LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Leo McGuinness Administration Building – 100 Bennett Street, Lynn, MA 01905
Tel. (781) 593-1680 ~ Fax. (781) 477-7487

Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Lynn Public Schools FY21 Budget Summary

While our community continues to experience the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have taken great strides to meet the needs of students and families in the safest manner possible. Among the many impacts of the pandemic, the development and formal presentation of the FY21 budget is delayed significantly. Nonetheless, the delay has had minimal impact on service delivery. While the development of the FY21 budget happened at a time and in ways perhaps never before, it still reflects deep alignment with the district core values, mission and vision. What follows is a high-level summary of the FY21 budget. Detailed information can be found on each school or department page.

The Lynn Public Schools will receive an increase of $13.3 million in Chapter 70 funds for FY21. The City’s Chief Financial Officer has indicated that the school department’s budget allocation for FY21 will be $169,800,000.00. This represents a $10.5 million dollar increase over the FY20 budget.

Each year, a robust input-gathering effort is engaged to ensure that the development and emphasis of the ensuing fiscal year budget matches need and vision. During the 2019-20 school year, the district engaged in a broad-based effort to solicit input and understand need as part of a process required by the proposed Student Opportunity Act (SOA). This funding legislation has been delayed. Nonetheless, the district has not lost sight of the input gathered during the process.

In preparation for the increased significance of technology in service delivery, the district was granted permission by the school committee to transfer funds from personnel to supplies lines in the spring of 2020. This allowed for the purchase of devices and other technology for staff and students in the previous fiscal year budget. This move allowed for a tight focus on ensuring the appropriate staff to effectively provide services for students and families whether full-time, in-person, hybrid, or remote. The FY21 budget reflects an increase of 30 additional positions, all of which are direct-service roles. This includes the Director of the newly-titled Welcome Center, as the vision for that role and responsibility is family and community-facing.
In keeping with the input gathered during the 2019-20 school year and the district strategic plan, the district took a step to ensure that there were social and emotional supports at every school through the service of a social worker. Further, with the addition of a speech therapist, a step toward more manageable caseloads was taken in the special education realm. Additional special education personnel were added to ensure compliance. As is the case each year, we closely evaluate class size and open classrooms or teaching positions as needed to ensure the most optimal teaching and learning experience.

Perhaps more so than in any previous fiscal year, the district has added five PC LAN Tech managers. These professionals provide direct technology support to staff and families. Having successfully shifted to one device for each student and staff member, the support needs are significant. The addition is significant, yet there is still a need for additional staffing in this department.

Non-personnel or supply lines saw the traditional increase or were maintained at levels present in FY20. The primary exception being costs relative to the Remote Learning Academy in the Curriculum Department and those associated with the purchase of platforms needed for district-wide remote learning on the Data Processing page.

In total, the FY21 budget reflects an ability to protect existing efforts and significant steps forward in the realms of social and emotional supports and technology. These steps in addition to supplementary increases in special education are aligned with feedback and the district strategic objectives. Despite the impact of the pandemic, the district is moving forward as planned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent, Lynn Public Schools