

2007-2008 Budget Guidelines

We are fortunate to live in a town that both demands and supports an excellent school system. The School Administration has identified system needs to ensure continued excellence. These needs, summarized in a comprehensive Long Range Plan, were approved by the School Committee, and supported by faculty and the community. The following general guidelines are meant to guide the School Administration in preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2008. These guidelines reflect the Town's desire to maintain the overall strength of the school system by supporting the implementation of the Long Range Plan while recognizing continuing local and general economic challenges.

Preserve Excellence in Curriculum and Instruction

Execution of the Long Range Plan requires that we provide adequate resources and funding for its major components: the continued implementation of the Standards Based Initiative, the continuation of the Five-Year Curriculum Program Review, the enhancement of Differentiated Instruction, coordinated implementation of the Wellness Program and the Global Initiative. At the core of our efforts will be preserving the quality of our programs and services that enable all students to reach high standards and expectations, in addition to achieving adequate yearly progress toward 2014 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) performance goals. Equally important is the successful resolution of our collective bargaining settlements as quality faculty and staff are so vital to our success. Negotiation efforts have been centered on maintaining competitive, affordable and equitable contracts.

Maintain a Safe and Secure Environment and Infrastructure

The budget should continue to support safe, secure and educationally sound school environments, while seeking energy conservation and appropriate efficiencies to reduce costs. We should continue to collaborate with the Town to achieve economies of scale in the maintenance and operation of our facilities. We should continue routine maintenance of our facilities, regular building reviews and the multi-year capital project plan. .

Maintain the Rate of Budget Growth at a Responsible Level

The School Administration must continue to carefully examine spending to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness as we emerge from the effects that prior years' budget restraint may have had on the stability and strength of our school system. Although substantially addressed in FY06 and FY07 Budgets, the FY08 Budget should continue the progress made while being sensitive to the impact on the Town's short and long-term financial security and tax burden. The budget should reflect continued efforts to improve efficient use of human resources, energy and supplies.