



*"My goal is to make Methuen a beacon for people seeking opportunities, a place where dreams can become reality and hard workers rewarded." "When it comes to Methuen's brightest days, you've seen nothing yet."*

*- Mayor Perry 1/24/2024 Lawrence Eagle-Tribune*

# **The City and School District of Methuen Can Afford a Substantial Pay Increase for Methuen Educators**

## **Raises**

We have not had a significant increase in the last ten years (2013-2023)

- Methuen teachers received only an 18.5% increase. (1.85% per year on average)
- The Social Security 2024 COLA rate is 3.2%; in 2023, it was 8.7%, while the current inflation rate is 3.1%. **Our salary increase this year was 2%**

## **Salary Step Comparison**

Methuen compared to 10 other districts for the 2023-2024 contract year

(Revere, North Andover, Pentucket, Haverhill, Woburn, Malden Greater Lawrence, Billerica, and Lowell)

**We Are**

\$6,101 *lower* on average than the lowest step on our salary scale

\$9,592 *lower* on average than the highest step on our salary scale

## **Chapter 70 Funding**

While the City has put Chapter 70 (the State's contribution) money into the school budget, it has barely increased it's own contribution. And the City's contribution to our school is funded significantly less than that of surrounding towns and comparable districts.

When comparing Methuen to Malden, Haverhill, North Andover, and Woburn.

- Malden contributed a lower percentage, an average of 1% per year over 5 years, but they still negotiated a 12% plus raise for its teachers.
- Haverhill contributed an average of 10% per year over 5 years to their school budget over the state requirement and negotiated over 11% plus raises for their teachers.
- North Andover contributed an average of 25% per year over 5 years to their school budget over the state requirement and negotiated over 16.5% over 4 years for their teachers.
- Woburn contributed an average of 50% per year over 5 years to their school budget over the state requirement and negotiated over 14% plus raises for 4 years for their teachers.
- **Methuen has only contributed an average of 3% per year over the required funds the state mandates to spend from the city, our last contract was 5.5%**

## **Free Cash**

**"We have seen an economic turnaround in Methuen unseen in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." "The future has tremendous promise."—Mayor Perry.**

How did the Mayor put over 15 million dollars into this fund over 5 years?

To have a free cash fund, there had to be unused money. A community's remaining unrestricted funds from its operations of the previous fiscal year are based on the balance sheet as of June 30.

It typically includes actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental budget line items for the year just ending, plus unexpended free cash from the previous year. Free cash is offset by property tax receivables and certain deficits, and as a result, can be a negative number.



- Free cash can be anywhere from zero (or even negative) to a substantial amount. The **Massachusetts Department of Revenue** recommends that communities try to have a free cash balance of **3-5%** of their operating budget as a best practice. As the amount of free cash each year is variable, it is also best practice for municipalities to use free cash to fund one-time, non-recurring expenses.
- The city has added over **27%** to this fund over the last three years.
- In the fiscal year of 2021, the city added **\$8 million**
- In the fiscal year of 2022, the city added **\$3.7million**
- In the fiscal year of 2023, the city added **\$1.75 million**
- **In the fiscal year of 2024, the balance of the free cash fund is \$18,362,855**
- Instead of padding reserve accounts, the City should put these dollars to address the current crisis in education.

## Staffing Our Schools

- There are 72 open educational positions in our schools.
- This does not include teaching positions that could not be filled and other teachers have resigned or had students added to their caseloads or classrooms.
- Between August and November 2023, teachers who were part of the Marsh Pathways program resigned. In January, the district needed to reassign 20 special needs students to their home schools (11 students to the Timony, 5 to the Tenney, and 4 to the CGS).
- We have openings ( some in core academic teaching positions), and/or agencies are covering positions that are not covered by highly qualified staff.
- The district pays outside agencies to cover 7 professional staff positions and 49 program assistants.
- The district's financial cost of covering just the PA positions with outside agencies is \$1,340,221.29, which is currently \$225,973.29 over budget.
  - Having outside agencies work with our students does not help form lasting relationships in our K-8 schools; we constantly train new staff, hindering our students' on-time learning.
  - Our jobs require us to learn to work with various students and be sensitive to all learners, including our student population, who have complex social and emotional needs. Their learning styles and behavior plans are affected by constant change related to new staff.

***We have been underfunded and underpaid for years!***

**Raises**

Methuen	Haverhill	North Andover	Woburn	Andover	Malden
5.5 % our last contract	11% plus 12% top step and dropped step 4	16.5% Over 4 years	14% over 4 years dropped two steps	16.5% over 4 years	12% plus one-time payment

**State Aid to the District has increased by 30% over the past two years**

MTA members advocated for the **Student Opportunity Act**, which increased the state's investment in education, and Methuen Schools were a huge beneficiary. Last year, State aid increased by over 16%, and for the current year, State aid increased by over 14%.

**Percentage of Actual Contribution Over the Required Amount for the state (NSS)**

Year	Methuen	Haverhill	North Andover	Woburn	Andover	Malden
2024	1%	4%	26%	46%	67%	minimum
2023	3%	12%	26%	49%	65%	minimum
2022	5%	14%	30%	60%	69%	1%
2021	3%	12%	25%	44%	67%	4%
2020	5%	8%	19%	49%	62%	3%

**The City regularly has excess funds each year that should be used to fund education, rather than pad reserve accounts.**

From FY19 to FY 23 the City has socked away annually, on average...\$3,693,140. And the City has also put away on average, into it's reserve "Stabilization Fund" an additional...\$611,890. Between these two reserve accounts, the City has stashed away on average \$4,305,030! Instead of padding reserve accounts, the City should put these dollars to address the current crisis in education.

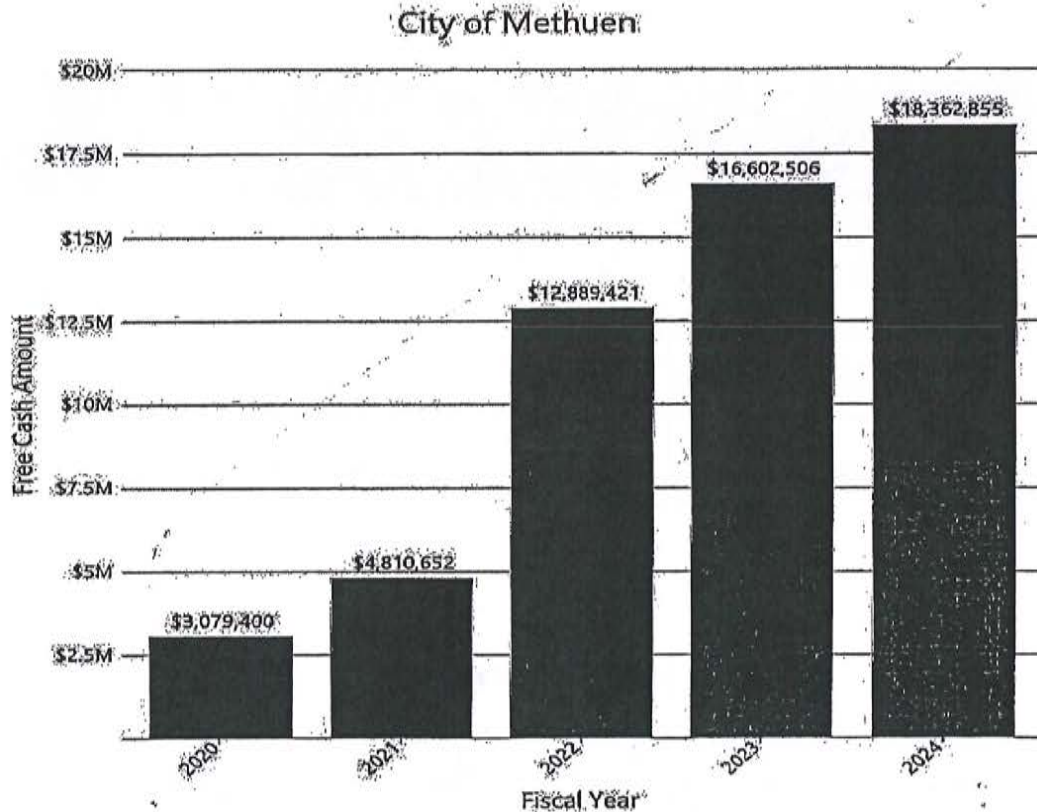


**Free cash** is generated when actual revenue collections are more than budget estimates, and when expenditures and encumbrances are less than appropriations, or both. The state Department of Revenue recommends that municipalities should strive to generate free cash in an amount equal to 3-5% of its annual budget.

