

Section D
FISCAL MANAGEMENT

File: DA
FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The quantity and quality of learning programs are directly dependent on the effective, efficient management of allocated funds. It follows that achievement of the school district's purposes can best be achieved through excellent fiscal management.

As trustee of local, state, and federal funds allocated for use in public education, the Committee will fulfill its responsibility to see that these funds are used wisely for achievement of the purposes to which they are allocated.

Because of resource limitations, there is sometimes a temptation to operate so that fiscal concerns overshadow the educational program. Recognizing this, it is essential that the school district take specific action to make sure education remains central and that fiscal matters are ancillary and contribute to the educational program. This concept will be incorporated into Committee operations and into all aspects of school district management and operation.

In the school district's fiscal management, it is the Committee's intent:

1. To engage in thorough advance planning, with staff and community involvement, in order to develop budgets and to guide expenditures so as to achieve the greatest educational returns and the greatest contributions to the educational program in relation to dollars expended.
2. To establish levels of funding that will provide high quality education for the students.
3. To use the best available techniques for budget development and management.
4. To provide timely and appropriate information to all staff with fiscal management responsibilities.
5. To establish maximum efficiency procedures for accounting reporting, business, purchasing and delivery, payroll, payment of vendors and contractors, and all other areas of fiscal management.

SOURCE: MASC

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

File: DB
ANNUAL BUDGET

The annual budget is the financial expression of the educational program of the school department, and it reflects the goals and objectives of the School Committee to meet the needs of all students.

The budget then is more than just a financial instrument and requires on the part of the Committee, the staff, and the community, an orderly and cooperative effort to ensure sound fiscal practices for achieving the educational goals and objectives of the school district.

Public school budgeting is regulated and controlled by legislation, state regulations, and local School Committee requirements. The operating budget for the school district will be prepared and presented in line with state policy and will be developed and refined in accordance with these same requirements.

The Superintendent will serve as budget officer but they may delegate portions of this responsibility to members of their staff, as they deem appropriate. The three general areas of responsibility for the Superintendent as budget officer will be budget preparation, budget presentation, and budget administration.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:34; 71:37 and 71:38N

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

BUDGET DEADLINES AND SCHEDULES

Preparation of the annual budget will be scheduled in stages throughout the school year with attention to certain deadlines established by law and charter.

The calendar year for budget preparation will be determined by calculating backwards from the final adoption date.

Two weeks or more before the annual town meeting –

Publication of the budget for the meeting, by the Selectmen

Not less than 30 days before the annual town meeting –

Finance committee holds a public hearing on its proposed recommendations for the articles in the budget to be published as above.

Whatever dates assigned the above, the final date for the submission of the budget to the Selectmen will be arranged cooperatively with the School Committee and finance committee.

In reaching its decision on the budget amount that it will submit to the Selectmen, the School Committee will also observe the statutory requirement of holding a public hearing on the proposed budget not less than seven days after the notice for this hearing has been published in a local newspaper.

Established by law and charter

SOURCE: MASC, August 2016

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:38N

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

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BUDGET PLANNING

The first priority in the development of an annual budget will be the educational welfare of the children in our schools. However, the District will also attempt to balance the valid interest of the taxpayers.

A sound budget development process must be established to ensure that the annual operating budget accurately reflects this school district's goals and objectives.

In the budget planning process for the school district, the School Committee will strive to:

1. Engage in thorough advance planning, with staff and community involvement, in order to develop budgets and guide expenditures in a manner that will achieve the greatest educational returns and contributions to the educational program in relation to dollars expended.
2. Establish levels of funding that will provide high quality education for all our students.
3. Use the best available techniques for budget development and management.

The Superintendent will have overall responsibility for budget preparation, including the construction of, and adherence to, a budget calendar.

SOURCE: MASC

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

File: DBG

BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES

Authority for adoption of the final school budget lies with the citizens who comprise, and who are entitled to vote at, the town meeting. The school budget is presented as part of the total town budget for action at the annual town meeting.

Established by law and charter

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:34
 Town Charter, (See local reference)

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY

In keeping with the need for periodic reconciliation of the school department's budget, the School Committee will consider requests for transfers of funds as they are recommended by the Superintendent.

The Committee wishes to be kept abreast of the need for these adjustments so that it may act promptly and expedite financial record keeping for the school district.

All requests for transfers between the major accounts (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chart of Accounts defines these as the 4 digit accounts ending in 00) must be submitted to the School Committee for approval. Transfers between line items within a major account must be reported to the School Committee as part of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance's quarterly report at the business meetings of the School Committee.

All funds in the general account not expended by the close of the fiscal year will be returned to the municipality.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS

The School Committee encourages the administration to seek and secure all possible sources of state, federal, and other special funds that will enhance the educational opportunities for the children in our public schools.

The Superintendent will keep informed of all possible funds available to the school district under the various state and federal programs, and in what manner these funds can best be used in the school district.

The Superintendent will be responsible for seeking out and coordinating the development of proposals for all specially funded projects and for submitting the proposals to the committee for approval.

The Superintendent is authorized to sign all reports for these projects, will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds received for such projects, and will keep the Committee informed of project status and completion, as required.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

Legal Refs.: M.G.L. 44:53A
P.L. 874 Impact Aid
Board of Education 603 CMR 32:00; 34:00

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

File: DFD

GATE RECEIPTS AND ADMISSIONS

Admissions receipts of school events shall be adequately controlled. The principal is responsible for the administration and supervision of all public school events for which an admission is charged.

