Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 26, 2025
TIME: 5:30PM Regular Session Budget Hearing
PLACE: Bourne High School Media Center, 75 Waterhouse Rd., Bourne, MA

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Berry; Donel Beals; Maureen Fuller (via Zoom); Kendellynn Gagne; Kathleen Quintal

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Student Representative Addison Dion; Kari MacRae; Kerrie Scofield

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Dr. Barbara Starkie, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; Kristin Donahue, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Chris Oliver, Director of Technology

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Berry calls the budget hearing to order at 5:30 PM via roll call vote. ***Roll call vote passes 5-0-0***

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. OPEN BUDGET HEARING

- Budget Presentation
    - Dr. Zhou presents the proposed FY26 Budget presentation saying that it will include information on Budget Development, Assumptions & Scenarios, Priorities, School/Program Specifics, Budget Summary & Snapshots, and Overall Recommendation. She outlines revenue assumptions, including funds from the

town, offsets from school choice and tuition programs, and local, state, and federal grants. Planning assumptions focus on maintaining high-quality programs, managing healthy class sizes, and ensuring equitable practices. She notes that the budget supports the district's multi-year strategy and aligns with school improvement plans.

- On behalf of elementary principals, Dr. Zhou presents snapshots of what the budget will fund at each of their schools, noting some specific initiatives including extending reading blocks to 90 minutes, supplemental phonics and writing programs, and ongoing adjustments to instructional practices. She notes that emphasis was also placed on preserving teacher collaboration through common planning and refining data-driven practices for assessing student growth.
- Christine Borning presents the site-based budgets for BMS and BHS. She explains that staff at BMS will be realigned due to current enrollment levels, with six homerooms each for grades 6 and 7, and eight for grade 8. Seven Unified Arts, 1 Media Specialist, 2 World Language, 2 Directed Support, 3 Counselors, and 7 Special Educators will support all grades. She says that current curriculum and student support programs, including WIN, will be maintained. At BHS, she says they aim to expand student opportunities, including a new computer science pathway and an early college option at MMA. They will also strengthen core instruction with updated curriculum, inclusive practices, and robust student discourse and personalized learning, diverse activities, and social-emotional support will remain priorities.
- Dr. Zhou continues by highlighting proposed changes saying staffing will be adjusted to maintain student support via interventions, enrichment, and co-teaching, and programmatically, funds will support ESL curriculum, phonics and writing program adoption, and professional development on Tier 1 instruction. Other changes include restarting the bus leasing cycle, addressing rising Special Education costs such as in-house, tuition, and transportation, and allocating minimal funding for new strategic plan initiatives.
- Dr. Zhou offers an explanation on how the budget can be considered somewhat level-serviced as a level-serviced budget indicates that all staffing and services from the previous year are included in the proposed budget. However, this budget has services to students remaining the same but, due to scheduling and enrollment, not all staffing is included.
- Dr. Starkie explains that the budget supports teaching and learning through investments in curriculum, resources, and professional development. This includes classroom supplies, subscriptions, online texts, and materials for phonics, writing, and SEL. She says ongoing programs like Pre-AP and WIN will continue, and professional development will focus on UDL, math instruction, curriculum evaluation, AI, IEPs, and inclusive practices. She adds that MTSS, data-driven strategies, and district committees will also be supported.
- Kristin Donovan shares the key points of the Special Education budget including continued focus on compliance with new Massachusetts IEP requirements, strengthening special education practices and mental health support and collaboration with community resources to enhance student well-being.
- Chris Oliver walks through the technology budget which includes funding for network equipment, Chromebook and computer upgrades, and security systems, and a secondary internet connection for increased reliability.
- Jordan Geist presents pie chart breakdowns of the total FY26 BPS operating budget as well as offsets. He adds that increased transportation costs are due to the restart of the bus leasing cycle.

- Dr. Zhou concludes by recommending a FY26 operating budget of $27,718,638, a 4% increase over the FY25 approved budget and outlining the next steps.
- Maureen Fuller asks Ms. Borning how specific standards will be taught with the reduction in staff at BMS. Mrs. Borning explains how standards will be reassigned to different staff members and says the students will receive an equivalent curriculum experience.
- Mrs, Fuller asks if the district will be purchasing or writing a new ELS curriculum. Dr. Starkie says that is yet to be determined and they will bring a response closer to the end of the year.
- Mrs. Fuller adds her thanks to the admin team and staff that contributed their input to bring this budget forward with thoughts to staying within that 4% increase.

Maureen Fuller motions to approve the FY 2026 Bourne Public Schools Budget; Seconded by Donel Beals; Roll call vote passes 5-0-0

- Dr. Zhou acknowledges her appreciation of the work that goes into creating the budget as well as the school committee's reception of it.

4. ADJOURN-*Kendellynn Gagne motions to adjourn; Seconded by Maureen Fuller; Roll call vote passes 5-0-0*

Regular Session ended at 6:09 PM

List of documents and exhibits used (GL c.30A, sect 22(a))

Agenda Item	Document
0	School Committee Agenda

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Moerman
Recording Secretary