



Programs & Services Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

7:00 PM

The Programs & Services Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/81854865997> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID: 818 5486 5997.

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #58-24** **Discussion concerning Programs & Services Committee workplan for the new term**
COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN AND HUMPHREY requesting a discussion with the Programs & Services Committee concerning the work plan of the Programs & Services Committee for the new 2024-2025 term.
- #75-24** **Request to set Early Voting Hours for the March 5th Primary Election**
THE CITY CLERK requesting to set early voting hours for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary on the following dates, location, and times recommended by the Election Commission: A total of seven days; Saturday February 24th: 11am-5pm, Sunday February 25th: 11am-5pm, Monday February 26th: 8:30am-5pm, Tuesday February 27th: 8:30am-5pm, Wednesday February 28th: 8:30am-8pm, Thursday February 29th: 8:30am-5pm, Friday March 1st: 8:30am-5pm at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459.
- #48-24** **Resolution on avoiding PFAS in Newton purchasing**
COUNCILORS DOWNS, LEARY, MALAKIE, LOBOVITS, FARRELL, KALIS, HUMPHREY, MICLEY, DANBERG, BIXBY, AND WRIGHT requesting a resolution urging the City to avoid the purchase or use of products containing PFAS.

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Referred to Programs & Services & Finance Committees

#27-24

Appropriate \$925,000 Newton Public Schools Curriculum Investments

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of nine hundred twenty five thousand (\$925,000) of June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash for the purpose of funding curriculum materials for Newton Public Schools.

#57-24

Reappointment of Jane Brown to the Human Rights Commission

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Jane Brown, 104 Atwood Avenue, Newtonville as a member of the Human Rights Commission for a term of office set to expire on January 1, 2027. (60 Days: 03/17/24)

**Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Krintzman, Chair**



To: Members of the Programs & Services Committee
From: Councilor Josh Krintzman, Chair; and Councilor Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair
Re: Dates of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for 2024
Date: January 12, 2023

Memorandum

Dear Programs & Services Committee,

We have asked the Clerk to create a calendar of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Programs & Services Committee for 2024. The below dates will be on Wednesday unless otherwise noted.

January: 17th	July: At the discretion of Chair and Committee
February: Thursday, February 8 th and 21 st	August: At the discretion of Chair and Committee
March: 6 th and 20 th	September: Thursday, September 5 th and 18 th
April: 3 rd and 17 th	October: 9 th and 23 rd
May: 8 th and 22 nd	November: 6 th and 20 th
June: 5 th and Thursday, June 20 th	December: 4 th and 18 th

Regards,
Josh Krintzman, Chair
Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

Resolution urging the City to avoid the purchase or use of products containing PFAS (“forever chemicals”)

WHEREAS the City of Newton strives to implement policies to protect and improve the health and safety of its residents; and

WHEREAS fluorinated hydrocarbons (also known as organofluorines), including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”), are a group of thousands of primarily synthetic organic chemicals that contain carbon-fluorine bonds, a condition that occurs in nature only rarely; and

WHEREAS the carbon-fluorine bond is so strong, these chemicals persist in our environment, and are thus often called “Forever Chemicals;” and

WHEREAS some PFAS enter our food chain and accumulate in living organisms; and

WHEREAS some PFAS have been associated with severe health effects in humans at very low levels, i.e., parts per trillion (ppt), including:

- kidney, thyroid and testicular cancers,
- hormone disruption and lowered sex and growth hormones in children, and altered mammary gland development,
- immune system effects, such as decreased response to vaccines in children, high cholesterol, thyroid disease, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS the production of synthetic petrochemicals is energy intensive and generates large amount of greenhouse gasses; and

WHEREAS PFAS are widely used to manufacture non-stick, grease, and stain-resistant coatings in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including propellants, food packaging, non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpets and upholstery, furniture, construction materials, ski wax, floor wax, paint, lubricants, outdoor gear, synthetic turf, and firefighting foams and fire-protective personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS over 6,400 PFAS-related lawsuits for endangering public health and harming and destroying natural resources have been filed in federal courts between July 2005 and March 2022; and