R Code	Municipality	Fiscal Year	Date Certified	Certified Free Cash as of 7/1	Operating Budget Prior Year	Certified Free Cash as a % of the Budget
181	Methuen	2020	10/24/2019	3,079,400	158,796,075	1.94%
181	Methuen	2021	11/09/2020	4,810,652	164,256,843	2.93%
181	Methuen	2022	10/01/2021	12,889,421	163,593,677	7.88%
181	Methuen	2023	11/10/2022	16,602,506	170,506,353	9.74%
181	Methuen	2024	01/04/2024	18,362,855	184,507,715	9.95%

#### 5 Year Reserve Summary

Fiscal Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total GF Budget	171,651,840.05	175,876,377.55	178,442,806.19	184,915,229.00	185,194,760.00
Free Cash Certified Amount	(1,955,028.00)	3,079,400.00	4,810,652.00	12,889,421.00	16,602,506.00
Free Cash as % of Total Budget	-1.14%	1.75%	2.70%	7.0%	9.0%
Available Balance as of:	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020	6/30/2021	6/30/2022
General Stabilization Fund (SF)	1,828,131.00	1,673,565.00	2,629,334.78	3,833,141.94	4,962,580.37
Public Safety SF	330,045.00	480,393.00	630,748.60	357,825.19	646,280.99
Stadium & Parks SF (new FY22)					81,326.58
Combined SF as % of Total Budget	1.26%	1.22%	1.83%	2.27%	3.07%
OPEB Fund	418,005.00	441,413.00	455,884.65	565,571.99	478,994.73



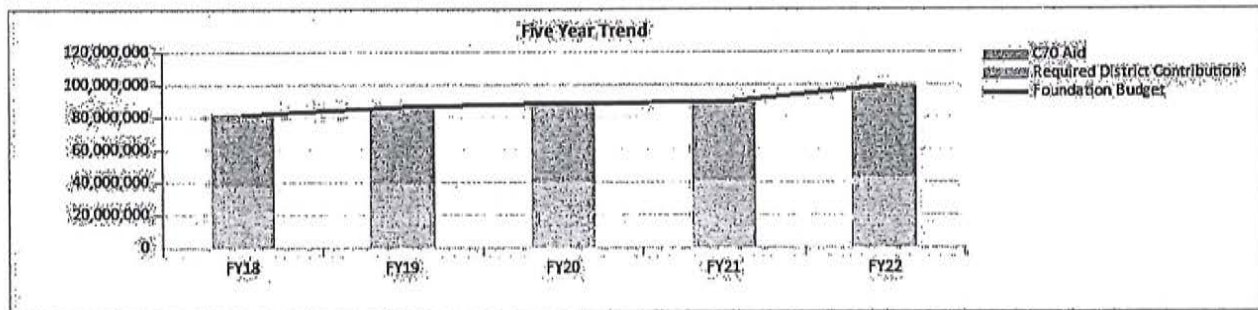
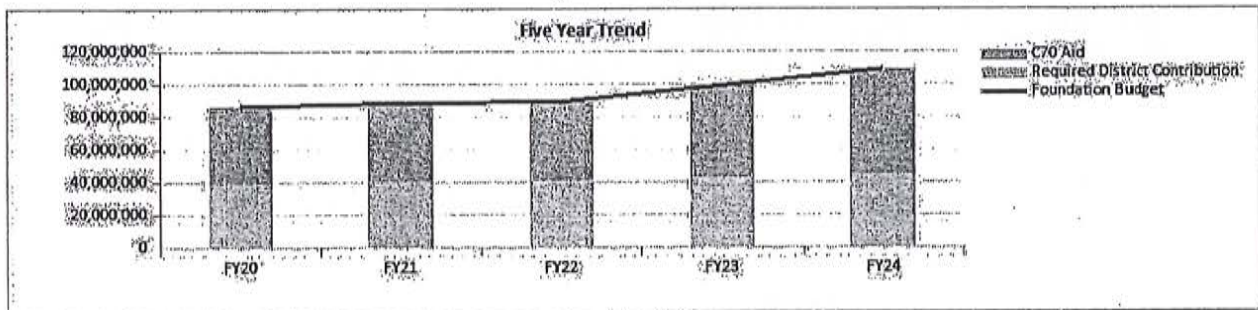
Data obtained from the Methuen City website

**State of the City 2/21:** In the mayor's State of the City address, he stated how financially strong the city is in bringing in revenue ( new businesses). The bond rate for the city has increased 4 times since he has been mayor. There are capital improvement plans for public works buildings, sidewalks, and money for the 300th-anniversary celebration. Yet, there is NOT one mention of funding our schools!!!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPPNLL5eM5o>

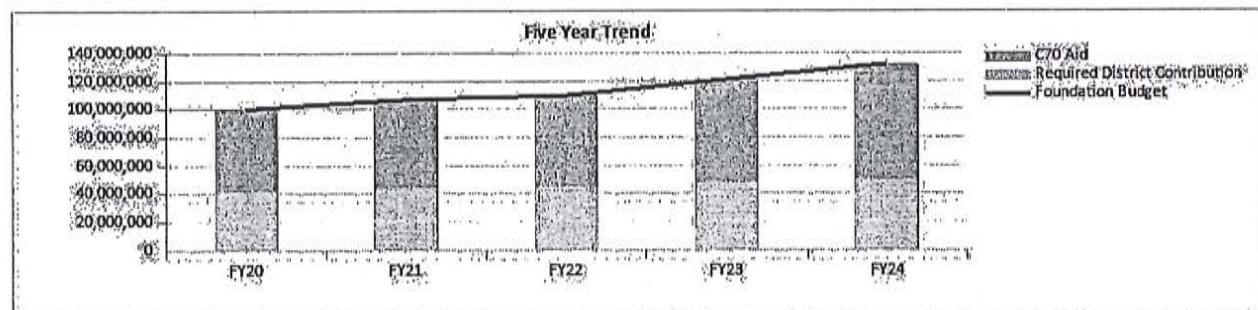
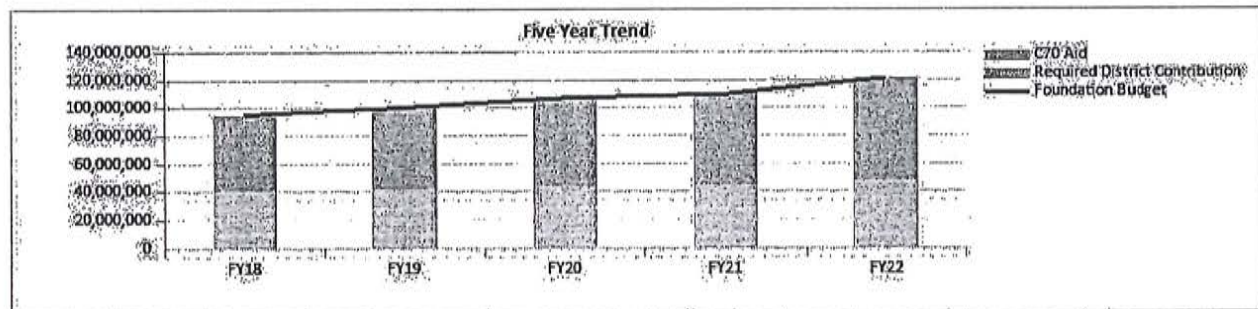


Ability to Pay - Other Municipal Trends	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	Time Period Change	Time Period Percentage Change
<u>Total Operating Budget</u>	\$ 201,09 4,851	\$ 184,50 7,715	\$ 170,50 6,353	\$ 163,59 3,677	\$ 164,25 6,843	\$ 158,79 6,075	\$ 42,298, 776	26.64%
Annual Percentage Change	8.99%	8.21%	4.23%	-0.40%	3.44%	---	---	---
<u>Certified Free Cash available from previous fiscal year</u>	\$ 18,362, 855	\$ 16,602, 506	\$ 12,889, 421	\$ 4,810,6 52	\$ 3,079,4 00	\$ 1,829,9 48	\$ 16,532, 907	903.46%
Annual Percentage Change	10.60%	28.81%	167.94 %	56.22%	68.28%	---		
<u>Certified Free Cash as a % of Previous Year Total Operating Budget</u>	9.95%	9.74%	7.88%	2.93%	1.94%	1.24%	8.71%	702.42%
<u>Total Stabilization Fund</u>		\$ 6,309,8 67	\$ 4,962,5 80	\$ 3,833,1 42	\$ 2,629,3 35	\$ 1,673,5 65	\$ 4,636,3 02	277.03%
Annual Percentage Change		27.15%	29.47%	45.78%	57.11%	---		
<u>Total Stabilization Fund as a % of Current Year Total Budget</u>		3.42%	2.91%	2.34%	1.60%	1.05%	2.37%	225.71%
<u>Local Receipts: Actual minus Estimated</u>		\$ 3,664,7 96	\$ 2,398,6 76	\$ 2,788,1 25	\$ 542,66 8	\$ 1,217,2 35	\$ 2,447,5 61	201.08%

