

RTM Ed and BOE work group  
April 8th  
Town Hall Auditorium 7:32

RTM members:

Curtis Butler, Sheila Sherwood, Lucy Fiore, Theresa Vogt, Clara Sartori, Sarah Neumann, Barbara Thorne, Ann Reed, Petr Marousek, Karen MacNicoll, Janet Grogan, Liza Lucas

Not in attendance- - Jay Hardison. Ed Washecka or Carolina McGooley

BOE- All in attendance except David Brown

CDSP audience- Julie Best, Catherine Piorkowski, Sara Parent

Review of RTM Ed committee questions with BOE-

Budget book- Transparent but large. Suggestion to add more detail to the book, information that seems to come up year after year.

RC Summary- 3 year actual comparisons- Quarterly budget meetings have the actuals but difficult to see the information. In October, a report is produced that shows what is left over, etc.

Enrollment:

Self-reporting. Census data more accurate. Possible 86 children coming into town in the new development. Discussion over how to quantify the students who live in Darien who are not enrolled in the district. Discussion about Darien students attending other schools- do we pay for transportation? No. the money does not follow the child.

Personnel-

Data in the book. Union agreements vary- teachers come in at different pay levels. No voucher system- teachers receive \$30 for covering a class. Difficult to gauge need on a daily basis with qualified staff. Interns can be used as a substitute at times.

Covering other classes is a voluntary arrangement.

School climate survey- focus groups this past spring. Important to look at the schools holistically.

Student activity accounts- stipends are not operational and not in this budget. These accounts are not in this budget. Money to be put in for kids to be spent on the kids.

\$551,000 of the \$555,000 budget is for contractual increase. Majority of teachers are already hired.

Elementary schools-

Narrative for the school psychologists was great. Sub account was discussed at a BOE meeting. Subs for meetings and teacher absence. Activity accounts such as the math club, etc. Driven by student desire. No stipends out of activity accounts.

Athletics-

Deep dive was not good enough for some. Questions will be taken from the RTM Education committee to be discussed at the meeting to come. Questions regarding Athletic policies, costs, captains, etc. BOE does not ask the DAF for projects- DAF suggests. Overall strategy to cover costs to be discussed. Safety equipment is determined to be a necessity for BOE to cover. Off-site costs to hopefully be discussed in the future- right now traditional agreements will be honored.

#### Maintenance

Security measures- discussed but not completely transparent. Plans are filed with the state. Cameras, Blue light system are new. Lockdown drills occur. New entries at MMS and Holmes. Some security measures are not publicly discussed. State of CT has guidelines that we have adopted. SRO has been recommended for MMS. Speakers are now in place at the outside of the elementary schools to reach students and staff who are outside.

#### Technology-

Maintenance costs are in house. iPads are \$450. Families pay for broken iPads. The roll out has worked as expected.

#### Administration

FOI log is public- just email a request to the Superintendent.

#### Curriculum-

Questions- 16 FTE's are curricular- athletic director and SRBI specialists are counted there also. 12.5 instructional support specialists working directly with students. Going forward, the Department chairs are not going to be teaching students.

#### Finance-

Costs for open.gov. We need to determine costs and what the BOE will get out of it. BOE will look at it- costs and cost of time spent.

#### Summer school-

ESY students do not pay. All others do.

#### Special Education-

We will be more proactive going forward in building programs. Short answer is yes (Fitch, etc). Outplacement cost is very specific. Agreements made in PPTs to educate the child in the least restrictive environment. Labels do exist but do not wholly describe the child and cannot predict program needs for certain disabilities. District tries to accommodate disabilities in district if possible. Some costs can be shared with other towns (continuing ed costs with Stamford for those over 18, for example). Unilateral placements- parent choice. Settlements are contractually binding. Yes we do need the 6 SPED secretaries. They are assisting the SPED staff- under the secretarial union.

Fixed expenses- transportation-  
No additional questions.

General -

Shared services? Consortiums for buying through the state. Continuing education with Stamford, facilities with the Y. Transportation with other towns when possible. Groups meet within schools to share professional development expenses, etc.

Administration priority list - BOE has Superintendent to run the schools and the plan to run them. What are other items like the school psychologists that was mentioned before but not in the previous budgets? At times the need has not been quantified and ready to be brought forth.

Budget books- Book is always online. Let the BOE know if you do not want a paper copy. Let the BOE know if you want one.

Health insurance savings - around \$500k.

Clara made a motion to adjourn and Barbara Thorne seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm