



The Public Schools of Brookline
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Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

January 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On November 15, I communicated with all families about the challenges Brookline's public schools will face as we build next year's budget. In that email, I included a presentation that showed the difficult choices that have been made in recent years to balance our budget each year and provided information about the major drivers of the school budget. I also promised to provide updates to our PSB families as the process moved forward, which I am doing today.

In December we made a series of presentations at School Committee meetings to help the School Committee and community better understand the programs, services, and support we provide to our students and families. These presentations will continue through January at five different public meetings held by the School Committee including a public listening session on Thursday, January 16 at which community members are invited to share their input.

These presentations are intended to provide a more detailed level of information about how our schools operate, and to increase transparency, understanding, and involvement in the FY2021 budget process. Please see the attached schedule for a full list of these presentations. All community members are welcome at these and all School Committee meetings.

Since November, I have prioritized a collaborative effort to identify ways we can develop a balanced budget. Principals, coordinators, and directors have been working with me and district leaders to identify potential cost savings. Our team began this collaborative work early in the budget process so that together we could consider many possibilities and take the time to thoughtfully consider all options.

While in my role as Interim Superintendent I am ultimately responsible for the budget I recommend to the School Committee, the budget development work is being done with the input of many of our experienced, dedicated and gifted leaders thinking and working together. I know that principals, curriculum coordinators, and program directors are taking this work very seriously.

I will present my recommended FY2021 budget at the School Committee meeting on **Thursday, January 30**. The budget process will continue into February with a public hearing currently scheduled for **Tuesday, February 11**.

There will be difficult decisions in the months to come so that we can create a balanced and fiscally responsible budget plan for next school year. While I anticipate that significant budget cuts will be necessary in our schools and administration, the School Committee and I will work together to maintain the Public Schools of Brookline's deep commitment to putting students first, ensuring all students are deeply engaged in learning, and that all students achieve at high levels. I ask for your support, patience, and understanding as we face these challenges together.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

All materials and presentations will be available on the PSB website at www.brookline.k12.ma.us/budgetupdate.

School Committee *meetings* are televised on [Brookline Interactive Group](#) (BIG).
Recordings of prior meetings are also available on the BIG website.

Schedule of Budget Presentations (as of January 6, 2020)

Date*	Meeting Type	Topic
November 14	School Committee Meeting	FY21 Budget Update
December 5	School Committee Workshop	Grants and Substitutes
December 12	School Committee Meeting	Special Education Tuition
December 18	School Committee Finance Subcommittee	Recurring Fees in Program, Services, and Materials (52, 53, 55)
January 9	School Committee Meeting	School-based and Central Administration Staff additions since 2015 Override; Office of Strategy & Performance
January 9	School Committee Office Hours	Members of the School Committee will be available to answer questions about the budget process from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
January 15	School Committee Finance Subcommittee	Paraprofessionals, Stipends, Transportation, and Rentals
January 16	School Committee Meeting	Office of Administration & Finance; BHS Staffing
January 22	School Committee Finance Subcommittee	Programs - Visual Arts, Wellness, Performing Arts, World Language, ECS
January 23	School Committee Meeting	Literacy Support, Elementary (K-8) Staffing
January 30	School Committee Meeting	Presentation of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2021 Budget
February 11	School Committee Public Hearing	Public Hearing on the PSB FY 2021 budget
February 13	School Committee Meeting	School Committee vote on Town Meeting Appropriation Request

**Please note that these dates are tentative and may change.*