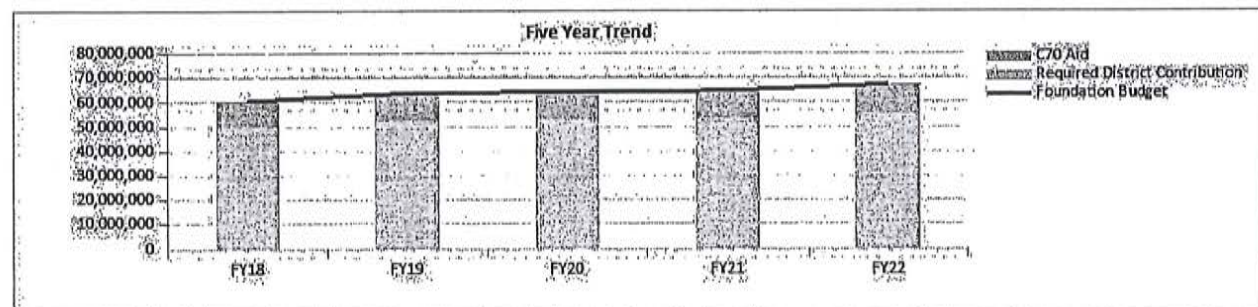
## 5 Year Trend of Chapter 70 Funding



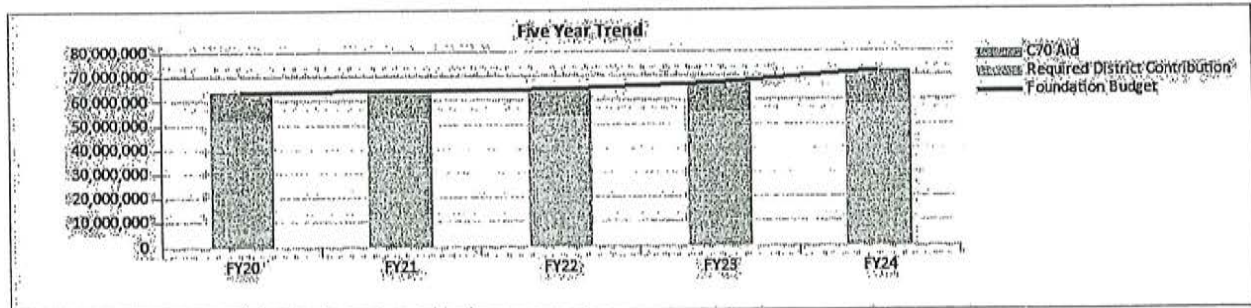
Methuen



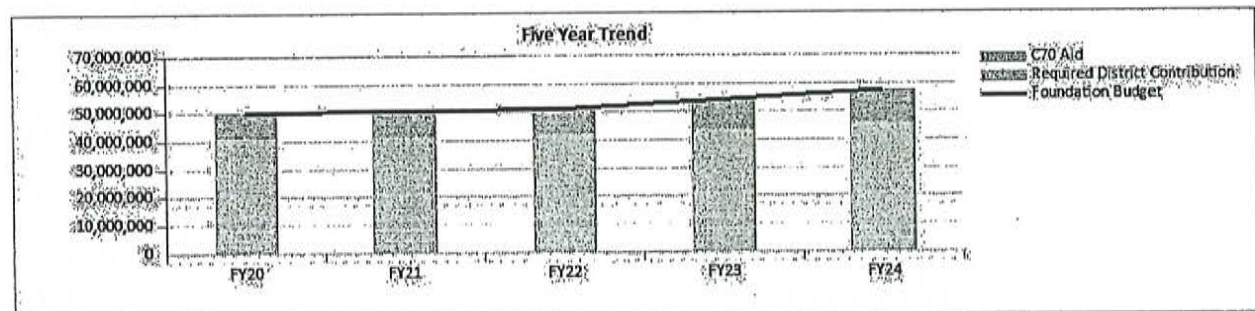
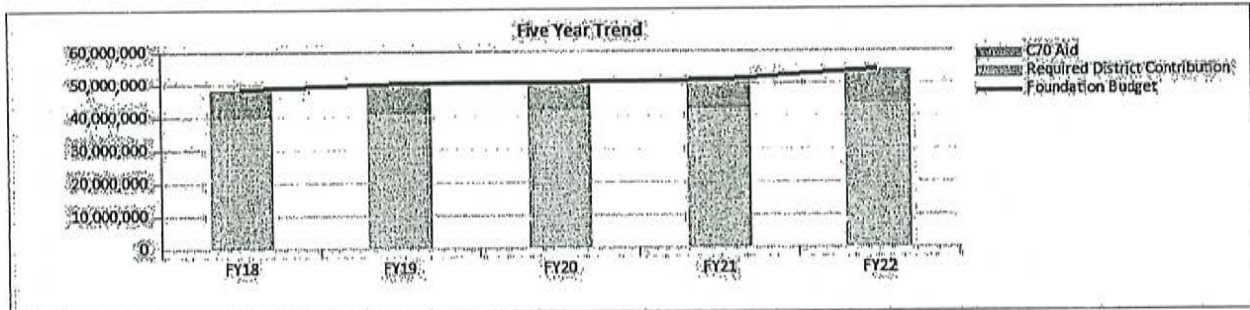
Haverhill



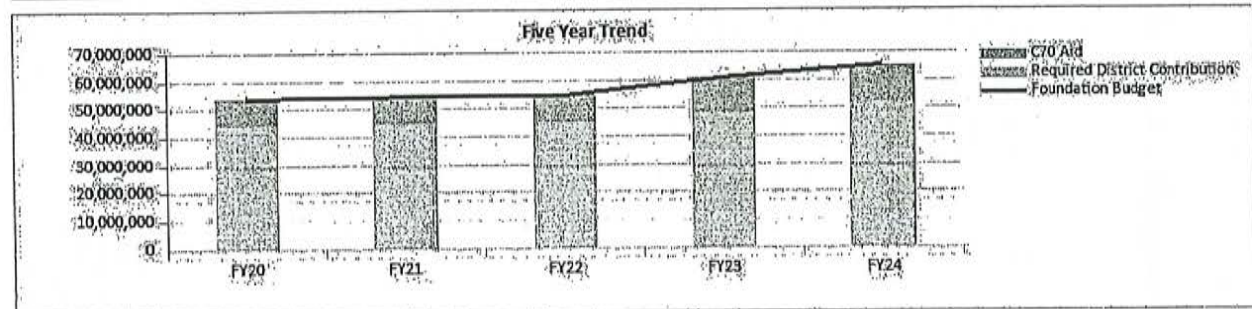
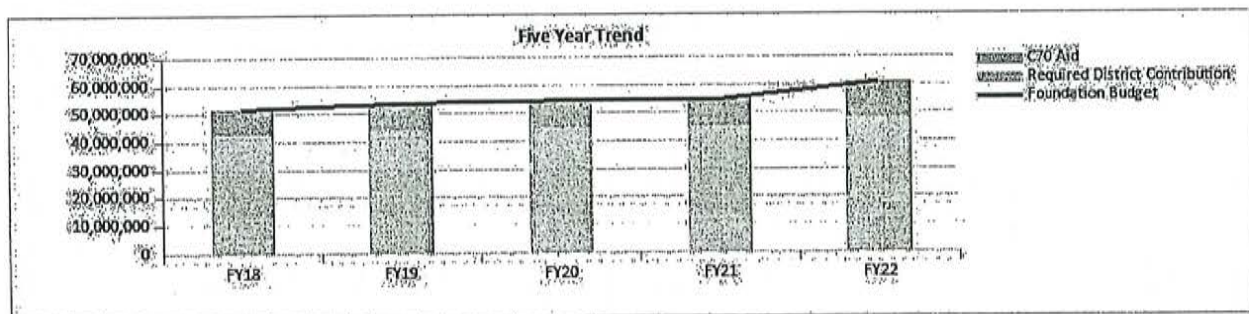




