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**School Committee**

George Scobie  
Chairperson

Jessie Harrington  
Vice Chairperson

**Members:**

Gail Holloway  
Dorothy Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

April 2, 2021

Dear Town Meeting Members,

It is my sincere hope that this letter finds you well. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Auburn Public Schools and your recognition that a high functioning school system is vital if a community desires to thrive. Below you will find information regarding this year's proposed budget for FY 2022 and an invitation to attend this year's public hearing.

The public hearing for the FY 2022 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. This public hearing is being held in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N. Similar to last year, it will be held virtually via Zoom. Access information is located on page two of this correspondence. The public hearing will be live on Auburn Cable Television (ACTV). Each Leadership Team member will read aloud the total budgetary request for their school or department with any questions being addressed before moving on to the next school or departmental budget.

In summary, the proposed FY 2022 school budget is \$27,988,540.45. The total amount requested reflects an increase of \$312,485 or 0.99% increase above the amount appropriated in FY 2021 and a \$785,382.45 or 2.89% increase above the amount appropriated at October's special town meeting. Governor Baker announced his version of the FY 2022 budget in January. In it was an increase of \$78,000 in Chapter 70 funding for the Auburn Public Schools. The state's Chapter 70 program is the primary funding source for public schools in the Commonwealth. The balance of Auburn's school budget comes from the town's net school spending proceeds. We continue to monitor developments on Beacon Hill as the House and Senate are still deliberating their versions of the FY 2022 budget; however, we do not anticipate an increase in the Chapter 70 number.

I would like to recognize this budget aligns with our strategic plan and was created in a fiscally responsible manner understanding the pandemic has had an impact on our local economy. Currently, there are no new positions, nor are there large programmatic or equipment expenses contained herein. This budget is built to meet contractual obligations, anticipated operating costs, and the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. This budget closely aligns with Town Manager Jacobson's and CFO Kazanovicz's recommended increase for all departments, has been approved by the School Committee, and is endorsed by Town Administration, the Board of Selectman, and the Finance Committee.

As a Town Meeting Member, you are cordially invited to attend this year's public hearing. The hearing is open to members of the public, as well. Located on our the website of the Auburn Public Schools ([www.auburn.k12.ma.us](http://www.auburn.k12.ma.us)) is a link on the top navigation bar titled, "District." When you click on "School Budget" you will see the budget presentations delivered to the community in January and a copy of the proposed budget for FY 2022. If you have difficulty accessing the budget, or would like a hard copy, please e-mail and I would be happy to put a copy in the mail for you. In addition to the opportunity to ask questions at the hearing, you are encouraged to email your questions to me by Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. I will be happy to answer them for you. This will also help expedite the hearing. I can be reached at (508) 832-7755 or via e-mail at [chandfield@auburn.k12.ma.us](mailto:chandfield@auburn.k12.ma.us).

In closing, this year has been one of the most challenging years in the field of education – both here and across the nation. Your support has been crucial to our successes this year, and will be even more important in the coming years, as we help our students reset and recover from this pandemic. Thank you!

Most Sincerely,

Casey J. Handfield, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

*Relationships. Relevance. Rigor.*

**Auburn Public Schools Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Public Hearing**

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://auburn-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86935934463?pwd=dUJMUU5ZSjRMbm82Q2o5MGQ4cXNoZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 3593 4463

Passcode: 425188