CITY OF MELROSE

CITY COUNCIL

ORDERS OF THE DAY● MARCH 30, 2023

Council Chamber, First Floor, Melrose City HallJoint Meeting with the School Committee **7:00 PM**
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

I. CALL TO ORDER

City Council
President Jennifer Grigoraitis
Christopher Cinella
Jack Eccles
Mark Garipay
Maya Jamaleddine
Manjula Karamacheti
Shawn MacMaster
Leila Migliorelli
John Obremski
Robb Stewart
Ryan Williams

School Committee
Chair Margaret Driscoll
Mayor Paul Brodeur
Lizbeth DeSelm
Superintendent Julie Kukenberger
Jennifer McAndrew
Vice Chair Edward O'Connell
Jennifer Razi-Thomas
Dorie Withey

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joint Meeting - City Council | School Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://cityofmelrose-org.zoom.us/j/93664666648?pwd=TmtxbFZRbWxJZzRja1c4Skc4YldKZz09
Passcode: 357200

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Filings by the Honorable City Council

1. **INFO-2023-14:** FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and State Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian

   Sponsored by: Ward 6 Jen Grigoraitis

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A section 21, Council will enter into executive session under Executive Session reason number four: “to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto." More specifically, discussion will be had relative to City Council Chamber safety procedures.

V. ADJOURNMENT

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

State Legislative Delegation Briefing

Presentation to Melrose City Council and School Committee

March 30, 2023

Prepared by the Offices of Senator Jason Lewis and
Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

How Does The Chapter 70 School Funding Formula Work?

Step 1
Calculate Foundation Budget

An adequate funding level for each school district given the specific enrollment and demographic characteristics of each district

Step 2
Calculate Local Contribution

The share of the foundation budget that must be contributed from each city or town's local revenues, based upon the relative wealth of that community

Step 3
Calculate State Chapter 70 Aid

Makes up the difference between the foundation budget and the local contribution

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

Key Provisions Of Student Opportunity Act

- **Revised Chapter 70 foundation budget calculations in several areas to ensure more adequate and equitable funding for school districts across the state**
  - Employee and retiree healthcare benefits
  - Special education
  - English learners
  - Mental health services
  - Low-income students, especially in communities with concentrated poverty (also revised the process for accurately counting low-income students)
- **Provided additional state funding and supports for local school districts**
  - Full funding of charter tuition reimbursements
  - Included out-of-district transportation costs in the Special Education Circuit Breaker
  - Lifted the annual cap for the MSBA to increase the number of school building projects that can be accepted into the program each year

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

Key Provisions Of Student Opportunity Act (cont.)

- **Implemented new policies designed to maximize the impact of funding increases in closing opportunity gaps and improving student outcomes**
  - Required school districts to develop and make publicly available SOA plans
  - Created a new 21st Century Trust Fund to support innovation in teaching and learning
  - Established a permanent Data Advisory Commission to improve the use of data at school, district, and statewide levels
- **Identified policy areas requiring further study and analysis**
  - Established a rural schools commission to make recommendations for addressing the unique challenges faced by rural and regional school districts
  - Directed DESE to report on accurate costs for educating students at recovery high schools
  - Directed MSBA to report on the need for updates to the school building program
  - Directed DESE and DOR to analyze and make recommendations for potential changes to the local contribution side of the Chapter 70 formula

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

Statewide Impact Of Student Opportunity Act

- Expected to increase total Chapter 70 aid by **$1.4 billion annually** over inflation (once the SOA is fully phased in)
- Expected to increase required local contributions by $900 million annually over inflation (once the SOA is fully phased in)
  - Most municipalities are not impacted, however, because they already fund their school budgets at a higher level than their required local contribution
  - Accounting for existing levels of school spending, local spending is expected to increase by $90 million annually over inflation (once the SOA is fully phased in)
- FY24 will be the third year of SOA implementation; expected to be fully implemented by FY27

**Figures/estimates are from 2019 when the SOA was signed into law. Certain assumptions that were used in making these projections, such as enrollment, may be different now.*

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

Benefits To Melrose From Student Opportunity Act

- **Increase in Chapter 70 state aid**
  - FY23 Chapter 70 increase of $1M (+12%)
  - Expected FY24 Chapter 70 increase of **$2.6M (+27%)**, for a total amount of $12.3M
  - FY24 will be largest increase in Chapter 70 (in both dollar amount and percent) for Melrose Public Schools!
  - More accurate calculation of low-income student population
- **Increase in special education circuit breaker reimbursements**
  - FY24 budget fully implements reimbursement for out-of-district transportation costs
- **Increase in charter school tuition reimbursements**

Attachment: SOA March 2023 (INFO-2023-14 : FY 24 budget update from State Senator Jason Lewis and

Other Education Issues That The State Legislature May Tackle This Session

Significant legislation has been filed in the new legislative session to address:

- School transportation costs
- Special education costs
- School facility construction costs (MSBA)
- Educator diversity
- Vocational technical education
- Universal free school meals
- MCAS testing and accountability, including graduation requirement
- Early education and childcare, including public pre-K and OST care
- Public higher education

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State Funding Secured for Melrose by Delegation

COVID-19 Recovery Law

- **$150K** for high school elevators to update the safety and accessibility of Melrose High School
- **$75K** for City's economic recovery for small businesses and nonprofits
- **$60K** for The Food Drive

FY23 Budget

- **$75K** for enhancements to Melrose's recreational developments
- **$60K** for a Fire Breathing Apparatus for the Melrose Fire Department
- **$50K** for security cameras at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School

Economic Development Law

- **$150K** for repairs to the Fire Department
- **$100K** for improvements at Memorial Hall
- **$100K** for placemaking activities in the City of Melrose
- **$6M** for MelroseWakefield Healthcare behavioral health facility in Malden

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FY23 Supplemental Budget

This month, the Legislature passed and sent to the Governor a Supplemental Budget bill to ensure **sufficient funding for critical state programs and supports** through the end of the fiscal year, including:

- **$132M:** Emergency SNAP benefits for food security
- **$85M:** Emergency family shelters
- **$68M**: Early education and care workforce stabilization
- **$65M**: Free school meals for remainder of 2022-23 school year
- **$1M:** Public awareness campaign re pregnancy crisis centers.

The bill also extends and makes permanent certain **pandemic-era flexibilities**, including:

- Hybrid meetings of public bodies and town meetings through March 31, 2025
- Outdoor dining and cocktails-to-go through March 31, 2024

Chapter 90 Funding for Melrose (FY24)

In the past two weeks, the legislature passed a bill authorizing funding for infrastructure, preservation, and municipal improvement projects. Under a state formula, Melrose would be allocated **$513,713.39**.

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HD3675/S1489 - An Act creating a municipal and public safety building authority

- Many towns across the Commonwealth do not have the tax base or borrowing ability to upgrade or build new public safety complexes and municipal buildings

- This legislation creates an independent public authority, similar to authorities that help finance municipal school buildings and libraries, to provide matching funds for local public safety and municipal buildings

- Rep. KLG & Sen. Lewis have cosponsored.

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