



## ARTICLE 17: A HISTORY OF MODEST BUDGET INCREASES

- Upon Dr. Hunter's arrival in Concord, year over year budget increases have been modest because zero based budgeting allows the district to budget only what they need
- The chart below shows the Concord Public Schools year over year budget increases

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
3.9%	2.99%	3.5%	2.28%	3.12%	4.7%



## ARTICLE 17: LOOKING OUT FOR TAXPAYERS

- Despite modest increases to the school's operating budgets, in 2021, the Concord School Committee voted to RETURN MONEY TO FREE CASH when the year ended with a budget surplus
- 2021:
  - CPS returned \$137K free cash
  - CCRSD put \$200K into a stabilization fund to offset tax impact to pave ring road on campus



## ARTICLE 17: 2021 and 2022 PROJECTIONS

- In 2021 the Finance Committee began requesting 5 yr projections
  - In Fall 2021, we projected a 4.1% FY24 budget increase
  - In Fall 2022, we projected a 4.3% FY24 budget increase
- This projection was BEFORE:
  - Ukraine and unprecedented inflation
  - The State of MA authorized the private schools settings that service some of our special education students to raise their tuitions by 14%
- Yet we were still able to arrive at a budget that nearly matched our projection despite these unforeseen obstacles



## ARTICLE 17: A LEVEL SERVICE BUDGET

- Given that our 4.7% increase represents a level service budget, we did not have flexibility in our operating budget
  - Pandemic Learning Loss
  - Unprecedented Mental Health Crisis
  - Inflation affecting supplies, utilities
- Reducing the budget to the Finance Committee's recommended guideline would directly impact programs and services to students



## ARTICLE 17: LOOK AHEAD TO ARTICLE 18

- We did see an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to fiscal discipline when looking at our FY24 Capital Budget
- The Concord Public Schools are allocated \$900K annually to ensure that our building assets are properly maintained
- As we listened this year to the fiscal concerns of the Finance Committee, the School Committee elected to reduce our capital ask by from \$900K to \$495K, THEREBY SAVING TAXPAYERS \$400K



## ARTICLE 17: IN CONCLUSION

- “A school committee must be responsive to its constituencies in governance, sensitive to the diverse needs of all learners, an **advocate for students and learning before the people of the community** and, as such, a vigorous ambassador for public education before all citizens” – MASC
- “The Superintendent and the School Committees’ **primary responsibility is to represent and advocate for the needs and interests of all students in the districts.** School Committee members and representatives agree to thoughtfully seek and support solutions that will provide the greatest benefit to students” – Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee FY23 Protocols