WHEREAS in 2022, a bipartisan coalition of 22 state attorneys general (AGs), which included then AG Maura Healey, filed a class action lawsuit against PFAS manufacturers such as 3M, DuPont, Chemours, and Corteva for drinking water pollution and other harms , which likely will be settled for an amount exceeding \$10 billion; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island have begun to regulate PFAS in drinking water, and Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont have done so for groundwater (all at levels not to exceed 20 ppt); and

WHEREAS the Newton Public Building and School departments purchase only Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products through the GreenSeal certification that now includes PFAS-free products for all schools, City Hall and the Library; and

WHEREAS several municipalities across the country, such as the City of San Francisco, have adopted environmentally preferable purchasing policies that include the avoidance of PFAS; and

WHEREAS the Materials Buyers Club, of which the City of San Francisco and Harvard University are members, seeks to avoid the purchase of products that contain PFAS, PVC, and other chemicals of concern from building materials and furnishings; and

WHEREAS there are resources available to the City of Newton to guide their purchasing decisions, including the Harvard Sustainability Department Compliant Matrix Protocol and the San Francisco Approved list for various product categories; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division (OSD) published, in May 2023, an extensive guide (prepared by the Responsible Purchasing Network) for all state procurement offices to assist them in avoiding PFAS in products purchased through state contracts, titled A Slick New Guide to Avoiding PFAS (Forever Chemicals) in Products Using Massachusetts Statewide Contracts (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2023/05/11/OSD%20PFAS%20Free%20Purchasing%20Guide.pdf>); and

WHEREAS President Biden issued Executive Order No. 14057 on Dec. 8, 2021 that incorporates the Federal Sustainability Plan to leverage the federal government's procurement powers to prioritize the procurement of products that contain no added PFAS; and

WHEREAS many other states have enacted laws to ban the presence of PFAS in a variety of products; and

WHEREAS the State of Maine became the first government body to require that as of January 1, 2023, manufacturers have been required to report the presence of intentionally added PFAS in their products; and under the same law, the State has prohibited the sale of carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments that contain intentionally added PFAS, also effective January 1, 2023; and effective January 1, 2030, any product containing intentionally added PFAS may not be sold in Maine unless the use of PFAS in the product is specifically designated as a currently unavoidable use by the Department. (Maine Public Law c. 477, An Act to Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution, July 2021); and

WHEREAS Massachusetts is among the minority of states that has not yet enacted bans on the presence of PFAS in products, though such legislation currently has been filed during the 2023-2024 legislative session; and

WHEREAS the City of Newton Department of Health and Human Services aims to limit residents' PFAS exposure through community education and consumer awareness and will

be making information on PFAS easily accessible by posting a series of education content pieces that include flyers, videos, and social media infographics, and a page on the City website; and

WHEREAS City departments have already taken measures to reduce PFAS exposure in products purchased by the City, including the following:

- The Fire Department is actively engaged in reducing PFAS exposure to its firefighters and the public by purchasing Class B firefighting foam that is PFAS-free and is no longer having firefighters wear their PFAS-containing protective gear when responding to EMT calls;
- The Public Building Department requires suppliers to submit Environmental Product Declarations, which helps staff to weed out those products that have high VOCs, lead, PFAS or other carcinogens, poisons, or irritants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The City of Newton purchase and use products that are certified free of PFAS where such products are available in the marketplace, and encourage its suppliers to develop PFAS-free versions of products that currently do not have ready substitutes; and

2. The Newton City Council urges the mayor and our state legislators to support state-wide regulation of products containing fluorinated hydrocarbons, such as S.1356 / H.2197 An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS.