Adequate records shall be maintained by the principal to provide accounting data for subsequent review and analysis.

Such funds will be deposited on the next business day with the town treasurer in a properly identified revolving account. Expenditures of such receipts for the purpose(s) approved by the School Committee can then be made without further appropriation.

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

File: DGA

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

The School Committee Chair and the Superintendent will sign payrolls presented for approval.

The School Committee may annually designate a second member to sign payrolls in the absence of the Chair.

The town treasurer, who also serves as the school department treasurer, signs all checks drawn against school department funds. No other signature is valid.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 41:52

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS

Each employee of the school district who is assigned the responsibility of receiving and dispensing school funds will be bonded individually or covered by a blanket bond. The town will pay the cost of the bond.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 40:5

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

The Superintendent will be ultimately responsible for receiving and properly accounting for all funds of the school district.

The accounting system used will conform with state requirements and to good accounting practices, providing for the appropriate separation of accounts, funds, and special monies.

The School Committee will receive periodic financial statements from the Superintendent showing the financial condition of the school department. Such other financial statements as may be determined necessary by either the Committee or the administration will be presented as found desirable.

The School Committee will approve the establishment of any “revolving fund accounts” conformance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws.

Legal Ref.: Board of Education 603 CMR 10:00

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

File: DIE
AUDITS

An audit of the school department's accounts should be conducted annually. In addition, the Committee may request a private audit of the school system's accounts at its discretion.

The Committee will consider recommendations made by the auditor for maintaining an efficient system for recording and safeguarding the school department's assets.

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: February 12, 2020

The School Committee declares its intention to purchase competitively without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended.

The acquisition of materials, equipment and services will be centralized in the Superintendent's office of the school system.

The Superintendent will serve as purchasing agent. They will develop and administer the purchasing program for the schools in keeping with legal requirements and with the adopted school budget.

School purchases will be made only on official purchase orders approved for issuance by the appropriate school/department head and signed by the Superintendent, or by their designee, with such exceptions as may be made by the latter for emergency purchases.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 7:22A; 7:22B; 30B; 71:49A

SOURCE: MASC

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

File: DJA

PURCHASING AUTHORITY

Authority for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, and services is extended to the Superintendent through the detailed listing of such items compiled as part of the budget-making process.

The purchase of items and services on such lists requires no further Committee approval except when by law or Committee policy the purchases or services must be put to bid.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 30B

CROSS REF: DJE, Procurement Requirements

Reviewed: January 8, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

All purchases of materials and equipment and all contracts for construction or maintenance in amounts exceeding \$50,000 will be based upon competitive bidding. All purchases valued between \$10,000 and \$50,000 shall require the procurement officer to attempt to secure 3 quotes for all materials, equipment, or services. All purchases valued at less than \$10,000 shall require the use of sound business practices to secure the best quality at the best price.

An effort will be made to procure multiple bids for all purchases in excess of \$50,000. When recommending acceptance of a bid, the Superintendent will inform the School Committee, whenever possible, of the competitive price of a reasonable substitute for the item specified.

When bidding procedures are used, bids will be advertised appropriately. Suppliers will be invited to have their names placed on distribution lists to receive invitations to bid. When specifications are prepared, they will be distributed to all merchants and firms who have indicated an interest in bidding.

All bids will be submitted in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Superintendent and plainly marked with the name of the bid and the time of the bid opening. Bids will be opened in public at the time specified, and all bidders will be invited to be present.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid that appears to be in the best interest of the school system. The Committee reserves the right to waive any informality in, or reject, any or all bids or any part of any bid. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for the opening of the bids. Any bid received after the time and date specified will not be considered. All bids will remain firm for a period of 30 days after opening.

The bidder to whom an award is made may be required to enter into a written contract with the school system.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 7:22A; 7:22B; 30B

CROSS REF: DJA, Purchasing Authority

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

All claims for payment from school department funds will be processed in accordance with regulations developed by the Superintendent. Payment will be authorized against invoices properly supported by approved purchase orders, with properly submitted vouchers, or in accordance with salaries and salary schedules approved by the School Committee.

As an operating procedure, the Committee will receive lists of warrants for payment from school department funds. The lists will be certified as correct and approved for payment by the School Committee and then forwarded to the municipal finance director/town accountant for processing and subsequent payment by the municipal treasurer. Actual invoices, statements, and vouchers will be available for inspection by the School Committee.

The Superintendent will be responsible for assuring that budget allocations are observed and that total expenditures do not exceed the amount allocated in the budget for all items.

The school building administrators will be responsible for observing budget allocations in their respective schools.

NOTE: Specific details established by an individual town should be substituted for those required in the policy above, which were established by that city's code of ordinances. Appropriate citations should also be substituted."

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 41:41; 41:52 41:56

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020

File: DKC

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS

Personnel and school department officials who incur expenses in carrying out their authorized duties will be reimbursed by the district upon submission of a properly filled out and approved voucher and such supporting receipts as required by the Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Finance.

When official travel by personally owned vehicle has been authorized, payment shall be made at the rate currently approved by the School Committee, and in accordance with contractual agreements.

To the extent budgeted for such purposes in the school budget, approval of travel requests by School Committee members must have prior approval of the School Committee. Staff travel requests within budgetary limits may be approved by the Superintendent. Staff travel requests that exceed budgetary limits will require the approval of the School Committee and the identification of funding sources by administration. Each request will be judged on the basis of its benefit to the school district.”

SOURCE: MASC

Reviewed: January 22, 2020

Revision Adopted: April 29, 2020