North Brookfield Public Schools

Proposed FY 25 Operating Budget

School Committee meeting –January 22, 2024

NBPS Mission Statement

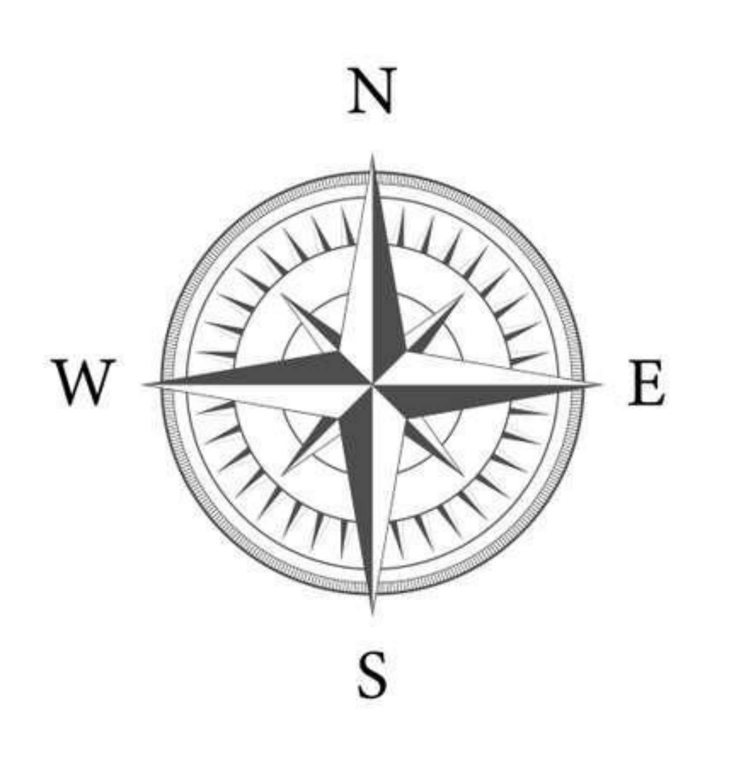
Our mission is to empower every student to reach their full potential by providing a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a sense of belonging. We are committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and the celebration of diversity, ensuring the delivery of high-quality education to all. We prepare our students for success in a global society by instilling qualities and skills to be contributing and effective citizens.

Goals for tonight:

- Present draft of FY25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget.
- Receive feedback and guidance from the school committee on next steps - this is the next step in a *lengthy* process that will involve multiple stakeholders.

Guiding Principles of our Budget Development Process

- Ensure that the School Department Budget is accurate, transparent, easy to understand, and based on the ***needs of our students***.
- Involve the entire administrative team in the process.
- Preservation of resources is the top priority, but ***growth and improvement*** needs to be on the table.



FY'25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget
Overall Summary

Final Approved FY24 Budget	$7,191,963.60
FY24 Budget with Offsets	$8,541,391.09 ($1,349,427.49)
FY25 Recommended Budget	$7,828,605.89
FY25 Budget with Offsets	$9,822,021.95 ($1,993,416.06)
Increase Approved to Recommended ($)	$636,642.29
Increase (%)	8.85%

For more detail, the following table breaks down the FY25 budget further into three major accounting categories and includes an FTE 1 count. For FY25 the major budget driver is special education increases; salary increases, and additional costs for all transportation. **Salaries account 64% of the total FY25 budget, and 28% of the total increase.**

FY'25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Major Budget Drivers

Account Type	FY24 FTE	FY24 Actual Budget	FY25 FTE	FY25 Budget	Difference ($)	Difference (%)
1- Salaries (Professional, Admin, and other)	101 FTE	$4,710,346.63	101 FTE	$4,931,110.94	$220,764.31	4.7%
2-SPEd tuition		*$1,629,894.48 *($1,142,726.31 proposed FY24); 3 additional students absorbed this year*		$1,727,962.56	$97,761.32	6%
3- Transportation		$980,011.58		$1,183,664.45	$203,652.87	20.7%

- FTE stands for Full Time Equivalent personnel. As an example, a full-time teacher or staff member is 1.0 FTE. A part-time teacher is a fraction of the FTE.
- Salaries account for 64% of the total budget, and 28% of the total increase.