Signed:



Green Newton

Board of Directors

Marcia Cooper
President

Jim Purdy
Vice President

Dan Ruben
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Newton City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

January 11, 2024

Honorable City Councilors,

As you know, Green Newton has a long history of advocating for the disuse of chemicals known to be toxic to human and environmental health and for their substitution with safer materials. We were strong advocates of an Integrated Pest Management program for the City of Newton's Parks and Schools to reduce the exposure of pesticides on residents, especially children. We advocated for the City's multiple plastics reduction ordinances, with the understanding that a reduction in single use plastics means not just a reduction in waste but also a reduction in toxic chemicals such as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) and BPA in our environment and in our bodies. The City Council unanimously passed the last packaging ordinance in September 2023 after strong agreement that these materials cause harm to us all and must be reduced.

Before you now, is a resolution that limits the purchase by the City of products containing PFAS, where viable alternatives exist. Products such as furnishings, carpeting and other flooring, curtains and other window treatments, and more, commonly contain PFAS. PFAS is not essential in these products – for example, Home Depot and Lowes no longer sell rugs containing PFAS, and major U.S. carpet manufacturers have stopped using PFAS.

PFAS chemicals are also known as “forever chemicals”, as they do not break down in the environment. Certain PFAS have been associated with severe health effects in humans at very low levels, i.e., parts per trillion (ppt), including: kidney, thyroid and testicular cancers, hormone disruption and lowered sex and growth hormones in children, and altered mammary gland development; immune system effects, such as decreased response to vaccines in children; and high cholesterol, thyroid disease, and hypertension. To protect our children, city employees, and residents, we do not want PFAS containing products in our schools and in other City buildings. Since PFAS is “forever”, it accumulates in the environment, in our waterways, and in our food supply. We must do all we can to limit unnecessary PFAS use.

As such, we strongly support the proposed resolution and encourage a unanimous vote.

Respectfully,

Judy Jacobs
Executive Director
Green Newton



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#27-24

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December 26, 2023

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RECEIVED
2023 DEC 26 PM 1:34
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

Honorable Councilors:

I am requesting approval from the Honorable Council for the use of \$12.4 million dollars of FY2024 available Free Cash to support important needs of the Newton Public Schools, the Department of Public Works, the Newton Police Department and the Newton Fire Department.

The use of these one-time funds for one-time expenditures is part of the City's larger financial strategy for the FY2025 operating budget and the use of funds from Overlay Surplus and Free Cash. The City of Newton has benefited from significantly higher amounts of Free Cash both last year and this as well as an unusual declaration in August 2023 of a substantial amount of funds in Overlay Surplus. We have a financial strategy that uses these funds to support ongoing operations as well as one-time needs.

Last Year's FY2023 Available Free Cash

All cities and towns in Massachusetts annually have funds called Free Cash certified by the State. In layperson's terms, Free Cash is the remaining, unrestricted funds from a City's or Town's operations from the previous fiscal year. Free Cash comes from actual revenues received in excess of revenue estimates, unspent funds in operating budget line items, and/or unexpended Free Cash from the previous year. As recently shown in figures provided to the City Council, even with the two larger amounts of Free Cash in FY2023 and FY2024, the City of Newton has lower levels of Free Cash as a percentage of the annual budget compared to other communities.

While the City of Newton is not yet fully funding 100% of anticipated expenditures (e.g., removal of snow and ice, maintenance of roadways, etc.), the City depends on and pays close attention to the amount and uses of Free Cash.

Free Cash in the Fuller Administration is an important part of the financial strategy and is used in the following prioritized manner:

- First: The difference between the actual budget for snow and ice removal and the most recent current maximum spent;
- Second: The amount necessary to supplement the prior year's Interest Income from the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund and the amount of the required following year's Rainy Day appropriation;
- Third: Up to \$1.5 million is used as a general revenue source for the ensuing year's operating budget;
- Fourth: One-time, non-recurring expenditures and/or funding to replenish reserve funds depleted in the previous year, such as the Inclement Weather Stabilization Reserve.

