



Bruce Evans <bevans.fincom@natickma.org>

Fwd: tonight's technology and transportation presentation to school committee

2 messages

Linda Wollschlager <lwollschlager.fincom@natickma.org>
To: Bruce Evans <bevans.fincom@natickma.org>

Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 7:20 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nolin, Anna** <annolin@natickps.org>

Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 7:17 PM

Subject: tonight's technology and transportation presentation to school committee

To: Jim Scurlock <jscurlock.fincom@natickma.org>, Linda Wollschlager <lwollschlager.fincom@natickma.org>

Hello,

The materials for your meeting with us tomorrow are contained in this slide deck

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15yYyzMe2ccxEAFaIP1wiO3JjRrSL9gZN_8NRADUNuZo/edit#slide=id.gb7b4419c52_0_8

Slide 6.

See you tomorrow. Below, are all the questions asked by School Committee so you have this info as well:

From Cathi 1/15/21

How many students in and out of ACHIEVE

We have 3 students aging out and currently project 1 student coming up for FY22--although there may be some continued comp services required for those 3 older students into the FY22 year. We have 3 coming up for FY23, with a projected 0 aging out.

We also lost 2 students this year that were tuitioned in given our Covid restrictions--no ability to send students to jobs in the community. These tuitioned in students and others, given the program enhancements, would likely come back as well. If we already had an internal business model as we are proposing, they likely would have stayed with us through this year.

I know I'm late. It was one of those weekends and now my eyes are dilated! If you'd rather address tomorrow just let me know. I have a few questions that I think Dennis can just clarify in his presentation but the 1st questions are for you.

1. Are we using bond proceeds to purchase student devices at KMS? I know we did this at NHS and I still believe it was the wrong decision

2. The operating budget request show \$698,279 for equipment replacement but the detail page says \$513,589. Where is the difference of \$185,699 used or is it? If it's not used elsewhere, does that mean the gap closes slightly?

3. How many employees (teaching and staff do we have in FY21? We show 980 employees with laptops and 1356 total devices. If 980 is our total number of employees then 38% have more than 1 device which seems high to me. What am I missing here?

4. The vendor list shows PowerSchool costs \$143,346 but purchase of services slide indicates \$43,346 change. I think this means that we spent \$100,000 in FY21 on PowerSchool but it's a little confusing. I think just a clarifying comment would solve the problem.

5. We explain the changes from FY21 to FY22. Should I assume that the same programs/items are included in the FY22 budget unless otherwise noted?

Julie 1/24/21

- For FY20 SPED transportation - where did the \$400k go that we did not spend (budget vs. actual)? [Those funds were part of the money used for prepayment of out of district SPED tuitions.](#)
- What is "gross cost" as off-set? [Gross costs reflect the actual cost of the contract for regular education transportation. The table is a representation of how we arrive at the final expense to be charged to the general fund with offsets.](#)
- I think there is a problem with the final column showing the difference in offsets between FY21 and FY22? The gross cost offset goes up. The town appropriation goes up \$10k not down \$10k. The bus fees go down \$215k, not up \$215k. I think it's confusing the way it's presented. [The chart shows what the offsets are for FY22 and the increase\(decrease\) in those offsets from the previous year. This chart has been the same one used over the last several fiscal years.](#)
- Wouldn't the bus fee decrease be seen in FY21 vs. FY22? [Due to the fact that bus fees are collected beginning in July of each fiscal year through the beginning of school the previous years fees have been used to offset the upcoming fiscal year, therefore there is a one year lag.](#)
- I don't think the date for Rosh Hashanah is correct? I googled it and it says Sept. 6th - 8th. Which means no school on Sept. 7th. Which would make taking Friday, Sept. 3rd off a problem. [This has been addressed in a correction.](#)
- I don't see Yom Kippur. Google says it is Thursday, Sept. 16th. [Correct. This has been addressed.](#)
- When is NILS? This needed to be decided by cabinet and we did so this a.m.
- Text of release day in October says Oct. 11 instead of Oct. 13. [Corrected.](#)

Technology slides:

- Can you provide an understanding of the age of the devices that the high school students are using beginning in FY22?

