


**Belmont Public Schools**  
**Belmont School Committee**  
**FY14 Budget Hearing and Vote**  
April 23, 2013



SC FY14 Budget Hearing & Vote – April 23, 2013

Today's Topics

- Strategic Goals That Inform Budget Decisions
- Technical Budget Assumptions: Cost Drivers/Allocations
- Adjustments to Available Revenue (since 2/12/13)
- Summary of Proposed FY14 "Available Revenue" Budget
- Adjustments to Meet Available Revenue
- Impact of Necessary Adjustments
- Special Topic: Addressing Increases in Class Size
- Capital Budget Requests
- Longer-Term Planning
- Next Steps

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Strategic Goals That Inform Budget Priorities

*To prepare all students for college, career, and life-long learning through*

- a balanced and healthy school experience,
- continuity of curricula aligned with Commonwealth and community standards,
- support for educators to experiment and innovate, and
- clear articulation of instructional models.

*To support continuous improvement and overall programmatic and fiscal stability by*

- engaging administrators, teachers, students, and community stakeholders in generally accepted practices of long-term strategic planning.

*To ensure that students receive instruction from consistently highly qualified educators who pursue continuous improvement of their art by*

- hiring well-prepared and diverse professionals,
- sustaining continuous professional development by means of clear and coherent plans, and
- implementing a successful educator evaluation system in line with new Commonwealth standards.

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Technical Budget Assumptions for FY14:  
Primary Cost Drivers

- Contractual Salary Obligations (constitute 2/3 of budget)
- Town pension benefit obligations to increase 6.7%
- Health care benefits will increase 9% (with 4.5% Schools' factor)
- Costs of mandated special education services generally rise 3-7% per year
- A new K-5 Math Series would cost \$200,000
- Student enrollment is increasing markedly:
  - up 96 students in FY13 (81 of these students were previously in private schools – effect of economy?)
  - predicted to increase again in FY14 (e.g., NESDEC projection: 103 additional students)

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Technical Budget Assumptions for FY14:  
Allocations (as of 4/22/13)

- Modest Increase in Funding of Chapter 70
- State Allocation Figures Based on House Ways and Means Budget (firm State #s expected in May)
- Town Allocation: 58% to Schools; 42% to Town Departments
- All Grant Funds Remain Same as FY13
- Athletic Program Funding from Fees and Gate Receipts Will Remain at 60%
- Discretionary Fees Neither Increase Nor Decrease

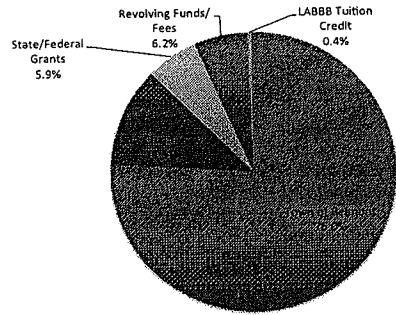
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Technical Budget Assumptions for FY14:  
Adjustments to Available Revenue (since 2/12/13)

Source	Amount
Increase in state-provided Local Aid	\$140,890
Revisions in miscellaneous town accounts (electricity/worker's comp)	\$46,815
Savings estimated as a result of converting High School heating system from fuel oil to natural gas	\$87,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$274,705</b>

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Sources of Revenue for Overall Budget



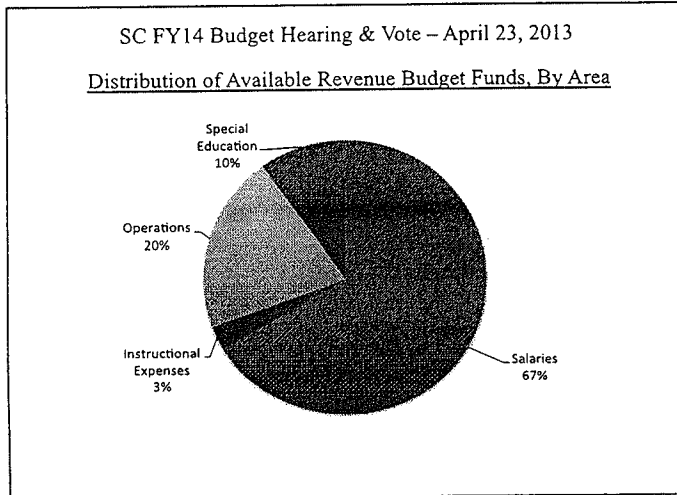
Town of Belmont + MA Chapter 70 = "General Fund"  
Final MA Chapter 70 amount still to be determined by state

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Summary of Proposed FY14 "Available Revenue" Budget \*

