



PRESS RELEASE

February 1, 2017

Concord School District's Superintendent offered the School Board a budget proposal that included the development of a full day kindergarten program. This initial budget proposal includes an expenditure increase of 3% over the current budget.

The Superintendent's budget proposal had several significant increases to fixed costs including New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) +\$700,000, special education out-of-district school placements +\$800,000, and the first bond payment for the steam to gas conversion +\$710,000.

The proposed budget projects cost savings associated with the conversion to natural gas heat to be over \$800,000 in the first year. Another highlight in the proposed budget is that the increased costs of health insurance have been stabilized as employees' annual healthcare contributions have increased.

In response to a projected 1% drop in our enrollment, the Superintendent has recommended the reduction of nearly five teaching positions across the district. Rather than increase the number of kindergarten teachers needed to provide full-day kindergarten programming, there is an additional reduction of five teaching positions at the elementary level. While remaining within the class size policy set by the School Board, this reduction would increase class sizes at the upper elementary levels. The School Board will also be considering a second kindergarten program proposal that would provide full-day kindergarten for 33% and continue with half-day programming for 67% of our kindergarten students. This option would be substantially less as it would require an increase of 2.5 kindergarten teachers, rather than the 7.5 teachers needed to support full-day kindergarten.

Opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process include sending the School Board or Superintendent emails at either concordinfo@sau8.org or tforsten@sau8.org, writing letters to Concord School District 38 Liberty Street, Concord, NH or attending a public hearing on March 20, 7:00pm at Mill Brook School or March 22, 5:30pm at Rundlett Middle School.