The budget increase in context

- Higher than 5% collectively, but 3 of the factors that significantly impacted the FY'25 budget:

    1. Salaries
    2. Transportation Costs
    3. Special Education Tuition

The budget increase in context

- Together, the increases to Special Education Tuition, Transportation and Salaries from the FY25 budget total $522,177 which accounts for 82% of the total budget increase of 8.85%.

In the absence of these three uncontrollable budget drivers, the budget increase would have been 1.6%.

Why does the Special Education Tuition Budget continue to increase by such large amounts?

- The **Special Education Tuition** budget increased by $97,761.32 over FY24, which is partially attributable to a decision by the State (OSD) to approve a 6% tuition increase for private special education schools.

- Additionally, the FY'25 budget forecast includes three additional students that were included as OOD placements this year.

Budget Action	Budget Impact ($)	Cumulative Total Budget	Cumulative % Increase
Starting Point: Final FY25 Budget	$7,191,963.60		
Salaries: increase in salaries including steps, lanes, and estimated cost-of-living increases	$220,764	$4,xx,xx	xx%
Special Education: Increase in out of district tuition	$97,761.32	$x,xx	xx%
Facilities: Increase in NON-SALARY accounts	$xx	$5,322,736.36	15.5%
Technology: Increase in NON-SALARY accounts	$xx	$5,364,465.28	16.3%
Contracted Services:	$xx	$5,449.465.28	

Breakdown of Special Education Out-of-District Placements

Placement	# of Students	Projected FY24 Budget	Actual FY24 Budget	# of Students	FY25 Budget
Collaborative	2	$229,153.06	$104,905.20	2	$111,119.00
Private Day	7	$674,935.64	$826,058.86	7	$875,667.49
Residential	2	$238,637.61	$698,933.32	2	$740,869.33
Grand Total	**11 (8)**	**$1,142,726.31**	**$1,629,894.48**	11 (plus 2 1:1 paraprofessionals)	**$1,727,692.56**
Tuition Difference 24/25					**$97,761.32**
Cumulative % increase					**6%**

- The Special Education tuition budget is developed on a student-by-student basis. Our projected FY25 budget reflects only students that we expect to require a private placement next year - there is no “contingency” in our budget request.

Total Revenue by Source-Offsets

Budget Offset	FY'24	FY'25	Incremental Changes ($)	Offset to account type	Notes
ESSER III (FY'23/FY'24)	$267,209	$0	$267,209	Grant has ended	
SPED Circuit Breaker Reimbursement	$350 projected; ($615,164.00 actual)	$800,000 (projected) plus 298,341.33 carry over	$483,177.33	Out of District Placements	
SPED IDEA Grant 240	$154,957	$154,957 (plus $74,000 carryover)	$74,000	SPED salary costs; supplies	
SPEd Early Childhood Grant 262	$4,163	$4,163	$0	Supplies	
Early Learning Center Tuition	$115,210	$90,000	$25,210	Salaries; Testing	
Student Gift	$24,162.25	$0	$24,162.25		offset math curriculum in FY24
School Choice	$337,500	$226,843.40(projected) plus $45,450 carryover)	$65,206.60	Salaries	
Title I Grant	$101,657	$107,955	$6,298	Salaries; Reading supports	
SRSA	$31,173	$31,173	$0	PPS/ODP	
Rural School Aid	$61,000	$61,585.28	$585.28	Technology	