If funds are still available, we prioritize capital expenditures, particularly those with bonding terms of 10 years, as well as unusual settlements and expenses.

Fourteen months ago, on October 5, 2022, the State Department of Revenue notified the City that we would have a Free Cash amount of \$28,860,460 for use in FY2023. The \$28.8 million in Free Cash derived primarily from FY2022 Revenues Received in Excess of Budget and FY2022 Municipal Department Unexpended Appropriations. More specifically, the FY2023 Free Cash was approximately \$15 million higher than the usual, stemming from a \$12.7 million Eversource payment and a \$2 million non-profit deferred payment.

Notably, NPS does not return any unexpended appropriations to the City. Rather, any unexpended NPS funds are carried forward within the NPS Budget to the following year.

Although Free Cash is declared each year in every City and Town, these are considered to be one-time funds, as the amount can vary, and is the result of the prior year's actuals.

Last year, the City utilized \$23.4 million of these FY2023 Free Cash funds with City Council approval and reserved \$5.4 million for projected needs that have not yet settled. Of the total amount appropriated of \$23.4 million, we appropriated approximately \$16.3 million (or 70%) to support our students and schools as follows:

➤ We strategically paid \$10 million in cash toward the Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School reconstruction project to reduce Debt Payments, which allows us to increase the NPS operating budget by \$600,000 per year,	\$10,000,000
➤ We provided a “Bridge Grant” to NPS for a one-year gap to fund State imposed increased tuition costs for out-of-district student placements,	\$ 1,400,000
➤ We paid NPS legal settlements totaling \$580,000, taking pressure off the NPS operating budget,	\$ 580,000
➤ Replaced Newton South Synthetic Turf Fields & Track,	\$ 3,240,000
➤ NPS McKinney-Vento Homeless Transportation and Foster Aid,	\$ 244,821
➤ Boosted the FY2024 NPS Operating Budget	\$ 810,000
TOTAL FY2023 FREE CASH DEDICATED TO NPS	\$16,274,821

Overlay Surplus and the Eversource Payment

This past summer, we had another unusual one-time source of funding. The Newton Board of Assessors’ was able to release \$26 million in principal and interest holdings that had been held for property owners that have challenged their assessments.

With the certification of significantly higher than usual Free Cash this year, we do not need to use the Overlay Surplus for one-time needs. Instead, we have the opportunity to transform the entire *one-time* surplus amount of \$26 million from Overlay Surplus and the ATB Interest & Penalties into *ongoing* funds to support the current operations of the Newton Public Schools and the overall financial health of the City.

On August 17, 2023, I submitted a docket item to the Honorable City Council requesting authorization to establish an “Operations Booster Stabilization Fund” with an initial balance of \$26 million. Seventy percent (70%) of the Operations Booster Stabilization Fund was to be used over the next eight years to “boost” the NPS budget during the period of time that we are working to fully fund our pension system.

Unfortunately, the City Council did not support our plan for this Fund.

On November 16, 2023, I once again submitted a docket item to the City Council requesting authorization to use the Overlay Surplus to establish a Debt Service Stabilization Fund, again with an initial balance of \$26 million. It was again my intent to “boost” the annual NPS budgets each year while I serve as Mayor. However, we were not able to garner the two-thirds support from the City Council to establish that Fund.

I have been working closely with Superintendent Anna Nolin and the Newton School Committee to supplement a 3.5% increase in next year's NPS FY2025 Budget with the use of one-time funding from the Overlay Surplus. These additional Overlay Surplus funds will support ongoing NPS operations in a way that will not result in fiscal hardship when these unusual, one-time funds are used up.

More specifically, I have given my commitment to using 70% of the \$26 million in Overlay Surplus plus associated interest income to augment the NPS operating budget to address pressing needs as prioritized by the Superintendent and the School Committee. I look forward to working with the City Council during the review of the FY2025 Operating Budget to secure this funding.