	FY14 AR Budget * (ALL sources)	FY13 Base (Gen. Fund)	FY14 AR Budget * (Gen. Fund)	FY13-14 Change (\$)	FY13-14 Change (%)
Salaries	32,060,502	28,373,452	29,758,699	1,385,247	4.88%
Instructional Expenditures (supplies, materials, software)	1,644,694	1,256,966	1,239,011	(17,955)	-1.43%
Operations (Cent. Office, IT, reg. ed., transp., maint./utilities, fringe)	10,383,817	8,823,209	8,965,125	141,916	1.61%
SPED (tuition, trans., expenses)	6,575,522	4,614,865	4,386,285	(228,600)	-4.95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,664,535</b>	<b>43,068,492</b>	<b>44,349,100</b>	<b>1,280,608</b>	<b>2.97%</b>
Total Salary	32,060,502	28,373,452	29,758,699	1,385,247	4.88%
Total Non-Salary	18,604,033	14,695,040	14,590,401	(104,639)	-0.71%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50,664,535</b>	<b>43,068,492</b>	<b>44,349,100</b>	<b>1,280,608</b>	<b>2.97%</b>

\* Note: Based on available revenue estimates as of April 22, 2013. Subject to change.



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- Adjustments to Meet Available Revenue \*
- Materials and supplies will be held to FY13 levels
  - Department will draw down some one-time funds:
    - apply available LABBB Credits (\$190,000) [for SPED]
    - apply one-time increase in the portion of expenses charged to revolving accounts, to offset general fund expenses
    - use some Town Education funds [for part of K-5 Math Series]
    - request independent grant funds for innovation and training
  - Assumes Special Education expenditures will remain relatively stable (with LABBB credits/CB funds); may access Stabilization Fund if major unanticipated costs
  - Positive DESE Coordinated Program Review means no major compliance-related SPED expenditures required
- \* based on AR estimates as of 4/22/2013*

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- Impact of Necessary Adjustments \*
- Under available funds, there must be some service cuts
  - Balancing the budget requires eliminating 2.8 positions:
    - 2.0 FTE achieved via retirements already anticipated
    - 0.8 FTE achieved through decrease of one class section in each core class in High School (but no RIFs required)
  - Various initiatives cannot be implemented at this time:
    - Advisory Council on Enrollment's recommendations on class size
    - Extracurricular Task Force recommendations on fees, etc.
    - Additional support staff (incl. Counselors), Resource Officer, etc.
    - Acquisition of some materials to align with new state standards
    - Add'l extracurricular programs (e.g. Gr. 8 football, MS volleyball)
  - Math Series can't be fully implemented from oper. budget
- \* based on AR estimates as of 4/22/2013*

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- Special Topic: Addressing Increases in Class Size
- Increasing enrollment is causing increased class sizes
  - Budget-neutral FY14 responses under consideration:
    - *Wellington 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:*
      - maintain enrollment freeze as needed (no redistricting now)
      - eliminate two grade-level aides at Wellington to fund one new teacher, increasing 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade from four classes to five
      - eliminate the two other grade-level aides at Wellington, to fund a half-time Assistant Principal/half-time Counselor
      - note: only Wellington currently has such grade-level aides
    - *Chenery 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:*
      - review possibilities for rescheduling and reformatting some classes and grades, to get lower effective class sizes (note: changes subject to negotiation with teacher union)

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Capital Budget Requests

- Capital Requests are separate from Operating Budget
- “Statement of Interest” for renovating High School submitted to Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA)
- Requests submitted to Capital Budget Committee include:
  - school-wide security
  - burner conversion of BHS (oil --> natural gas) (conversion will save significant energy costs)
  - replacement of IT storage system
  - BHS lot repaving
  - continuing building envelope work
  - BHS pool improvements
  - BHS gymnasium floor replacement (may also include influx of private funding)

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Longer-Term Planning

- Analysis of long-term trends (enrollments, salaries, utility/maintenance costs, service changes, etc.)
- Formulation of approaches to ensure long-term financial stability (cost savings, revenue sources)
- Superintendent search
- Contract negotiations (revisit step/lane system)
- Research and development innovations (mostly funded from grants/donations, i.e., outside the operating budget)
- Town-wide capital planning (incl. High School)

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Next Steps

- *tonight* – SC votes on proposed budget
- *early May* – SD revises budget to incorporate any revised available revenue figures (e.g. State numbers)
- *mid May* – SC/SD presents proposed budget at Town Meeting financial briefing
- *Early June* – Town Meeting votes on General Fund components of budget

– Thank You –