Andover



North Andover



Woburn



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Chapter 70 District Profile

2/1/24

Select a district

0181 Methuen

\*Formula\* Requirement  
\*Adjusted\* Requirement

	Foundation Enrollment	% Chg	Foundation Budget	% Chg	Required Local Contribution	Chapter 70 Aid Reflects Penalties, where applicable	% Chg	Required Net School Spending Aid + Local Contribution	Required NSS Includes Carryover	% Chg	Actual NSS	% Chg	Dollars Over/Under Requirement	% Over/Under
FY08	7,514	0.5%	64,593,405	6.7%	28,479,615	36,113,790	8.6%	64,593,405	64,593,405	6.7%	65,002,555	6.5%	409,150	0.6%
FY09	7,481	-0.4%	66,932,259	3.6%	29,640,305	33,440,001	-7.4%	67,010,293	63,080,306	-2.3%	64,433,427	-0.5%	1,353,121	2.1%
FY10	7,455	-0.3%	70,754,596	5.7%	29,742,140	36,622,588	9.5%	66,364,728	66,364,728	5.2%	64,509,506	0.1%	-1,855,222	-2.8%
FY11	7,287	-2.3%	67,174,267	-5.1%	30,293,532	38,616,511	5.4%	68,910,043	70,765,265	6.6%	67,693,209	4.9%	-3,072,056	-4.3%
FY12	7,169	-1.6%	66,167,336	-1.5%	30,557,302	38,823,822	0.5%	69,381,124	72,453,180	2.4%	68,155,259	0.7%	-4,297,921	-5.9%
FY13	7,177	0.1%	68,082,308	2.9%	31,301,841	39,110,902	0.7%	70,412,743	74,710,664	3.1%	69,594,548	2.1%	-5,116,116	-6.8%
FY14	7,132	-0.6%	72,821,269	7.0%	32,658,088	40,240,901	2.5%	72,898,989	78,015,105	4.4%	72,882,682	3.5%	-5,732,424	-7.3%
FY15	7,098	-0.5%	73,674,474	1.2%	33,532,493	40,839,452	1.5%	74,371,945	80,104,369	2.7%	74,323,479	3.7%	-5,180,890	-6.5%
FY16	7,112	0.2%	75,476,679	2.4%	34,357,316	41,119,363	0.7%	75,476,679	79,195,276	-1.1%	78,092,685	4.2%	-1,102,591	-1.4%
FY17	7,155	0.6%	76,096,299	0.8%	34,166,160	42,147,523	2.5%	76,313,683	77,416,274	-0.2%	81,657,657	4.6%	4,241,384	5.5%
FY18	7,088	-0.9%	76,809,234	0.9%	35,661,626	42,360,163	0.5%	78,021,789	78,021,789	0.8%	84,656,241	3.7%	6,634,452	8.5%
FY19	7,169	1.1%	81,561,883	6.2%	37,125,698	44,704,725	5.5%	81,830,423	81,830,423	4.9%	87,747,882	3.7%	5,917,459	7.2%
FY20	7,164	-0.1%	86,487,501	6.0%	38,919,879	47,567,622	6.4%	86,487,501	86,487,501	5.7%	90,805,500	3.5%	4,317,999	5.0%
FY21	7,124	-0.6%	83,769,466	2.6%	40,325,303	48,444,163	1.8%	88,769,466	88,769,466	2.6%	91,248,123	3.5%	2,479,657	2.8%
FY22	6,767	-5.0%	89,379,135	0.7%	40,893,031	48,647,173	0.4%	89,540,204	89,540,204	0.9%	94,221,811	3.3%	4,681,607	5.2%
FY23	6,737	-0.4%	93,305,682	11.1%	42,704,657	56,601,025	16.4%	93,305,682	93,305,682	10.9%	102,769,631	9.1%	3,463,949	3.5%
FY24*	6,775	0.6%	105,298,850	10.1%	44,617,436	64,681,414	14.3%	105,298,850	105,298,850	10.1%	110,603,161	7.6%	1,310,311	1.2%

Dollars Per Foundation Enrollment

	Foundation Budget		Ch 70 Aid		Actual NSS	
	Budget	Ch 70	Budget	Ch 70	Actual NSS	Actual NSS
FY08	8,596	4,806	8,596	56%	100%	56%
FY09	8,947	4,470	8,613	50%	94%	96%
FY10	9,491	4,912	8,653	52%	94%	91%
FY11	9,218	5,299	9,290	57%	105%	101%
FY12	9,230	5,416	9,507	59%	109%	103%
FY13	9,486	5,449	9,697	57%	110%	102%
FY14	10,210	5,642	10,135	55%	107%	99%
FY15	10,380	5,754	10,556	55%	109%	102%
FY16	10,613	5,782	10,980	54%	105%	103%
FY17	10,635	5,891	11,413	55%	102%	107%
FY18	10,836	5,976	11,944	55%	102%	110%
FY19	11,377	6,236	12,240	55%	100%	108%
FY20	12,073	6,640	12,675	55%	100%	105%
FY21	12,461	6,800	12,809	55%	100%	103%
FY22	13,208	7,189	13,924	54%	100%	105%
FY23	14,740	8,402	15,255	57%	100%	103%
FY24*	16,133	9,547	16,225	59%	100%	101%

\* Budgeted

Percentage of Foundation

Foundation Budget		Ch 70 Aid		Required NSS		Actual NSS	
Budget	Ch 70	Budget	Ch 70	Required NSS	Actual NSS	Required NSS	Actual NSS
8,596	4,806	8,596	56%	100%	101%	100%	101%
8,947	4,470	8,613	50%	94%	96%	94%	91%
9,491	4,912	8,653	52%	94%	91%	94%	91%
9,218	5,299	9,290	57%	105%	101%	105%	101%
9,230	5,416	9,507	59%	109%	103%	109%	103%
9,486	5,449	9,697	57%	110%	102%	110%	102%
10,210	5,642	10,135	55%	107%	99%	107%	102%
10,380	5,754	10,556	55%	109%	102%	109%	102%
10,613	5,782	10,980	54%	105%	103%	105%	103%
10,635	5,891	11,413	55%	102%	107%	102%	110%
10,836	5,976	11,944	55%	102%	110%	102%	108%
11,377	6,236	12,240	55%	100%	105%	100%	103%
12,073	6,640	12,675	55%	100%	103%	100%	105%
12,461	6,800	12,809	55%	100%	103%	100%	105%
13,208	7,189	13,924	54%	100%	105%	100%	103%
14,740	8,402	15,255	57%	100%	103%	100%	105%
16,133	9,547	16,225	59%	100%	101%	100%	101%

Chapter 70 Pct of Actual NSS

Foundation Budget		Ch 70 Aid		Required NSS		Actual NSS	
Budget	Ch 70	Budget	Ch 70	Required NSS	Actual NSS	Required NSS	Actual NSS
8,596	4,806	8,596	56%	100%	101%	100%	101%
8,947	4,470	8,613	50%	94%	96%	94%	91%
9,491	4,912	8,653	52%	94%	91%	94%	91%
9,218	5,299	9,290	57%	105%	101%	105%	101%
9,230	5,416	9,507	59%	109%	103%	109%	103%
9,486	5,449	9,697	57%	110%	102%	110%	102%
10,210	5,642	10,135	55%	107%	99%	107%	102%
10,380	5,754	10,556	55%	109%	102%	109%	102%
10,613	5,782	10,980	54%	105%	103%	105%	103%
10,635	5,891	11,413	55%	102%	107%	102%	110%
10,836	5,976	11,944	55%	102%	110%	102%	108%
11,377	6,236	12,240	55%	100%	105%	100%	103%
12,073	6,640	12,675	55%	100%	103%	100%	105%
12,461	6,800	12,809	55%	100%	103%	100%	105%
13,208	7,189	13,924	54%	100%	105%	100%	103%
14,740	8,402	15,255	57%	100%	103%	100%	105%
16,133	9,547	16,225	59%	100%	101%	100%	101%

To see earlier years back to FY93, unhide rows 7 to 21 and 40 to 54.

Foundation enrollment is reported in October of the prior fiscal year (e.g. FY20 enrollment = Oct 1, 2018 headcount).

Foundation budget is the state's estimate of the minimum amount needed in each district to provide an adequate educational program.

Required Net School Spending is the annual minimum that must be spent on schools, including carryovers from prior years.

Net School Spending includes municipal indirect spending for schools but excludes capital expenditures, transportation, grants and revolving funds.

Federal SFSE grants in FY09, FY10, FY11, and FY12 and federal Education Jobs grants in FY11, FY12 and FY13 are not included in these calculations. Net school spending is limited to Chapter 70 aid and appropriated local contributions. However, the SFSE and Education Jobs calculations were directly based upon the Chapter 70 formula and helped districts spend at foundation budget levels.

In FY09, this district received an SFSE grant of  
In FY10, this district's SFSE grant entitlement was  
In FY11, the combined SFSE and Educ Jobs entitlement was

3,929,987  
4,389,868  
2,578,120

In FY12 the combined SFSE/Ed Jobs amount was  
In FY13 the Education Jobs amount was

2,106,159  
0



## FY24 Budget Breakdown- By Department

Department- General Fund	Mayor FY2024 Budget	% of Total
CITY COUNCIL	211,350	0.11%
MAYOR	358,478	0.18%
LEGAL SERVICES	558,864	0.28%
CITY CLERK	480,708	0.24%
RESERVE FUND	50,000	0.02%
CAFO	201,815	0.10%
ACCOUNTING	770,682	0.38%
ASSESSING	426,708	0.21%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR	615,232	0.31%
HUMAN RESOURCES	561,806	0.28%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,743,692	0.87%
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	785,577	0.39%
HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICES	1,134,504	0.57%
POLICE	13,741,918	6.86%
FIRE	12,532,231	6.25%
METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	100,250,300	50.03%
GREATER LAWRENCE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	4,899,186	2.45%
ESSEX NORTH SHORT AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL	475,000	0.24%
PUBLIC WORKS	8,089,359	4.04%
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS	5,212,500	2.60%
ELDER SERVICES	374,005	0.19%
VETERANS BENEFITS	510,952	0.26%
NEVINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	1,606,628	0.80%
DEBT SERVICE	5,246,729	2.62%
RISK MANAGEMENT	1,200,000	0.60%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	17,816,901	8.89%
RETIREMENT	15,020,331	7.50%
STATE ASSESSMENTS	4,658,801	2.33%
OTHER	832,600	0.42%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>200,366,856</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chapter 70 District Profile

