

WESTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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CYNTHIA D. MAHR
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To: Cheryl Maloney
Weston School Committee

From: Cynthia D. Mahr

Date: January 7, 2009

Re: FY'10 Budget Narrative

Please find attached the FY'10 Superintendent's Recommended Budget for your review. This budget has been developed through a collaborative process involving the school leadership. The Administration used the School Committee's Budget Guidelines and the Superintendent's Long Range Plan to make decisions about what to bring forward in this budget, mindful of the fiscal constraints of the Town. The FY'10 Superintendent's Recommended Budget is \$31,836,141 or a 5.66% increase over FY'09.

Budget Document:

The budget document contains information by Cost Center and Category of Expense. The Cost Center provides a summary page and line item detail for each school and district-wide function. Within each school or function the budget detail is presented by program area. The Category of Expense groups the line items by major expense categories such as Salaries and Other Compensation, Utilities, etc. Within each major category, individual "object codes" or sub-categories such as Substitute Salaries, Electricity, etc. further break down the budget.

The FY'09 Adjusted Budget is used as the basis for calculating the dollar and percentage changes in FY'10. The Adjusted Budget reflects the updated projected costs for FY'09 as of November for all major categories.

The Appendices section of the FY'10 Superintendent's Recommended Budget book includes the following schedules and additional information supporting the budget:

- Equipment and Furniture Schedule
- Deferred Equipment
- Capital Budget Request
- Town/School Facility Department
- Breakout of Supplies, Services, and Other Expenses
- District Enrollment Projections

Budget Overview:

The FY'10 Superintendent's Recommended Budget continues support for core services to students, addresses facility maintenance, enrollment needs based on class size policies, and introduces program improvements that are priorities for the district. The following is a brief explanation of the budget changes by school or function.

Country School:

Personnel:

Savings: (\$3,523)

Based on the anticipated enrollments at the Country School, the budget includes reducing one Grade 2 section and increasing one Grade 3 section. Art, Music, Physical Education and World Language have been adjusted accordingly.

Substitutes have been reduced by \$3,523 based on the historical and projected long-term leave data.

Woodland School:

Personnel:

Savings: (\$4,408)

Substitutes have been reduced by \$4,408 based on the historical and projected long-term leave data.

Field School:

Personnel:

Savings: (\$136,821)

Due to changing enrollments, the budget includes reducing one Grade 4 and one Grade 5 section. With this overall decrease, we have adjusted time in Art, Music, World Language and Physical Education accordingly. The budget includes \$8,250 to supplement the Metco funding for the continuation of the summer SOAR program. Although this is a joint Field School and Middle School project, I have placed the funds at Field School.

Substitutes have been reduced by \$7,805 based on the historical and projected long-term leave data.

Middle School:

Personnel:

Cost: \$166,181

Based on the anticipated enrollments at the Middle School, the budget includes adding one Grade 6 section, reducing one Grade 7 and adding two Grade 8 sections. Art, Music, Health, Physical Education, Drama, and World Language have been adjusted accordingly.

The approved Program of Studies changes for school year 2009-2010 are included in the budget. These include the ELA and Math lab, Grade 7 Algebra, Guidance Seminar and restructuring Drama, Music and Dance electives to meet enrollment needs

Non-Personnel:

Cost: \$10,610

The budget includes \$15,180 for the continuation of the Youth Counselor contract to provide increased services to Middle School students. Curriculum materials are provided for Grade 8

short story anthology, Grade 7 Algebra, new Grade 8 music course, athletic supplies and social studies materials.

High School:

Personnel: Cost: \$6,911
The approved Program of Studies changes for school year 2009-2010 are included in the budget. This includes continuing the Mandarin language program to Grade 10.

Non-Personnel: Cost: \$29,211
Additional funds have been included for the replacement of textbooks. These include English (\$3,351), Honors English (\$4,800); World Language (\$11,678) and Science textbooks (\$2,116). The Athletic budget was increased by \$1,200 for additional materials for the sub-varsity level sports.

Facilities Department:

Utilities: Cost: \$98,998
The utilities are budgeted within the Facilities Department accounts by location. In FY'09, we anticipate a deficit in utilities of approximately \$150K driven mainly by current contractual prices for natural gas, gasoline, diesel, and oil pricing. Through friendly school-based competition, the district is seeking ways to reduce utility usage. In the first few months of the fiscal year, we have reduced electricity usage by approximately 10% over FY'08 levels resulting in approximately \$30K in savings. With a continued effort of conservation, we expect the shortfall to decrease. The FY'09 adjusted budget does not currently include funding for this shortfall. Therefore, the increase for FY'10 takes into account the FY'09 projected deficit. Gasoline, heating oil, and diesel bids will result in a reduction to the cost per gallon an average of 88.8% in FY'10.

Information Technology:

Personnel: Cost: \$66,058
The budget includes the creation of a Data Specialist position, as well as, adding additional days across all buildings to ensure summer networking projects are completed and tested prior to the opening of school. Additional hours are added for key staff to ensure proper coverage at buildings throughout the year.

Non-Personnel: Cost: \$5,245
Funds are included for emergency communication equipment and software licensing.

