

Masconomet FY26 Budget Overview

Middleton Budget Overrides Public Forum

14 April 2025





Introduction

- Masco Regional School District commenced budget season with a Level Service recommendation equal to an 9.6% (\$3.19M) increase across the district
 - Middleton's assessment would have been 6.4% (\$707k)
- School Committee members from all three member towns echoed community concerns that a 9.6% increase would not be feasible in the current financial climate
 - School Committee worked with district administration to review options over 2 months
 - While many components of the budget are not controllable by the district, the School Committee made difficult cuts to controllable components
- An override of \$467k (4.27%*) in Middleton is unfortunately necessary to deliver a reduced level of service to our students at Masco Middle School and Masco High School

School Committee reduced budget by \$833k which reduced Middleton's assessment by \$240k



FY26 Budget Assessment By Town

BOXFORD	FY24	FY25	FY26	Chg \$	Chg %
Operating Assessment	\$ 11,917,575	\$ 12,379,417	\$ 13,270,138	\$ 890,721	7.2%
Capital Assessment incl Debt Service	\$ 167,451	\$ 147,711	\$ 254,907	\$ 107,196	72.6%
Total Assessment	\$ 12,085,026	\$ 12,527,128	\$ 13,525,045	\$ 997,917	8.0%
MIDDLETON	FY24	FY25	FY26	Chg \$	Chg %
Operating Assessment	\$ 10,896,460	\$ 11,103,806	\$ 11,571,000	\$ 467,194	4.2%
Capital Assessment incl Debt Service	\$ 150,162	\$ 135,586	\$ 230,652	\$ 95,066	70.1%
Total Assessment	\$ 11,046,622	\$ 11,239,392	\$ 11,801,651	\$ 562,260	5.0%
TOPSFIELD	FY24	FY25	FY26	Chg \$	Chg %
Operating Assessment	\$ 9,123,180	\$ 9,760,623	\$ 10,866,338	\$ 1,105,715	11.3%
Capital Assessment incl Debt Service	\$ 131,437	\$ 116,704	\$ 204,441	\$ 87,738	75.2%
Total Assessment	\$ 9,254,617	\$ 9,877,327	\$ 11,070,779	\$ 1,193,452	12.1%
DISTRICT TOTALS	FY24	FY25	FY26	Chg \$	Chg %
Operating Assessment	\$ 31,937,215	\$ 33,243,846	\$ 35,707,475	\$ 2,463,629	7.4%
Capital Assessment incl Debt Service	\$ 449,050	\$ 400,000	\$ 690,000	\$ 290,000	72.5%
Total Assessment	\$ 32,386,265	\$ 33,643,846	\$ 36,397,476	\$ 2,753,630	8.2%