Select a district

0128 Haverhill

2/21/24

Foundation Enrollment	% Chg	Foundation Budget	% Chg	Required Local Contribution	Chapter 70 Aid Reflects Penalties, where applicable	Required Net School Spending		Required NSS Includes Carryover	% Chg	Actual NSS	% Chg	Dollars	
						Aid + Local	Contribution					Over/Under Requirement	% Over/Under
FY08	7,589	65,881,402	6.3%	33,678,683	34,988,016	5.8%	68,666,699	68,666,699	5.5%	69,265,323	4.7%	598,624	0.9%
FY09	7,408	68,099,107	3.5%	34,744,794	33,819,377	-3.3%	70,822,812	68,564,171	-0.1%	68,833,107	-0.6%	268,936	0.4%
FY10	7,467	71,235,841	4.6%	34,829,065	35,356,458	4.5%	70,185,523	70,185,523	2.4%	70,848,281	2.9%	662,758	0.9%
FY11	7,544	70,567,492	-0.9%	35,268,131	34,622,057	-2.1%	69,890,188	69,890,188	-0.4%	70,745,120	-0.1%	854,932	1.2%
FY12	7,582	71,678,180	1.6%	35,711,436	35,966,744	3.9%	71,678,180	71,678,180	2.6%	72,818,871	2.9%	1,140,691	1.6%
FY13	7,745	77,249,639	7.3%	36,816,955	40,527,259	12.7%	77,344,214	77,344,214	7.9%	81,677,057	12.2%	4,332,843	5.6%
FY14	7,923	81,685,330	5.7%	37,879,800	44,126,723	8.5%	82,006,523	82,006,523	6.0%	83,399,147	2.1%	1,392,624	1.7%
FY15	7,951	83,661,746	2.4%	38,734,196	45,091,781	2.2%	83,825,977	83,825,977	2.2%	85,319,834	2.3%	1,493,857	1.8%
FY16	8,105	85,387,259	2.1%	39,924,761	46,462,498	3.0%	85,387,259	85,387,259	1.9%	87,833,297	2.9%	2,446,038	2.9%
FY17	8,200	87,808,524	2.8%	38,182,889	49,625,635	6.8%	87,808,524	87,808,524	2.8%	91,284,375	3.9%	3,475,851	4.0%
FY18	8,304	91,533,733	4.2%	39,059,148	52,474,585	5.7%	91,533,733	91,533,733	4.2%	95,303,067	4.4%	3,769,334	4.1%
FY19	8,316	95,275,049	4.1%	40,630,210	54,644,839	4.1%	95,275,049	95,275,049	4.1%	100,861,673	5.8%	5,586,624	5.9%
FY20	8,237	100,463,268	5.4%	42,109,344	58,353,924	6.8%	100,463,268	100,463,268	5.4%	108,679,510	7.8%	8,216,242	8.2%
FY21	8,540	107,173,075	6.7%	43,835,110	63,349,956	8.6%	107,185,066	107,185,066	6.7%	120,148,192	10.6%	12,963,126	12.1%
FY22	8,276	109,839,438	2.5%	44,857,002	64,982,436	2.6%	109,839,438	109,839,438	2.5%	125,203,118	4.2%	15,363,680	14.0%
FY23	8,252	121,331,843	10.5%	47,425,533	73,906,310	13.7%	121,331,843	121,331,843	10.5%	136,300,885	8.9%	14,969,042	12.3%
FY24*	8,287	132,551,888	9.2%	49,918,077	82,633,811	11.8%	132,551,888	132,551,888	9.2%	137,815,766	1.1%	5,263,878	4.0%

## Dollars Per Foundation Enrollment

Foundation Budget	Ch 70 Aid	Actual NSS
FY08 8,681	4,610	9,127
FY09 9,193	4,565	9,292
FY10 9,540	4,735	9,488
FY11 9,354	4,589	9,378
FY12 9,454	4,744	9,604
FY13 9,974	5,233	10,546
FY14 10,310	5,569	10,526
FY15 10,522	5,671	10,731
FY16 10,535	5,733	10,837
FY17 10,708	6,052	11,132
FY18 11,023	6,319	11,477
FY19 11,457	6,571	12,129
FY20 12,197	7,084	13,194
FY21 12,550	7,418	14,069
FY22 13,272	7,852	15,128
FY23 14,703	8,956	16,517
FY24* 15,985	9,971	16,630

\* Budgeted

To see earlier years back to FY93, unhide rows 7 to 21 and 40 to 54.

Foundation enrollment is reported in October of the prior fiscal year (e.g. FY20 enrollment = Oct 1, 2018 headcount).

Foundation budget is the state's estimate of the minimum amount needed in each district to provide an adequate educational program.

Required Net School Spending is the annual minimum that must be spent on schools, including carryovers from prior years.

Net School Spending includes municipal indirect spending for schools but excludes capital expenditures, transportation, grants and revolving funds.

Federal SFSE grants in FY09, FY10, FY11, and FY12 and federal Education Jobs grants in FY11, FY12 and FY13 are not included in these calculations. Net school spending is limited to Chapter 70 aid and appropriated local contributions. However, the SFSE and Education Jobs calculations were directly based upon the Chapter 70 formula and helped districts spend at foundation budget levels.

In FY09, this district received an SFSE grant of

In FY10, this district's SFSE grant entitlement was

In FY11, the combined SFSE and Educ Jobs entitlement was

2,258,641

1,050,318

1,973,319

In FY12 the combined SFSE/Educ Jobs amount was

In FY13 the Education Jobs amount was

1,114,801

0

## Chapter 70 Pct of Actual NSS

Actual NSS	Chapter 70 Pct of Actual NSS
51%	51%
49%	49%
50%	50%
49%	49%
49%	49%
50%	50%
53%	53%
53%	53%
54%	54%
55%	55%
54%	54%
54%	54%
53%	53%
52%	52%
54%	54%
60%	60%

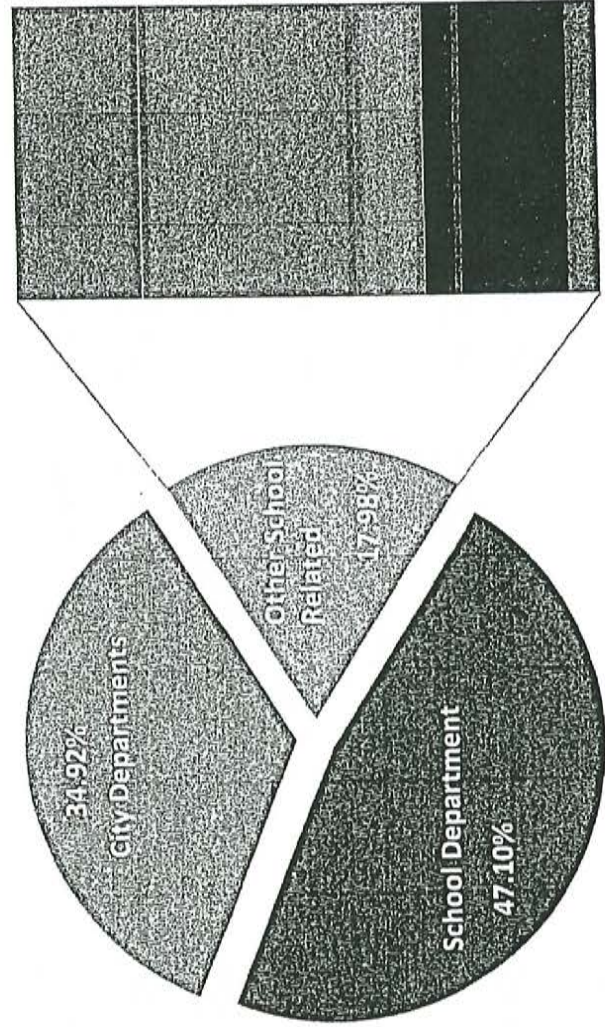


# School Department

Account	FY '20 Actual	FY '21 Actual	FY '22 Actual	3 Year Average [FY 20 -22]	FY '23 Budget	FY '24 Department Request	FY 24 Mayor's Budget	Mayor's Budget to Dept Request \$ Change
School Department	\$ 90,053,041	\$ 90,477,756	\$ 98,653,821	\$ 93,061,539	\$ 108,824,584	\$ 117,552,085	\$ 115,732,085	\$ (1,820,000)
Grand Total	\$ 90,053,041	\$ 90,477,756	\$ 98,653,821	\$ 93,061,539	\$ 108,824,584	\$ 117,552,085	\$ 115,732,085	\$ (1,820,000)

\$1,820,000 was transferred from free cash to the School Department in November 2022 which is reflected in the 2023 budget.