Capital (not in budget): Cost: \$455,000
The capital budget request is for the second phase of the switch replacement project, as well as, the system-wide telephone replacement project.

Special Education:

Personnel: Cost: \$224,232
There are a number of proposed changes to special education staff. While most levels will receive additional staffing, the number of children in pre-school with identified needs in school

year 2009-2010 is predicted to result in a reduction in pre-school aide staffing. Additional inclusion aides at Country, Woodland and Middle Schools are budgeted. The budget proposes creating a new Life Skills program at the Middle School. Without this new program, most of these students would require an outside placement at a greater cost. An additional 0.1 FTE at the Middle School for speech and language services is budgeted. At the High School, an additional teacher to reduce student-to-teacher ratios, increased contact time and oversight of the tutoring program is budgeted. Finally, there are a number of proposed changes to special education staff, particularly tutors and instructional aides, throughout the system. These changes are a result of changing student needs that lead to increases and decreases in hours throughout the system.

Non-Personnel:

Cost: \$172,020

There are a number of contractual service changes. Outplacements are expected to increase overall next year with an increase of \$40K in private school placements and an increase of \$72K in public school placements. Due to these anticipated fluctuations in outside placements, the transportation budget is expected to increase by \$60,097. Below is a summary of the number of outplacements and the associated costs over time.

Fiscal Year	Number of Placements	Total Expended
FY'04	18	\$839,249
FY'05	19	\$917,688
FY'06	22	\$903,215
FY'07	19	\$825,797
FY'08	14	\$833,857
FY'09 Adjusted Budget	18	\$918,423
FY'10 Recommended	21	\$1,030,346

Note: The total expended number above does not include transportation costs or Circuit Breaker funding. It only represents the total amount spent in public, private and home based tuition.

Transportation:

Non-Personnel:

Savings: \$13,839

The gasoline and diesel bid prices for FY'10 will result in fuel savings in FY'10.

Capital (not in budget):

Cost: \$208,500

The capital budget includes funding for the replacement of three (3) 71-passenger school buses. This recommendation continues the fleet replacement schedule developed in FY'08.

Offsets:

Circuit Breaker:

Offset: \$19,464

The Circuit Breaker funding is based on previous year's special education expenses. The legislation provides reimbursement of 75% above \$37,328 for FY'10. The Circuit Breaker funding is 'subject to appropriation;' therefore, if insufficient funds exist to cover the full reimbursement costs statewide, the reimbursement level will be less than 75%. Special education expenses fluctuate throughout the course of the year. The circuit breaker funds were initially created as a revolving fund to allow school districts to carry a surplus from one year to the next. The Circuit Breaker funding is anticipated at approximately \$325K in FY'09 resulting

in a decrease of \$119K from FY09 levels. Due to a significant increase in special education costs, we anticipate using approximately \$100K of a prior year's surplus.

Pre-School Revolving:

Offset: (\$20,000)

The Weston Windows program is available to all pre-school children with identified special education needs. In addition, a similar number of typically developing children can attend the program at a reasonable tuition. Over the past few years, the tuition level has increased slightly. The rate for FY'09 is \$7,400; a rate has not been set for FY'10. The additional \$20K in revenue is based on our current (FY'09) tuition paying students.

Other Funding Sources:

WEEFC provides an invaluable resource to the District. WEEFC provides significant funding in support of professional development activities, equipment purchases, and creative arts. The School District is greatly enhanced by the commitment of Weston residents who contribute both financially and through their volunteer hours.

The WPS budget is supplemented by state, federal and private grants. Below is a table summarizing the funding sources for the current year and the past three years.

Funding Source	FY'2006	FY'2007	FY'2008	FY'2009 Budgeted
Chapter 70 Funding	\$1,480,950	\$1,790,526	\$2,217,819	\$2,608,444
Town Appropriation	\$24,543,238	\$25,415,911	\$26,494,210	\$27,523,244
Total General Fund Budget:	\$26,024,188	\$27,206,437	\$28,712,029	\$30,131,688
State Grants (MA DOE / MA DPH)	\$ 1,224,991	\$ 1,285,332	\$ 1,465,403	\$ 1,472,035
Federal Grants (MA DOE / Fed. DOE)	\$ 678,730	\$ 643,827	\$ 899,562	\$ 1,191,698
Local / Private Grants (WEEFC, etc.)	\$ 692,416	\$ 601,869	\$ 620,659	\$ 276,877
Revolving Funds	\$ 516,825	\$ 476,141	\$ 417,640	\$ 444,340
Total Weston Public School Funding:	\$29,137,150	\$30,213,606	\$32,115,293	\$33,516,638

The FY'2009 Local/Private grant includes grants awarded by WEEFC through December 31, 2008, as well as, a \$10K grant from the Medical Foundation..

The state and federal grants are earmarked for particular needs. Weston does not always qualify for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) grants as they are often distributed based on a communities demographics.

Budget Summary:

The Recommended FY'10 Budget provides for level service and program improvements necessary to sustain the excellent educational system in Weston. There are a number of charts and graphs following that will provide an overview of the budget (current and historical), as well as a profile of our staffing. I hope you will find these helpful.

I look forward to the budget deliberations. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Thank you.