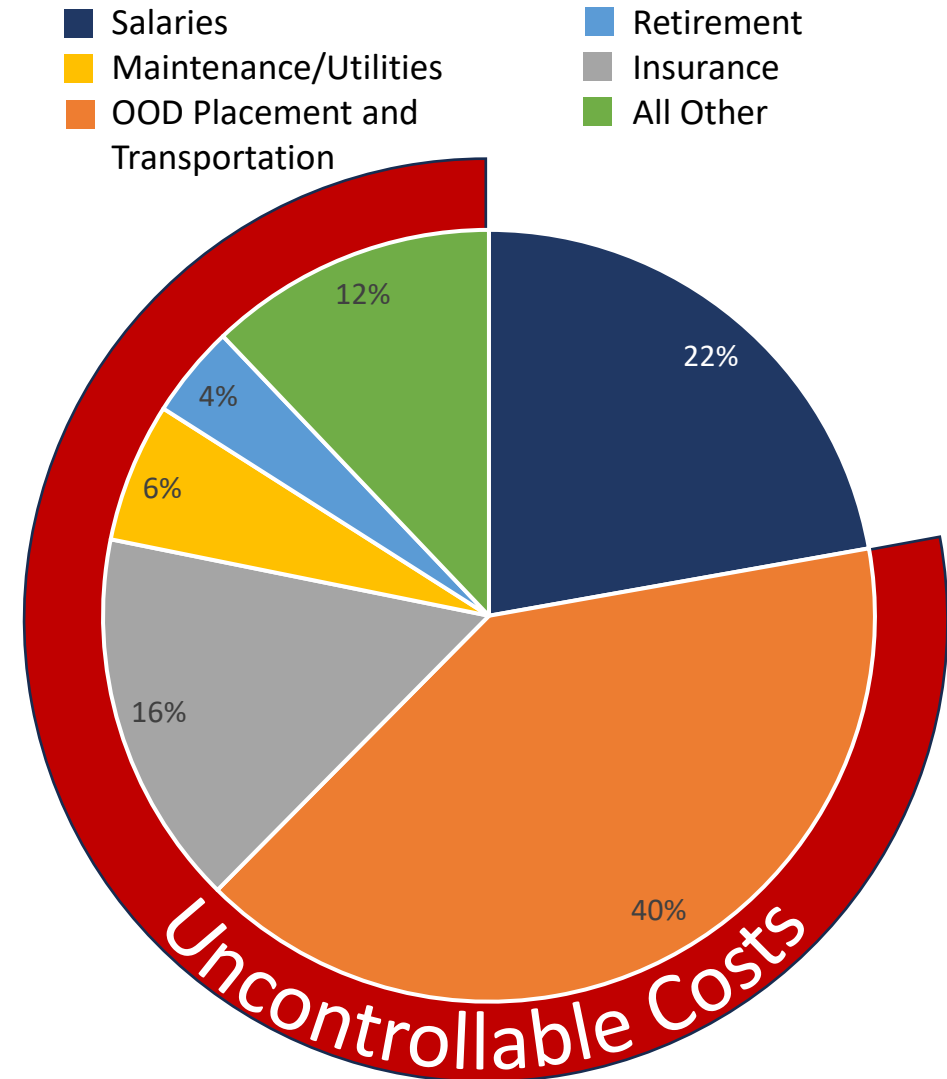
Key Drivers of FY26 Increase

\$2.7M (87%) of the Total Expense Increase of \$3.1M can be attributed to 5 Major Cost Categories.

Category	\$Change	%Change	% of FY26 Increase
OOD Placement & Transportation	\$ 1,263,534	31.3%	40%
Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 183,658	11.5%	6%
Retirement	\$ 121,843	9.7%	4%
Insurance	\$ 496,169	9.5%	16%
Salaries	\$ 699,455	2.9%	22%
Total	\$ 2,767,205	7.6%	88%

OOD: Out of District

% of Total Expense Increase by Major Cost Category*



*After Offsets



Actions Taken to Reduce FY26 Operating Budget

TOT \$ Impact*	FTE Impact	Description
(\$82,853)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE HS Business Teaching Position; Redeploy 1.0 FTE from DL Existing
(\$55,107)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE HS Support Staff Position (Attrition)
(\$15,000)	0.0	Defer Fraud Assessment until FY27
(\$15,000)	0.0	Defer HS Student Activity Accounts Audit until FY27
(\$55,000)	0.0	Math Resources for Algebra 1 & 2, and Geometry (1 Year vs 6 Year Subscription)
(\$93,801)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE HS Nurse Position
(\$110,314)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE MS Librarian Position
(\$68,750)	0.0	Increase ALL Athletic & Co-Curricular User Fees by 12.5%
(\$76,318)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE HS Adjustment Counselor Position
(\$49,105)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE HS General Ed Paraprofessional Position
(\$50,000)	0.0	Discretionary Cost Reductions Placeholder - TBD by Administration
(\$117,134)	0.0	Do not Replace WL Dept Head in FY26 after 10/1/25 Retirement
(\$35,128)	(1.0)	Reduce 1.0 FTE Security Staff Position
(\$10,000)	0.0	Increase Student Parking Fees from \$100 to \$150
(\$833,510)	(7.0)	TOTALS



Path Forward and Summary

- Regional agreement states that a budget must pass in two out of the three member towns to be adopted (town meeting and ballot)
 - Failure in Middleton and pass in other two towns: Regional agreement states Masco budget would pass and Middleton would fund budget by pulling funds from other municipal departments
 - Failure in two towns would produce a failed budget resulting in up to \$1.6M in additional cuts. Estimate this would lead to an additional 20-25 staff/teacher layoffs
- By supporting the \$467k override, Middleton will benefit from \$2.4M in services and prevent prospective cuts up to \$1.6M

Backup



FY26 Capital Items

Project Name		Est. Cost
HVAC Electrification Feasibility Study		\$156,500
Softball and Track & Field Feasibility Study		16,150
High School Elevator Modernization Project		207,639
Middle School Elevator Modernization Project		198,712
Press Box Building Lift Replacement Project		111,000
Capital Cost Total:		\$690,000



FY26 Masconomet Budget Overview

<i>Expenses</i>		<i>FY26 SC Adopted Amount</i>	<i>FY25 to FY26</i>	
			<i>Chg \$</i>	<i>Chg %</i>
General Operating Expenses (After Offsets)		\$ 43,824,886	\$ 3,148,650	7.7%
Capital Costs		\$ 690,000	\$ 290,000	72.5%
Total Expenditures		\$ 44,514,886	\$ 3,438,650	8.4%
Total Funding Sources		\$ 8,117,411	\$ 685,020	9.2%
Net Assessment				
Operating Assessment		\$ 35,707,475	\$ 2,463,630	7.4%
Capital Assessment		\$ 690,000	\$ 290,000	72.5%
Total Assessment		\$ 36,397,476	\$ 2,753,630	8.2%