- ☒ School Department
- ☒ Other School Funding
- ☒ Payroll Taxes
- ☒ Unemployment Insurance
- ☒ Debt Service
- ☒ Regional Schools
- ☒ Health Insurance
- ☒ Worker's Compensation
- ☒ School Choice Tuition
- ☒ City Budgets
- ☒ Stadium
- ☒ Pension Assessment
- ☒ Liability Insurance
- ☒ Charter School Tuition



## Required Net School Spending

Fiscal Year	Required NSS	Actual/ Budgeted NSS	Amount over RNSS	% over RNSS
2018	\$91,533,733	\$95,303,067	\$3,769,334	4.1%
2019	\$95,275,049	\$100,861,673	\$5,586,624	5.9%
2020	\$100,463,268	\$108,679,510	\$8,216,242	8.2%
2021	\$107,185,066	\$120,148,192	\$12,963,126	12.1%
2022	\$109,839,438	\$125,203,118	\$15,363,680	14.0%
2023	\$121,331,863	\$135,179,340*	\$15,667,477	12.9%
2024	\$132,551,888			

\* Includes \$1,820,000 from mid-year added funding from City



# Issues with Filling Teaching Positions

STAFF	POSITION	SUBSTITUTE
Open Position	Grade 7 Science Teacher	BBE all year
Open Position	LS Wellness	BBE

One example from a school in Methuen on their daily attendance

Methuen Public Schools  
Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services



## MEMORANDUM

To: Board/Kwan, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Gina R. Bosak, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Date: February 2, 2024  
Re: Student Services

This monthly memorandum will provide updates and important information in the following areas:

Special Education: The following is an update regarding vacancies as of the date of this memo:

	Total Number of Vacancies	Positions covered by Contracted Services as of 2/2/2024
Professional	11	7
Program Assistants	58	49

Methuen Public Schools  
Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services



## MEMORANDUM

To: Board/Kwan, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Gina R. Bosak, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Date: March 6, 2024  
Re: Student Services

This monthly memorandum will provide updates and important information in the following areas:

Special Education: The following is an update regarding vacancies as of the date of this memo:

	Total Number of Vacancies	Positions covered by Contracted Services as of 3/6/2024
Professional	11	7
Program Assistants	64	43

## Contracted Staffing Agencies:

Annual salary in FY 24 approved budget of PA positions being covered

$\$21,848 \times 51 = \$1,114,248/\text{year}$

Cost of invoices received as of 3/1 - covering 39 of the 51 current openings

**Total Spent YTD = \$1,340,221.29**

14.C

2023-24 School Year ~ As of February 1, 2024

\*

	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
<b>Marsh</b>							
Administrators						2	
Classroom Teachers						1	3
Sub Separate Teachers	2	3					
Specialist Teachers							
School Counselors/Psych							0
Nurses	1						15
Program Assistants	10	14		1			
Other Support staff							
Related Service Providers	2	2					2

**CGS**

	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
Administrators							
Classroom Teachers	1	2				1	2
Sub Separate Teachers							
Specialist Teachers							
School Counselors/Psych		1				2	1
Nurses							
Program Assistants	4	5				1	5
Other Support staff							
LTS Teachers/PAs & BBEs							
Related Service Providers							

\*

**Timony**

	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
Administrators						2	2
Classroom Teachers		2					
Sub Separate Teachers							
Specialist Teachers						1	
School Counselors/Psych							
Nurses							
Program Assistants	6	8					8
Other Support staff							
LTS Teachers/PAs & BBEs							
Related Service Providers							

The Pathways teachers at the Marsh resigned between August and November of 2023. In January the district needed to reassign 20 special needs students. (11 to the Timony, 5 to the Tenney, and 4 to the CGS).

The Social Worker position was not filled when the staff member left in December 2024  
 The 7-8 Grade Excel teacher was not filled when the staff member resigned in December 2024



<b>Tenney</b>	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
Administrators							
Classroom Teachers		1				3	1
Sub Separate Teachers							
Specialist Teachers							
School Counselors/Psych						1	
Nurses							
Program Assistants	3	6					6
Other Support staff							
LTS Teachers/PAs & BBEs							
Related Service Providers							
<b>MHS</b>	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
Administrators							
Classroom Teachers							
Sub Separate Teachers							
Specialist Teachers	3	3				2	3
School Counselors/Psych						1	
Nurses							
Program Assistants	15	12					12
Other Support staff							
LTS Teachers/PAs & BBEs							
Related Service Providers							
<b>Branch - Early Childhood</b>	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
Administrators							
Classroom Teachers							
Sub Separate Teachers	2	1					1
Specialist Teachers							
School Counselors/Psych							
Nurses							
Program Assistants	10	10			1	1	11
Other Support staff							
LTS Teachers/PAs & BBEs							
Related Service Providers							

	Vacancies 8/31/24	Vacancies 1/1/24	Retirements in Jan 2024	Resignations in Jan 2024	Hired in Jan 2024	Currently on Leave of Absence	Vacancies as of Feb 2024
<b>District Totals</b>							
Administrators			0	0	0	0	0
Teachers			0	0	0	8	12
School Counselors			0	0	0	5	1
Nurses			0	0	0	0	0
Program Assistants			0	2	0	2	57
Other Support staff			0	0	0	0	0
Related Service Providers			0	0	0	0	2
			0	2	0	15	72





# Methuen Public Schools

Central Administration  
9 Branch Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
(978) 722-8014 FAX (978) 722-8025

Athanasia Bouslos  
Director of Special Education

E-mail: [abouslos@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:abouslos@methuen.k12.ma.us)

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

I am writing to inform you of upcoming changes to your child's educational program location effective 01/02/24.

The Marsh Grammar School Pathways Resource Room began the 2023-2024 school year with two special education teacher vacancies. While the remaining special education staff at the Marsh has been able to provide the services your child needs, we have since received another unexpected resignation after the school year began. ~~Ms. [redacted]~~ will leave her position at the end of the day on 11/22/23. Since being informed of her resignation, the District has explored all feasible and reasonable options to fill the position and the previously open positions expeditiously by posting the openings as well as seeking qualified special education teachers through contracted agencies. To date, there have been no applicants and/or contracted agency candidates. The District has further explored the possibility of current special education teachers at the Marsh Grammar School providing your child's special education services. However, this is not an option due to caseload numbers and management.

As a result of the above information, the District administration has determined that students attending the Pathways Resource Room at the Marsh Grammar School whose home school is not the Marsh will return to their home schools in order to receive their special education services. Effective 01/02/24, your child will return to his/her home school. ~~[redacted]~~ This will allow the District to work with you and your child to ensure a smooth transition. Although the location of the school will change, your child's programming will remain the same. The District understands that compensatory services will be owed for your child's special education services from 11/27/23-12/22/23.

If your child requires specialized transportation through their IEP, this service will remain in place. Otherwise, your child will be able to access regular transportation.

We recognize that an unexpected school change during the school year can be challenging and disruptive. This is the last resort that the District wanted to consider. However, given the current circumstances, this is the only option to ensure your child's continued success and access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Your child's home school building Special Education Administrator will reach out soon to

**"Committed to Excellence"**



## FY21 Per Pupil Expenditure Ranking

All districts, excluding agricultural and vocational schools, spending more than Andover on a per pupil basis.

DESE Updated October 2022. Reviewed February 6, 2023.

District	Per Pupil Expenditure	Rank
Provincetown	\$41,319	1
Cambridge	\$35,114	2
Marthas Vineyard	\$34,611	3
Wellfleet	\$32,788	4
Truro	\$32,245	5
Orleans	\$31,703	6
Weston	\$30,296	7
Tisbury	\$29,599	8
Erving	\$28,976	9
Up-Island	\$28,475	10
Lincoln	\$28,188	11
Edgartown	\$27,703	12
Rowe	\$27,630	13
Boston	\$26,589	14
Amherst	\$26,345	15
Hull	\$26,155	16
Dover	\$25,842	17
Brookline	\$25,690	18
Watertown	\$25,550	19
Eastham	\$25,444	20
Nantucket	\$25,267	21
Brewster	\$25,117	22
Rockport	\$24,918	23
Oak Bluffs	\$24,789	24
Conway	\$24,772	25
Amherst-Pelham	\$24,555	26
Burlington	\$24,192	27
Wellesley	\$24,183	28
Lincoln-Sudbury	\$24,061	29
Dedham	\$24,011	30
Berkshire Hills	\$23,999	31
Pioneer Valley	\$23,885	32
Mohawk Trail	\$23,807	33
Mattapoisett	\$23,679	34
Waltham	\$23,607	35

District	Per Pupil Expenditure	Rank
Leverett	\$23,592	36
Newton	\$23,431	37
Concord-Carlisle	\$23,345	38
Southern Berkshire	\$23,341	39
Concord	\$23,269	40
Nauset	\$23,259	41
Shutesbury	\$23,099	42
Falmouth	\$22,868	43
Somerville	\$22,730	44
New Salem-Wendell	\$22,635	45
Richmond	\$22,551	46
Chesterfield-Goshen	\$22,270	47
Masconomet	\$22,151	48
Wilmington	\$22,095	49
Dover-Sherborn	\$21,860	50
Hampshire	\$21,810	51
Manchester Essex	\$21,773	52
Whately	\$21,639	53
Sherborn	\$21,627	54
Sunderland	\$21,584	55
Savoy	\$21,564	56
Southborough	\$21,525	57
Carlisle	\$21,430	58
Lexington	\$21,429	59
Framingham	\$21,394	60
Bedford	\$21,373	61
Sandwich	\$21,247	62
Williamsburg	\$21,220	63
Needham	\$21,147	64
Lenox	\$21,138	65
Mashpee	\$21,105	66
Boxford	\$21,099	67
Harvard	\$21,006	68
Westhampton	\$20,975	69
Andover	\$20,941	70

McHuen

14,738



**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of School Finance  
Net School Spending (NSS) and Foundation Budget FY22**