This Year's FY2024 Available Free Cash

Three months ago, on September 25, 2023, the State Department of Revenue notified the City that we would have a Free Cash amount of \$27,912,423 for use in FY2024, deriving again primarily from FY2023 Revenues Received in Excess of Budget, FY2023 Municipal Department Unexpended Appropriations, and Unappropriated Free Cash from FY2022. These are also *one-time* funds.

This is the second year in a row that the City has received significantly more Free Cash than usual. There are two specific and unusual reasons for the FY2024 higher than typical amount of Free Cash. First, we held \$5.4 million from last year's Free Cash for potential liabilities and settlements that we may be facing; the \$5.4 million rolled over into this year's Free Cash. Second, interest rates have risen dramatically in the past twenty months. Consequently, our actual interest earned from investments in FY2023 was \$8.4 million more than we had budgeted; this entire amount dropped into this year's Free Cash. More specifically, when we were crafting the FY2023 Budget in March 2022, the Federal Funds Rate was 0.25% to 0.50%, which was the interest rate income that we built into our Budget. By the end of our fiscal year in June 2023, the Federal Funds Rate had dramatically increased to 5.25%.

To date, December 26, 2023, we have made only a few appropriations from this year's Free Cash, totaling approximately \$3.5 million. Of this, NPS is once again the beneficiary of the largest amount of our appropriations. The City Council has recently approved (December 18, 2023) our request of \$2.4 million of funding for the replacement of the Newton North Synthetic Turf Field and Track.

Each year the City depends on approximately \$12 million of Free Cash to supplement next year’s budget, as a reserve for above average costs of snow/ice removal and cleanup from inclement weather, and to cover overtime costs, legal settlements, and contingencies. While I will continue to hold funds for these potential needs, I believe it is good for our community to put the excess Free Cash to work for us now for important capital infrastructure and curriculum improvements.

For the last few budget cycles, we have heard from residents, parents & caregivers, NPS staff, the School Committee, as well as City Councilors, about the many facility maintenance needs at NPS. Through our discussions this past fall regarding the Overlay Surplus and the need for additional operational funds for NPS, we again heard clearly from many Councilors the need to devote one-time monies to NPS to address their facility maintenance needs. Following those conversations, we asked the NPS Administration to develop a list of their highest priority uses for one-time funding and they created this list of \$6.2 million in projects in addition to the \$2.4 million to replace the turf at the stadium and track at Newton North High School – for a total of \$8.6 million in Free Cash for NPS needs. The School Committee was recently briefed on the package with members expressing support for making these investments right now.

On the municipal side, we continue to need to use Free Cash to support our complete streets paving investments and we have two pressing infrastructure needs for Police Headquarters and Fire Station 2.

Therefore, I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of twelve million four hundred thousand dollars (\$12,400,000) from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash to be split equally (\$6,200,000 each) between the Newton Public Schools and several municipal departments for the purpose of funding the following capital infrastructure and curriculum investments.

Newton Public Schools - \$6,200,000

A. Newton North Pool Air-Handling Unit	\$ 425,000
B. Replace Entire Roof System – Peirce Elementary	\$1,200,000
C. Replace Entire Roof System – Mason Rice Elementary	\$1,100,000
D. Repave Parking Area – Brown Middle School	\$ 300,000
E. Curriculum Materials	\$ 925,000
F. Replace Chiller – Newton South, Building H	\$ 350,000
G. Repair Auditorium Ceiling, Playground Improvements and Toilet Room Installation – Williams Elementary	\$ 325,000

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| H. Install New PA Systems – Bigelow & Brown Middle Schools | \$ 300,000 |
| I. Toilet Room Upgrades – Day Middle, Mason Rice, Bowen, Memorial Spaulding, and Peirce Elementary Schools | \$1,275,000 |

City of Newton Municipal Infrastructure - \$6,200,000

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A. Paving, Road Improvements & Traffic Calming | \$5,250,000 |
| B. Police Headquarters – Repave Parking Lot & Install Fencing | \$ 600,000 |
| C. Fire Station 2 – Heat Pumps to improve staff area HVAC | \$ 350,000 |

Support of this docket request will help address even more facility and program needs in our schools. This additional financial support comes on the heels of my commitment of nearly \$275 million of investments in our school facilities, programs, and operations above and beyond the annual budget over the last four years.