[High School students will start the year as follows:](#)

[Freshmen - new](#)

Sophomores - 6 months

Juniors - 2 years

Seniors - 3 years

- Are any grades at the high school using MacBooks?

In FY22 Juniors & Seniors will be using MacBooks.

- When a student receives their device (5th grade or 7th grade) how long do they have that device before it is replaced?

Starting in FY23 our plan is to buy new devices for incoming 5th graders and incoming 9th graders each year so student devices are expected to be used for 4 years.

- Do we have a continued expectation that incoming 9th graders will receive a new device that will then last 4 years of high school?

Yes

From matt brand 1/22/21

Here are the answers to Matt's questions below in blue. I've also updated my presentation accordingly.

Good morning.

Here are some questions after looking at the tech presentation/material:

- Presentation, slide 11 - 264 employees have a laptop 6-11 years old. The "count" column adds up to that which is as expected. "Count" represents people, not laptops I assume. Are there any employees who have multiple devices? If so, how does that factor in? Meaning, do some employees who have multiple devices have 1 that is 7 years old and maybe a second that is newer?

The count actually represents laptops as this is usually a teacher's primary device. Yes, some teachers do have more than 1 device and it depends on what is needed to deliver the curriculum. I've created an updated table below to reflect a wider group of devices and added a slide to my presentation.

Asset Count . _____

.	Chromeboo	iPad	Laptop	Grand Total
2020	17	22	6	45
2019	24	18	240	282
2018	12	14	51	77
2017	7	29	249	285
2016	45	21	135	201
2015	18	23	35	76
2014	1	41	162	204
2013	1	59	24	84
2012		23	58	81
2011		1	17	18
2010			1	1
2009			2	2
Grand Total	125	251	980	1356

- Would be helpful: the Tech Agreements spreadsheet doesn't really show what's "new" or different this year vs previous. I think seeing a delta there would be helpful for people. Slide 12 in the preso references a ~\$45k service increase but it's not entirely clear what reconciles with what in the spreadsheet. I'm sure I'm in the minority who looks at the line items in that spreadsheet but I think, in general, it would be helpful for people to know the differences.

Several of my slides go through the increases and decreases within accounts. I've also created an updated Powerschool spreadsheet that shows our updated FY22 costs along with our original estimate from a year ago so you can see the difference. I made this a link in my presentation as well.

[Updated Power School Annual Costs for FY22](#)

- Similarly, for the service costs, if there are any that are "startup" costs vs ongoing, that would be useful to see. It's possible that there aren't any of those this time around.

[There are no startup costs at this time.](#)

- How do the laptops that were loaned out to people for COVID accessibility at home factor into any of this? I assume at some point those loaners come back and then what? If I remember correctly, those were new to the fleet right? Also, I'm assuming because we don't know when those will be able to be returned, it might be hard to factor that into planning. I guess this one is more about getting an update on all the tech that was loaned out to people.

On our annual reports on slides 5 & 6, you'll see a column or row labeled "HL" which stands for home loaners. When this report was generated we had 904 devices have been distributed to the public and the report gives a breakdown of the type of devices distributed. As you can see, the vast majority of these devices are not new.



Anna P. Nolin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new. – Socrates

Natick Public Schools

www.natickps.org

anolin@natickps.org

Twitter@annapnolin

508-647-6500, ext 0

[13 E. Central Street](#)

[Natick, MA 01760](#)

Bruce Evans <bevans.fincom@natickma.org>
To: Linda Wollschlager <lwollschlager.fincom@natickma.org>

Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 7:53 PM

I'll put this up on Novus tonight.

Bruce

[Quoted text hidden]