$420,000
- Henry Lord: Construction of Egress Road - \$408,643
- Durfee: Cafeteria Equipment - \$ 245,366

The school department is addressing various HVAC need and updates through ESSER funding at various schools across the District. We will be funding a new window project at Henry Lord.



ESSER Funds

The following provides a breakdown of ESSER funds that were made available to the School Department.

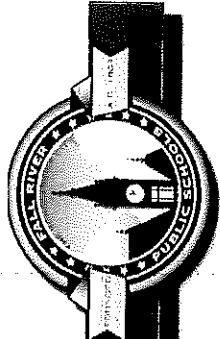
ESSER I: \$4,730,769 – This grant will be spent by June 30, 2022.

ESSER II: \$17,430,945 – This grant will be spent by September 30, 2023.

ESSER III: \$39,152,523 – This grant will be spent by September 30, 2024.

Total ESSER Funding – \$61,314,237

To date, ESSER funds have been spent on the Private Schools, COVID Rooms, Technology, Transportation, additional Special Ed Programming Needs, Pre-K Expansion, HVAC needs in district schools.



FY 2023 Budget

Proposed School Operating Budget - \$141,857,792

- 100.00% of the Governor's Budget

Proposed Transportation Budget - \$11,000,000

New Positions for SY23

| Operating Budget | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|------------------|-----|
| Paras | 66 | SLP | 1 |
| Teachers | 51 | Family Eng Spec | 1 |
| Safety Officers | 12 | Psychologist | 1 |
| Tech Staff | 8 | BCBA | 1 |
| Support Specialists | 6 | Payroll Manager | 1 |
| Counselors | 4 | Laborer | 1 |
| Comm Facilitators | 3 | Plumber | 1 |
| SLPA/COTA | 3 | Clerk | 1 |
| Custodians | 3 | VP - Transition | 0.5 |
| | | Athletic Trainer | 0.5 |
| Total Operating Budget: 165 | | | |

| ESSER | |
|---|---|
| Community Facilitator | 7 |
| Early College Academic Specialist | 1 |
| Instructional Support Liaison-Early College | 1 |
| Total ESSER Grant: 9 | |

Questions?