With my commitment of Overlay Surplus, Free Cash and a 3.5% increase in the NPS FY2025 Budget, Superintendent Nolin is making a set of recommendations to the School Committee for uses of these funds – including reaching a fair and sustainable settlement contract with our educators and addressing some of the most acute needs of our school system and our 11,000 plus students.

I know how much the City Council supports our students and the Newton Public Schools, as well as the Department of Public Works' Transportation Network Improvement Plan, and improvements to Police and Fire facilities.

As Mayor, I believe that these infrastructure and curriculum investments are critical to the Newton community.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

To: City Council Finance Team
From: Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Curriculum/Teaching and Learning Expenses
Date: January 8, 2024

We are grateful to Mayor Fuller for the opportunity to address long-standing needs within the NPS facilities and teaching and learning departments with the proposed dispersal of free cash monies.

Thank you, Finance Committee, for the opportunity to talk about the types of needs within the district for which we propose use of \$925,000 of these funds.

In the district, there has never been a formal curriculum audit for any curriculum area. The following [DRAFT audit cycle](#) for all subject areas will be enacted moving forward. The document also describes the various curriculum departments across which these funds will be split.

This audit cycle may be shifted (datewise) to align with monies available from state, federal and private grants or other developments in state curriculum expectations. For example, new state testing in science MCAS may dramatically shift the needs of the district and we would be wise to learn more about this before deploying certain changes and monies. The public will be notified of any changes. Most acutely needed are audits in the areas of Math, Science and Technology (STEM).

The monies made available to us through free cash will be used for the following types of expenses (revision subject to state dictates and the findings of our audits):

Address the Lack of State of the Art Tools for Teaching and Learning

Entry planning assessment of the district indicates many areas of need within the area of curriculum, instruction and assessment. The district does not utilize or possess many of the personalized, adaptive and data-informed tools for use in the daily classroom life of teaching and learning used in most other states and MA towns and cities. The district must undertake the audit process in all subject areas to review K-12 vertical internal alignment, alignment with state expectations, and for curriculum leaders to review the state of the art resources available to them to determine match for our district needs. When asked about updating materials and curriculum at a recent curriculum council meeting, a leader indicated that she “didn’t even know where to look or how to think about new ideas and tools,” since she had been told for so long that she could not and should focus on anything but what she should cut out of her department’s needs.”

Address Lack of Base Resources to Allow for K12 Vertical Alignment Across Schools

Currently, the Newton Public Schools is a system of schools, not a school system. A school system has aligned and coordinated curriculum, assessment and instructional resources upon which the district rests its program. In NPS currently, wide variance exists between schools serving the same grade levels. From a bank of core resources, the district should select key assessments by which it judges whether the district is meeting its teaching and support obligations. Currently, this level of coordination does not exist. Both high schools teach different sequences of courses, using different common assessments to determine mastery (as an example), yet grants the same diploma upon graduation. If we are to be a unified system, we need to align and enhance school practices and their current systems.

