

**WHS Site Council
Meeting with Superintendent
(With WMS Representatives)
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
6:30 pm at Central Office (30 Common Street)**

1. Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Main costs are personnel – 265 Professional staff (250 teaching FTEs plus central office and principals) plus IA, Secretarial, Custodial and Maintenance and other.

Introduction of components of budget planning process

Circuit breaker funds were supposed to be 75% for high cost spec needs -- now about 40%

- Technology piece of operating will need to increase to compensate for reduce capital funds

Town manager is asking for level funding and -5% budget from schools

State budget is coming out in March -- expect cuts

ARRA (stimulus) -- fed. -- for SPED -- \$500K -- fund "cliff" -- can't continue programs

Tuition for out-placements --> building in-district programs

-- may need new programs for rising students middle->high school

Circuit breaker – governor has proposed 47% reimbursement -- not 75% as in the past

Four issues:

- Maintain Class Size
 - Special Ed in District
 - Technology
 - Supplies

Class sizes:

middle school core classes are 24-25 --- but with SPED etc, the average is 21

Now 6-12 coordinators -- so have fewer teachers (at least some sections)

Hosmer -- now 4 kindergarten classes

About 1/3 Former Limited English Proficiency (FLEP) -- like Waltham and Marlborough

WHS size expected to move from 698 to 750.

Special Ed in District

Currently approximately \$14 million in SPED costs (\$5 million in tuition)

Significant savings in keeping special ed in district

Technology:

-- "Literacy21"

-- classroom websites

-- virtual highschool

-- media courses

-- ...

libraries --> "learning commons"

Technology funds:

FY 10 being split between this year and next (i.e., 250 per year)

wanted \$200K per year ongoing

BY FY13 -- need to retire machines -> even more cost

Supplies

Classroom supplies have been cut into -- but probably too much
-- science supplies, textbooks, etc...

Advocacy by Parents is Key:

school committee was updated re budget on 3/1

- level dollar and level service (=maintain positions, with increased costs, step raises etc.) ?
- 3/15 special school cmtee meeting
- public hearing in April ... town vote in June

curricular issues --- how is this being dealt with?

-- why is this not on the budget discussion front?

-- was part of some earlier meetings ...

-- there is some description of specifics in the "budget book" -- e.g., each curriculum coordinator will have narrative

4/15 public hearing for school committee (tentative)

do a connect ed message to advertise the meeting?...

Parent Representatives to Advisory Committee for Headmaster Search

WHS Site Council discussed process for choosing WHS parent representatives for Headmaster Search Advisory committee. Central Office will send out a connect-ed message informing all WHS parents of process and soliciting volunteers for advisory committee. Each interested parent will submit name and paragraph describing their background and interest to James Morrissey, HR Director. All candidate names and bios would be provided to WHS site council members for voting. Two top vote-recipients (with children in different grades) would be chosen.

Key dates for availability: 3/23, 3/31, 4/1, 4/6, 4/9 (F)

Next meeting

Planned for November 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.