



Julie Williams <julie_williams@sudbury.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: Response to SPS email

1 message

Karyn Jones <karyn_jones@sudbury.k12.ma.us>
To: Julie Williams <julie_williams@sudbury.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 11:58 AM

can you also put this email in the packet under the community communication?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Garofalo, Victor** <GarofaloV@sudbury.ma.us>

Date: Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 2:11 PM

Subject: RE: Response to SPS email

To: Karyn Jones <karyn_jones@sudbury.k12.ma.us>, Sheehan, Andy <SheehanA@sudbury.ma.us>

Karyn,

I am writing to formally correct several material inaccuracies contained in Ms. Burnard's email regarding the fiscal projections presented at the January 14–15 meetings.

First, the figures cited in her summary mischaracterize the relationship between the FY28 and FY29 projected deficits. The Town presented an anticipated FY28 structural deficit of approximately \$3.0 million. The projected FY29 deficit of approximately \$5.2 million was inclusive of the FY28 imbalance if left unresolved, it was not presented as an additional deficit on top of FY28.

Stating that FY28 (\$3.0M) and FY29 (\$5.2M) should be aggregated to total \$8.3 million is incorrect. If the FY28 deficit were resolved, the projected FY29 structural gap would be approximately \$2.2 million, not \$5.2 million. The email's aggregation materially overstates the fiscal outlook.

Second, the FY28 deficit projection reflects the School Department's submitted budget forecast, which assumes a 4.48% increase, and 3.66% in FY29. No formal budget guidance has yet been issued by the Town Manager. The 4.48% and 3.66% growth rate exceeds the level of growth assumed for the Town and LS budgets (which reflect approximately 3%). Any formal guidance issued would likely reduce the projected deficit from the currently modeled amount. Therefore, presenting the FY28 and FY29 deficit as a fixed or finalized figure is inaccurate.

Third, with respect to the referenced \$800,000 related to the SEA agreement:

The contract provision provides for an additional 2% increase contingent upon the passage of an override. By definition, a contingent increase tied to override approval is not a structural deficit. If an override does not pass, the 2% increase does not occur. Characterizing this contingent provision as an existing deficit obligation is incorrect and materially misleading.

Finally, the additional FY27 guidance discussed at the meeting is already incorporated into the multi-year projections. It is not additive beyond the projected deficits previously presented.

To summarize clearly:

- FY28 projected structural deficit: ~ \$3.0M
- FY29 projected deficit if FY28 is resolved: ~ \$2.2M
- FY29 projected deficit if FY28 is not resolved: ~ \$5.2M
- There is no factual basis for a \$9M projected override requirement.

The assertion that the Town is projecting a \$9 million override impact is not supported by the data presented at the public meetings.

Given the importance of accurate financial information during override discussions, it is critical that projections are represented precisely and not aggregated in a manner that materially misstates the Town's fiscal position.

Respectfully,
Victor

Victor Garofalo

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

Town of Sudbury

278 Old Sudbury Road

Sudbury MA 01776

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Karyn Jones

Chair, Sudbury School Committee

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