The district lacks core curriculum kits and texts. While no textbook or curriculum kit is the sum total of curriculum or instructional needs, use of such resources would create a base to Newton curriculum, from which local adaptations could grow, if needed. Currently, individual teachers are expected to grow their own materials and curriculum leading to deep variance in grade level and subject area curriculum. This puts extreme stress on teachers to be experts in assessment design, curriculum design, as well as pedagogical approach (in addition to mental health and social emotional learning support) and creates wide variance in expected outcomes. A recent audit of North High curriculum materials finds that only \$60,000 is spent on all teaching and learning materials for all subject areas, courses and materials for academic areas. Approximately only 6 science courses have textbooks and no other class does. English classes have novels purchased for their courses. This level of support is woefully insufficient to meet the varied demands of the average classroom today.

One example might illuminate needs in Newton relative to curriculum resources that are provided as par for the course in other Metrowest districts: materials exist now that allow social studies and science teachers to use supportive texts that allow staff to slide a lever within a digital textbook that delivers over 10 lexiles (reading levels) within one article topic and are responsive to one set of science or social studies standards. These types of differentiated materials are nonexistent in Newton, and, if they ever existed—it was due to pandemic teaching conditions and have again been cut due to budget constraints. These monies would allow us to expand the level of differentiation for student performance variance.

Massachusetts Tiered System of Support Implementation (MTSS) and The Professional development to meet the demands of the new state expectations in science and social studies assessments and to support our district's revamp of literacy curriculum implementation.

In recent years, the state has revised its implementation of science and social studies curriculum. Changes to MCAS assessments in science and social studies are in the offing. Indeed Newton schools were mandated by the state to participate in the new science and social studies MCAS tests but are not yet aligned to 2017 and 2020 changes in state standards in the respective subject areas. The outcome of the state work will result in revisions to STEM and social studies assessments and we would use the funding to address these changing

needs—purchasing curriculum materials and assessment development tools and funding the writing of curriculum training sessions to educate teachers on how to write and execute assessments to align with these new assessment expectations.

Since there are few (almost no) common assessments among teachers in NPS PK-22 and benchmark assessments are used only in K-8 literacy, tools to assist in writing common, reliable and scientifically sound curriculum and benchmark assessments should be purchased. In particular, there is no systematic assessment plan to determine the quality and rigor of writing skills PK-22. The monies can be used for training and implementation of sound and district aligned assessments (aligned across schools). Without these tools, the district will not be able to systemically move forward and guarantee student progress and identification of students in need of intervention. Depending on the results of such assessments, professional development and intervention design will also need funding.

Data and Assessment Literacy for Teacher Teams

Aligned with the above expenses, staff need training in how to collect and interpret assessment data and design interventions for those students identified as not making progress on agreed upon common assessments and benchmark assessments. Currently, secondary staff have common planning time to do the interpretation and design/intervention work, but do not regularly do it. Elementary staff do not have reliable coordinated common planning time. The planning time issue will be addressed by monies promised to the district by the Mayor by way of augmenting her traditional 3.5% yearly allocation. However, the need for training and resources to operationalize the work of these staff will need to be funded by this one-time tranche of funding.

Ongoing and Systematic Training and Unit / Lesson Design

While much focus has been placed on the district's work on equity and addressing the needs of all learners, a systematic district approach to making this vision a reality has not been funded. The district needs to obtain training on unit and lesson design that allows for a personalized learning approach within classes. A wide range of learning needs exists within every classroom and staff need training to be able to: vary and level instructional design, create leveled groups within a classroom, and develop personalized interventions for key skill acquisition.

In summary, the categories of expenses for these monies will include:

- State of the art tools for teaching and learning, including benchmark skill assessments for math K-12
- Expenses related to curriculum audits in all subject areas
- Base curriculum resources for readings, writing prompts, and intervention/personalization tools.
- Training for staff to understand assessment design, data collection and intervention design based on assessment data
- Design of leveled and differentiated personalized learning lessons for all subject areas across the system

We are grateful for this opportunity to explain the types of experiences, training and material acquisitions that will be obtained with these additional funds. Indeed, the district's needs are immense and deep and \$925,000 will not cover the comprehensive needs of the system, but it will lend a start to the work ahead.