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Budget Offset	FY'24	FY'25	Incremental Changes ($)	Offset to account type	Notes
ESSER III (FY'23/FY'24)	$267,209	$0	$267,209	Grant has ended	
Title IIA Grant	$16,144	$16,144	$0	PD/Course Reimbursement	
Lost Books	$0	10,000	$10,000	Curriculum	
Title IV	$10,000	$10,000	$0	Contracted services	
AM/PM Program	$0	$24,022.39	$24,022.39	Pre-K salaries	
Sped Stabilization	$0	$20,914.08	$20,914.08	Out of District Placements	
E-Rate	$17,867.58	$17,867.58	$0	Technology	
TOTAL	**$1,756,206.83**	**$1,993,416.06**	**$237,209.23**		

Changes to Revenue Offsets: Circuit Breaker

There are a few major changes that I want to highlight:

- $184,836 increase to Circuit Breaker Offset
- The projected $800,000 for FY25 under the circuit breaker, largely attributed to the integration of three (3) additional students this year, is set to significantly mitigate the 6% increase imposed by the Office of Student Development (OSD) for the current year. All of these funds are being reinvested into the budget, with no allocation for savings at this time.

Changes to Revenue Offsets: End of ESSER funds

- $267,209 decrease from the remaining ESSER III:

- The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) was created to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on schools nationwide. North Brookfield has benefited from this fund through three phases of allocations:
  ESSER I: $65,002
  ESSER II: $265,813
  ESSER III: $574,924
  Over the past two fiscal years, we primarily allocated this funding towards vital teaching roles and some educational materials. However, as ESSER funding is not ongoing, we are now facing a financial challenge. The "fiscal cliff" arises when temporary funds are used for ongoing costs. Consequently, we must find new funding sources for the teaching positions initially supported by ESSER, to ensure their continuity.

Changes to Revenue Offsets: <u>ESSER</u>

- In the past two fiscal years, we have used the majority of the ESSER funding for much-needed positions and programs.

- Unfortunately, we will not receive additional ESSER funding, and thus we are preparing for the "fiscal cliff" that occurs when non-recurring revenue is used to fund anything other than one-time expenses.

Budget Reallocations
(Net $0 budget impact)

At present, we are not proposing any budget reallocations for North Brookfield school district. Our focus remains on maintaining efficient and effective operations within our current financial framework, without making immediate changes to the budget distribution. There is always potential for this to change throughout the ongoing budget process.

Budget Additions
(Net $0 budget impact)

