



AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

40 Pierce Drive, Suite 3

Augusta, Maine 04330-9105

Phone: 207-626-2468 Fax: 207-626-2444

www.augustaschools.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2017

TO: School Board Members

FROM: James N. Anastasio, Superintendent of Schools

RE: Budget Building Guidelines

Budget Building for 2017/2018

Building the superintendent's recommended budget for the 2017/2018 school year was difficult at best. The ASD takes pride in offering excellent educational opportunities for all children regardless of their academic standing or educational potential. Providing broad based educational opportunities requires resources and supports that may exceed those available in other school districts. All decisions were guided by the central question, what is best for our students.

The School Board will have to make many difficult decisions as it considers what has been recommended or will be recommended as you deliberate and make adjustments.

The amount of the proposed budget is somewhat misleading. It looks like the requested budget is less than the current budget because the \$1,100,000 use of fund balance for infrastructure that is included in the current budget is not included in this proposed budget. The proposed budget is actually requesting additional funding to cover increased costs and a revenue gap created by the use of fund balance, which brings up a major dilemma for this and future budgets. Where will the revenue for those expenses come from now and in the future? I am concerned that this and future budgets will require additional revenue or a reduction in expenses – cuts.

In summary, without increased revenue and/or decreased expenses it is not possible to present a balanced budget!

The following list represents some of the factors that impacted the proposed budget, but in no way includes all of factors that surfaced or may surface during your budget deliberation process.

- Revenue figures and subsidy amounts are our best guess; accurate information is not available at this time
- The increased cost of a status quo budget that maintains all of the existing resources, personnel, and supports currently included in the ASD budget
- The increased cost of negotiating four comprehensive contracts
- The increased cost of health insurance
- The increased cost to meet the needs of a growing ELL population

- The increase cost of addressing the diverse needs of our growing Special Education population
- A potential decrease in revenue from Federal and State sources
- The possible removal of Central Office funding from State subsidy
- The request for additional teachers and support personnel at all levels
- Additional space for the requested personnel and programs required to meet student needs
- Requests by the school board, community, and Future Search participants
- The use of fund balance

This recommended budget is based on a status quo budget with some increases to meet student needs and decreases to balance the budget. It also includes a request for increased revenue from taxation. The increase that will bring the City's contribution slightly above the minimal EPS amount required to receive the full subsidy from the State. As a result, this budget will stimulate much discussion. The School Board's recommended budget will likely be different than the proposed Superintendent's budget as a result of the healthy discussion that will take place.

In addition to the proposed budget, you are receiving a list of all requests that were made by principals and heads of departments that are included in the budget, requested but not included, or that are included in the current budget but cut from the proposed budget. When possible, fairly accurate costs or savings are provided. A few items have estimates that would have to be firmed up if added to your budget proposal.