FY22								
District Name	Required NSS	Budgeted NSS	% Chg 21 to 22	Amt Over or Under Req'd	Budgeted as % of Req'd	Foundation Budget	Budgeted NSS as % of Foundation	Rank/ 317
Weston	21,789,134	54,146,075	5.9%	32,356,941	248.5%	21,554,029	251.2%	12
Brookline	79,086,353	161,232,380	3.3%	82,146,027	203.9%	77,422,820	208.2%	36
Wellesley	50,656,381	99,177,068	6.1%	48,520,687	195.8%	49,998,664	198.4%	42
Hamilton Wenham	18,506,154	35,165,108	11.2%	16,658,954	190.0%	17,836,079	197.2%	43
Lexington	81,157,401	153,540,605	8.5%	72,383,204	189.2%	80,618,069	190.5%	52
Wilmington	37,934,467	60,401,197	4.9%	22,466,730	159.2%	31,976,675	188.9%	53
Newton	141,645,943	258,782,279	4.1%	117,136,336	182.7%	140,792,530	183.8%	60
Westwood	32,514,238	59,254,699	5.8%	26,740,461	182.2%	32,473,680	182.5%	64
Concord Carlisle	16,446,778	29,633,004	10.9%	13,186,226	180.2%	16,437,449	180.3%	65
Needham	62,967,935	112,200,198	5.9%	49,232,263	178.2%	62,757,966	178.8%	70
Wayland	29,276,650	51,686,261	2.0%	22,409,611	176.5%	29,175,011	177.2%	73
Lincoln Sudbury	18,599,770	32,842,357	3.3%	14,242,587	176.6%	18,587,999	176.7%	74
Andover	65,247,254	114,327,718	6.8%	49,080,464	175.2%	64,739,542	176.6%	75
Ipswich	18,527,082	32,312,761	8.7%	13,785,679	174.4%	18,360,233	176.0%	80
Masconomet	21,705,695	34,915,944	2.7%	13,210,249	160.9%	19,942,250	175.1%	81
Marblehead	30,979,769	52,601,959	3.7%	21,622,190	169.8%	30,235,711	174.0%	82
Dover Sherborn	13,742,823	23,886,318	6.3%	10,143,495	173.8%	13,732,497	173.9%	83
Triton	29,398,313	42,664,735	2.6%	13,266,422	145.1%	24,917,420	171.2%	89
Newburyport	24,141,136	41,141,689	1.2%	17,000,553	170.4%	24,047,193	171.1%	90
Tewksbury	43,109,720	60,788,816	7.3%	17,679,096	141.0%	35,982,818	168.9%	94
Harvard	9,760,072	15,468,055	1.8%	5,707,983	158.5%	9,395,298	164.6%	98
North Reading	27,947,592	41,085,570	4.8%	13,137,978	147.0%	25,122,868	163.5%	99
Bedford	31,026,443	50,061,079	-0.2%	19,034,636	161.3%	30,729,463	162.9%	101
Medfield	28,161,684	42,473,542	5.2%	14,311,858	150.8%	26,424,181	160.7%	103
Amesbury	25,761,653	36,080,284	3.2%	10,318,631	140.1%	22,473,929	160.5%	104
Natick	57,825,004	89,037,223	8.0%	31,212,219	154.0%	57,529,966	154.8%	113
Westborough	43,157,465	65,049,093	3.7%	21,891,628	150.7%	42,200,577	154.1%	115
Sharon	39,590,771	59,394,159	2.2%	19,803,388	150.0%	38,638,373	153.7%	120
Pentucket	31,777,054	37,455,928	7.2%	5,678,874	117.9%	24,481,014	153.0%	124
Georgetown	16,245,424	19,895,430	2.1%	3,650,006	122.5%	13,268,519	149.9%	135
Acton Boxborough	62,061,953	86,318,874	4.1%	24,256,921	139.1%	57,822,928	149.3%	142
Arlington	65,961,393	95,525,926	3.0%	29,564,533	144.8%	64,412,506	148.3%	145
Westford	55,735,710	71,545,599	4.1%	15,809,889	128.4%	49,437,145	144.7%	155
Winchester	50,696,387	71,624,163	3.6%	20,927,776	141.3%	49,628,251	144.3%	159
Belmont	50,716,777	73,122,201	11.6%	22,405,424	144.2%	50,694,465	144.2%	160
Holliston	29,457,390	39,928,668	6.3%	10,471,278	135.5%	28,327,730	141.0%	177
Chelmsford	56,199,122	76,625,660	4.1%	20,426,538	136.3%	54,364,866	140.9%	178
Hopkinton	44,006,243	60,103,924	5.9%	16,097,681	136.6%	43,582,815	137.9%	187
Franklin	71,018,218	80,419,444	2.6%	9,401,226	113.2%	59,769,256	134.5%	197
North Andover	51,562,160	65,146,138	3.3%	13,583,978	126.3%	51,229,168	127.2%	222
Haverhill	109,839,438	120,704,182	0.5%	10,864,744	109.9%	109,839,438	109.9%	279
Methuen	89,540,204	92,843,003	1.7%	3,302,799	103.7%	89,379,135	103.9%	290
Lowell	232,665,678	235,730,784	4.7%	3,065,106	101.3%	232,660,515	101.3%	299
Dracut	46,058,563	46,209,571	4.3%	151,008	100.3%	46,058,563	100.3%	303
Lawrence	245,238,070	232,507,032	7.5%	(12,731,038)	94.8%	234,592,261	99.1%	313

317 Districts Reporting, Data as of September 2022



## Appendix B

### How does Andover spending compare to other districts?

The districts are either a) on Andover's "comparable district" list; b) members of the CREST collaborative; c) in Boston Magazine's Best Public School Districts in Boston 2017 (top 25 of 125 districts within Rt-495); or d) neighboring districts (updates for 2018 from 34 to 47 districts, reflect expansion of the CREST collaborative and changes to the top 25 districts).

The median per pupil expenditure for districts on this list is \$19,721.

The state average per pupil expenditure \$19,113 and the Andover per pupil expenditure is \$20,941.

DESE Updated October 2022. Reviewed February 6, 2023.

District Name	FY21 Total Expenditures per Pupil	FY21 Rank	FY20 Total Expenditures per Pupil	FY20 Rank
Weston	\$30,296	1	\$27,039	1
Brookline	\$25,690	2	\$21,256	6
Wellesley	\$24,183	3	\$21,516	5
Lincoln-Sudbury	\$24,061	4	\$22,244	4
Newton	\$23,431	5	\$20,786	8
Concord-Carlisle	\$23,345	6	\$23,335	2
Greater Lawrence Tech	\$23,074	7	\$23,000	3
Masconomet	\$22,151	8	\$20,536	9
Wilmington	\$22,095	9	\$19,032	17
Dover-Sherborn	\$21,860	10	\$20,827	7
Lexington	\$21,429	11	\$19,481	15
Bedford	\$21,373	12	\$20,184	11
Needham	\$21,147	13	\$19,193	16
Harvard	\$21,006	14	\$20,196	10
Andover	\$20,941	15	\$19,656	13
Triton	\$20,858	16	\$18,636	20
Ipswich	\$20,687	17	\$18,674	19
Wayland	\$20,614	18	\$19,497	14
Hamilton-Wenham	\$20,545	19	\$18,725	18
Westwood	\$20,500	20	\$19,859	12
Newburyport	\$19,972	21	\$18,016	22
Amesbury	\$19,884	22	\$17,828	23
Marblehead	\$19,558	23	\$17,770	24
Tewksbury	\$19,139	24	\$18,520	21
North Reading	\$19,036	25	\$17,379	26

District Name	FY21 Total Expenditures per Pupil	FY21 Rank	FY20 Total Expenditures per Pupil	FY20 Rank
Sharon	\$18,964	26	\$17,708	25
Acton-Boxborough	\$18,958	27	\$17,298	27
Medfield	\$18,435	28	\$16,870	29
Westborough	\$18,297	29	\$16,936	28
Arlington	\$17,934	30	\$15,629	37
Pentucket	\$17,932	31	\$16,305	32
Georgetown	\$17,848	32	\$15,812	34
Belmont	\$17,451	33	\$15,280	38
Natick	\$17,397	34	\$16,745	30
Lawrence	\$17,330	35	\$16,380	31
Chelmsford	\$17,193	36	\$15,659	36
Franklin	\$17,063	37	\$15,850	33
Winchester	\$16,818	38	\$15,271	39
Haverhill	\$16,705	39	\$14,636	45
Lowell	\$16,639	40	\$15,235	40
Westford	\$16,256	41	\$15,757	35
North Andover	\$16,052	42	\$14,996	42
Methuen	\$15,903	43	\$14,738	44
Hopkinton	\$15,870	44	\$14,818	43
Holliston	\$15,822	45	\$15,049	41
Dracut	\$13,661	46	\$12,216	46



Last year, in FY 2018, the School Department was the only major department in the City to reduce its operating budget. It cut its operating expenses by 2 percent. In contrast, the Police Department saw an increase of 3.2 percent (9 percent in FY 2017), the Fire Department received an increase of 1.5 percent (9 percent in FY 2017), and the Department of Public Works (DPW) saw an increase of 5 percent (6.5 percent in FY 2017).