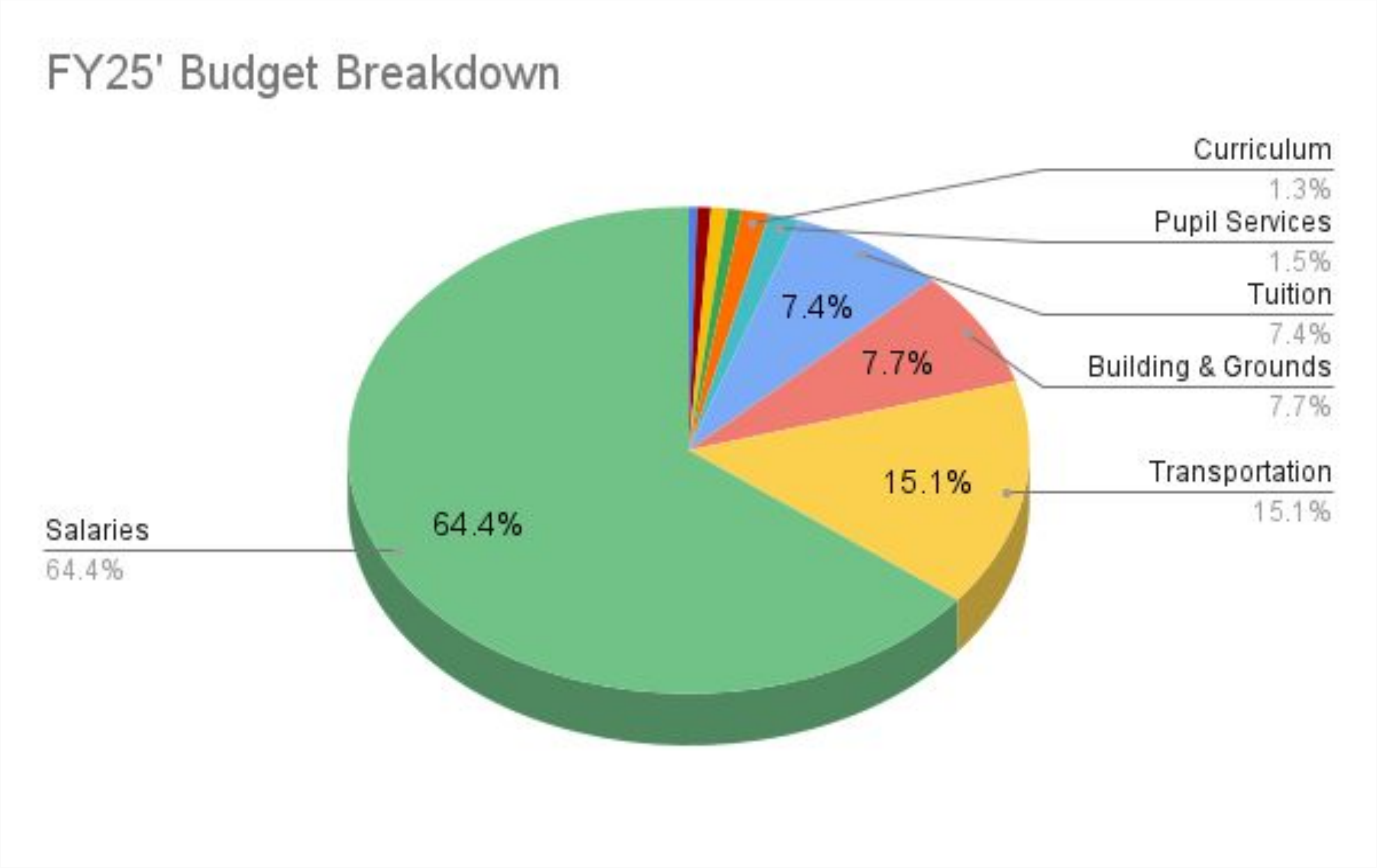
At present, we are not proposing any budget additions for North Brookfield school district. Our focus remains on maintaining efficient and effective operations within our current financial framework, without making immediate changes to the budget distribution. There is always potential for this to change throughout the ongoing budget process.