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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December 12, 2023

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to reappoint Jane Brown of 104 Atwood Avenue, Newtonville as a member of the Human Rights Commission. Their term of office shall expire on January 1, 2027 and the appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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2024 JAN -4 PM 4:35
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NEWTON MA 02459

Application Form

Profile

Jane Brown
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

104 Atwood Ave.
Home Address Suite or Apt

Newtonville MA 02460
City State Postal Code

What Ward do you live in?

[X] Ward 2

[Redacted]
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Retired Speech Language Pathologist
Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Human Rights Commission: Submitted

Ethnicity

None Selected

Gender

None Selected

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I would like to remain on the Commission on Disability for another term. You already have my resume.

Resume_Jane_Brown.pdf
Upload a Resume

Subj: Fwd: (no subject)
Date: 3/28/2011 6:24:34 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: 3/28/2011 2:33:42 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: (no subject)

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

My goal is to be reappointed as a Commissioner to the Newton Human Rights Commission.

Profession: Speech Language Pathologist. Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech and Language Pathology.

Education: BS, MS, CAGS Boston University.

Employment: Revere Public Schools, 1972 through 2001.

Duties: Direct therapeutic services to children, Core evaluation team member, Diagnostics, Consultation and Collaboration with classroom teachers, Parental involvement, Building based support team, Supervision of Speech assistants, and University students.

Professional Associations: Massachusetts Teachers Association, National Education Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Federation for Children with special needs, American Speech and Hearing Association (State Education and Advocacy Leader), Massachusetts Speech and Hearing Association.

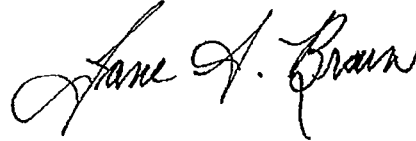
Memberships: Amnesty International, Native American Rights Fund, Southern Poverty Law Center, Ward 2 democratic committee, Newton democratic party, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Women's International league for peace and freedom, Women's Commission, Newton Dialogues on Peace and War, Massachusetts Peace Action.

I have been a member of the Mayor's Committee for people with disabilities since November of 2005 . My background in special education has made this a logical placement. This has been a rich experience for me. It gave me an opportunity to work to enable disabled people to achieve equal access to community life through our advocacy. There has been improved accessibility to public facilities, parks and recreation, commercial buildings and the streets of Newton. We have recommended \$150,000 in community block development grants to improve accessibility throughout the city. Mayor Warren has encouraged and assisted the Committee to achieve new status as a commission. This will allow the 35 year old group greater permanence with stronger opportunity to improve the lives of the disabled. My appointment to the Commission on Disabilities was confirmed by the Board of Aldermen at its March meeting on March 12,2011.

In 1973, the Human Rights Commission was established to "ensure mutual understanding and respect among all persons in this city by promoting acceptance of diversity and combating discrimination". As a member of the advisory council and as a commissioner, I have worked to strengthen this statement. Newton continues to expand in the diversity of its population. It is essential that we protect the rights of all inhabitants, no matter what nationality, race, religion, chronological age, ability or sexual orientation. I have participated in the organization and presentation of a variety of programs: Israel Palestine, conversations for peace, Understanding immigration, reality of school desegregation, Race, the power of an illusion, Darfur awareness, civil liberties in a time of crisis and Highschool students speak out and honors and awards programs. I have a deep belief in justice, human rights and equal

opportunity, as well as access within our human community.

On December 10 the Human Rights Commission presented the annual awards to a unique couple. Dr. Arese Carrington and her husband Walter are currently residents of Newton. They have exemplified a respect and compassion for humanity. Dr. Carrington described the results of terrorism, prejudice and war and the ensuing destruction to human rights. Walter described the effects of prejudice within the suburban community. He said "It is easier to vote for a black man, than to have him living next door. Arese and Walter Carrington were inspirational. They have shown us the path. Now it is up to us to follow it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lane A. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.