The number of students enrolled in Methuen Public Schools is climbing and the number of students in need of special services is also increasing significantly. The number of students with disabilities has increased from 15.3% in 2005 to almost 18% in 2018. The Mayor has proposed a \$76 million budget, but with rising enrollments, approximately \$78 million will be needed to level-fund services. This means no new positions will be added. Less than that amount means cutting services, imposing user fees, and layoffs of teachers and school personnel. If the schools had received 3% annual increases like other city departments over the past 5 years the FY 2019 budget would be \$78.7 million. In considering the Methuen Schools Budget, the following facts taken from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding Methuen Schools should be noted:

- \* Bottom 15% of districts for total per pupil expenditure
- \* Bottom 9% of districts for per pupil expenditure for administration
- \* Bottom 5% for per pupil expenditure for instructional materials, equipment, and technology

<https://valleypatriot.com>



# City of Methuen, Massachusetts

The Searles Building  
41 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

Neil Perry  
Mayor

## ORDER #

**Resolution Authorizing Transfer of \$600,000 from free cash to General Fund Police Department Personal Service Expenses budget line to fund Superior Officer retroactive payments for approved FY17-FY22 collective bargaining agreements (EPA requested)**

**Whereas:** During Fiscal Year 2023, the City of Methuen settled seven years of contracts that were outstanding with the Superior Officers, where retroactive payments are due to such officers as appropriate and specific to each of the agreements approved by City Council; and

**Whereas:** The funding for such retro-active payments are one-time payments, which the Mayor has approved the request to make such funds available to support funding of retroactive payments for settled CBA's; and

**Whereas:** The CAFO has confirmed there is \$13,169,357 available in Free Cash; now

**Therefore, Be It Ordered:** By the City Council of the City of Methuen that the total amount of \$600,000 be and is hereby transferred from free cash to be transferred to the Police Department's Personal Services Expense budget line. Said resolution shall become effective upon passage; and

**Be It Further Ordered:** That a certified copy of this order be forwarded to the City Chief Administrative and Financial Officer's office.



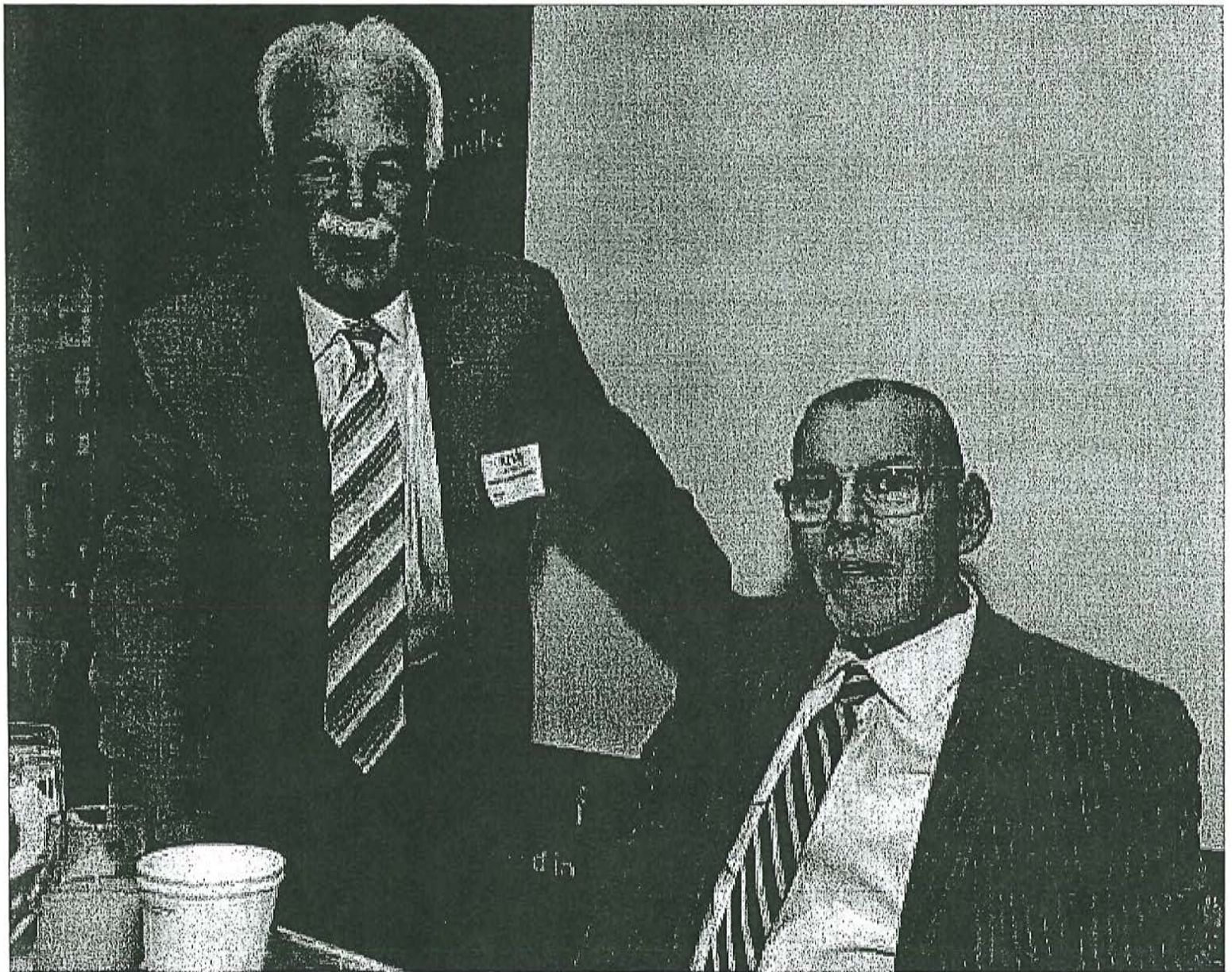
[https://www.eagletribune.com/news/merrimack\\_valley/perry-sees-methuen-reaching-new-heights/article\\_b7669d16-a29-11ee-858f-3bc12f73f7c6.html](https://www.eagletribune.com/news/merrimack_valley/perry-sees-methuen-reaching-new-heights/article_b7669d16-a29-11ee-858f-3bc12f73f7c6.html)

## EDITOR'S PICK

Perry sees Methuen reaching 'new heights'

By Monica Sager | [msager@eagletribune.com](mailto:msager@eagletribune.com)

Jan 24, 2024



Essex County Sheriff Kevin Copping talks to Methuen Mayor Neil Perry at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual mayors/managers breakfast forum.

CHARL RUSSO/Sta photo



ANDOVER — Since Mayor Neil Perry took office in 2020, the city's bond rating has increased four times, and he said he's expecting it to do so a fifth time this year.

Perry shared Methuen's victories at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's breakfast called to discuss the challenges and accomplishments of 2023 and what's ahead in the year to come.

Perry, just starting his third term as mayor, focused on the growth his city has enjoyed recently and what's ahead, as he talked to about 300 people during the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual breakfast forum with the town managers and mayors in the area as well as Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll at the DoubleTree by Tilton on Monday.

**"We have experienced an economic turn around in Methuen unseen in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."**

The city paid off a \$4 million loan the prior administration was responsible for in less than three years, he said.

"That's unheard of," Perry said. "We are in prime condition and ready to talk about the opportunities in the city of Methuen."

During Perry's first term as mayor, his goal was to blend his business mind with his municipal government involvement in hopes of resolving lingering issues, like police pay. This follows Perry's original campaign slogan, "Integrity, Leadership and Vision."

During his re-election race this fall, Perry heralded his use of **tax increment financing (TIF) to bring new businesses "and hundreds of jobs" to Methuen.** He also pointed to improvements made in Methuen's housing stock by rehabilitating the Masonic Lodge and the former Red Tavern downtown.

"We have done a lot that allows us to host a lot of capital projects at lower interest rates and establish an unprecedented level of cash reserves," Perry said, noting the \$20 million in free cash Methuen has. "Laying this robust financial foundation didn't come easy, nor did it come immediately."

Perry has developed a financial investment program and financial forecast for the next five years. He said the city has \$20 million set aside on top of the state's investment to improve sidewalks. Perry said sewer



improvements, which are “long overdue,” are also ahead.

“We built the foundation, and now we need to add on the other floors,” Perry said. “Those upper floors, ladies and gentlemen, that’s you.”

Perry said the future has “tremendous promise” since he has been able to bring the city to a more stable financial spot.


“We have many exciting happenings in the city of Methuen,” Perry said.

Perry is now looking to invest locally in the schools and infrastructure, including the public works and public safety buildings.

Perry said he is ready to raise Methuen “to new heights.”

“We remain committed to attracting suitable, industrial manufacturing businesses, like Factorial in the west end in Methuen, and taking all necessary steps to being a business friendly community,” Perry said.

He has supported use of TIF incentives and streamlined the permitting processes with the hopes of supporting local businesses and creating an innovative environment in Methuen, Perry said.

 “My goal is to make Methuen a beacon for people seeking opportunities, a place where dreams can be realized and hard workers rewarded,” Perry said. “When it comes to Methuen’s brightest days, you’ve seen nothing yet.”

Follow Monica on Twitter at @MonicaSager3