Per-Pupil Expenditures

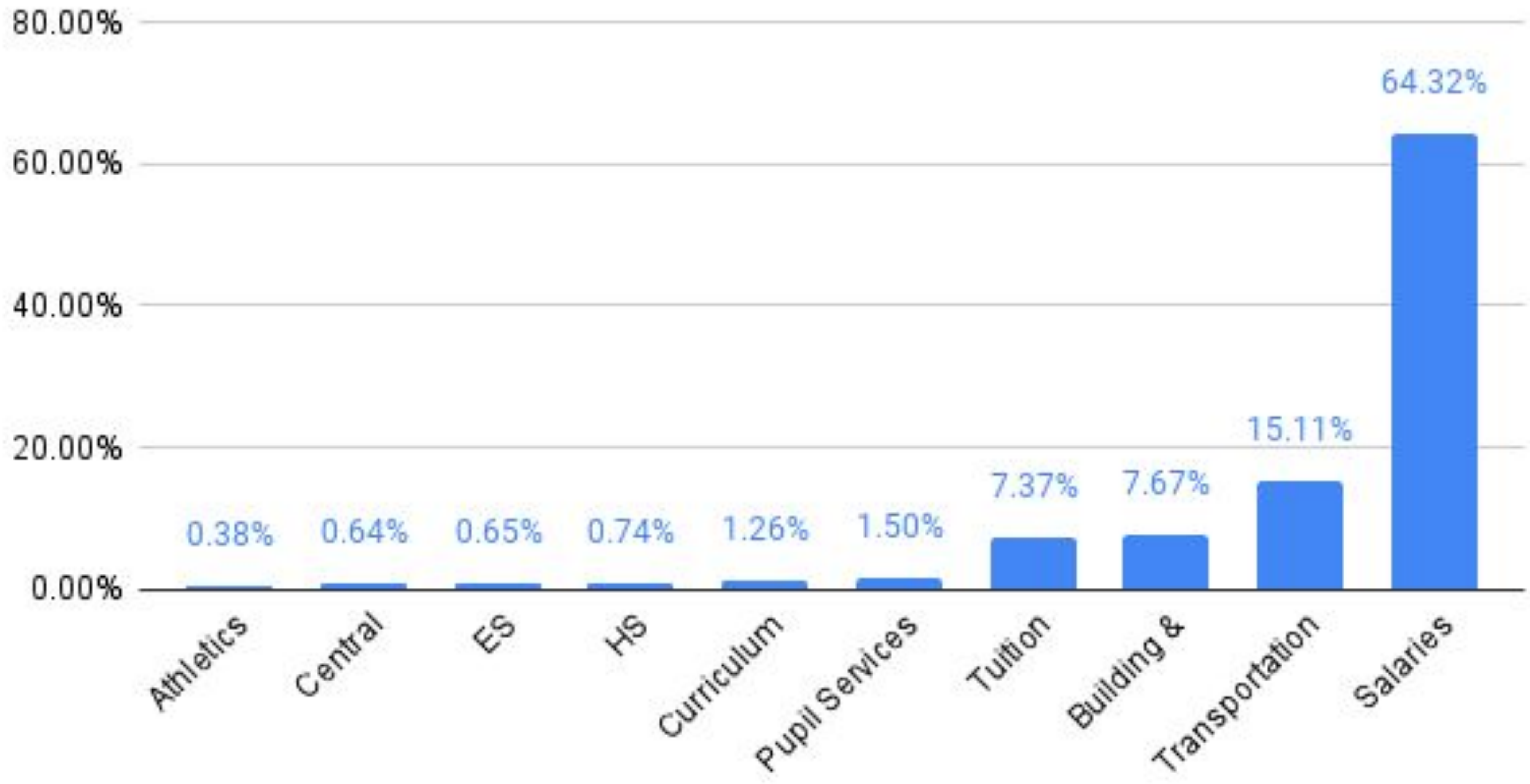
Comparable Districts: DART Designated or SWCEC Collaborative Members

School Name (Nearby Schools)	Total Expenditures per Pupil
Auburn	$15,022.63
Belchertown	$15,178.61
Brimfield	$15,412.34
Brookfield	$15,420.41
Holland	$15,904.34
Leicester	$16,044.98
Palmer	$16,569.41
Quabbin	$16,982.58
North Brookfield	**$17,162.11**
Quaboag Regional	$17,400.14
Southbridge	$17,549.40
Spencer-E Brookfield	$17,883.41
Sturbridge	$18,352.02
Tantasqua	$19,062.20
Wachusett	$19,261.52
State Average (2021)	$19,459.53

School Name (DART Schools)	Total Expenditures per Pupil
Ware	$15,904.34
Winchendon	$16,066.88
Hoosac Valley Regional	$17,090.72
North Brookfield	**$17,162.11**
Avon	$18,771.55
Gateway	$19,062.60
Monson	$19,243.81
State Totals	$19,459.53
North Adams	$19,460.82
Mohawk Trail	$23,807.15
Hull	$26,154.61


FY25' Budget Breakdown
Curriculum
1.3%
Pupil Services
1.5%
Tuition
7.4%
Building & Grounds
7.7%
Transportation
15.1%
Salaries
64.4%
7.4%
7.7%
15.1%
64.4%

FY25' Budget Breakdown



Closing Thoughts:

- Because a need goes unfunded, does not mean the need has gone away.
- 8.85% is significantly less than where we started for FY24.
- Preserving our staffing and programming.

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