

WESTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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CYNTHIA D. MAHR
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To: Alan Oliff
Weston School Committee

From: Cynthia D. Mahr

Date: January 7, 2008

Re: FY'09 Budget Narrative

Please find attached the FY'09 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'09 Superintendent's Recommended Budget is \$29,802,688 or a 3.8% increase over FY'08.

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'08 Adjusted Budget Two is used as the basis for calculating the dollar and percentage changes in FY'09. The Adjusted Budget reflects the updated projected costs for FY'08 as of December for all major categories.

The Appendices section of the FY'09 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'09 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: Cost: \$0
Based on the anticipated enrollments at the Country School, the budget includes reducing one Grade 1 section and increasing one Grade 2 section. Art, Music, Physical Education and World Language have been adjusted accordingly.

Non-Personnel: Cost \$1,500
With the additional Grade 2 classroom, the budget includes \$1,500 for classroom and teaching supplies.

Woodland School:

Personnel: Savings: (\$129,208)
Based on the anticipated enrollments at the Woodland School, the budget includes reducing one Kindergarten section and reducing one Grade 3 section. Art, Music, Physical Education and World Language have been adjusted accordingly.

Field School:

Personnel: Cost: \$66,475
Due to changing enrollments, the budget includes adding one Grade 5 section. With this overall increase, we have increased time in Art, Music, World Language and Physical Education.

Middle School:

Personnel: Cost: \$82,504
Based on the anticipated enrollments at the Middle School, the budget includes reducing one Grade 6 section and adding two Grade 7 sections. Art, Music, Health, Physical Education, Drama, and World Language have been adjusted accordingly. The FY'09 budget also includes an additional section of Grade 7 band.

Non-Personnel: Cost: \$10,600
The budget includes \$1,200 for Athletic game uniform replacements and \$9,400 for the replacement of the diving board and stand.

High School:

Personnel: Cost: \$134,952
The approved Program of Studies changes for school year 2008-2009 are included in the budget. These include the restructuring of the Drama electives; continuation of the Mandarin program at the High School level; the elimination of the English topics courses; and the restructuring of the

Pre-Calculus Part Two with Statistics. In addition, we have funded a 1.0 FTE to reduce class sizes in English, History and Science. Based on the anticipated Guidance Review recommendation, additional leadership and staff time have been added. A stipend of \$4,000 has been included to coordinate the Student Exchange Program. In FY'09, the Weston Public Schools will have study abroad options in Brazil, France, Uganda, and China.

Non-Personnel: Cost: \$52,403
Additional funds have been included for the replacement of textbooks. These include Intermediate Spanish I (\$12,050), AP Statistics (\$10,920); Geometry/Honors Geometry (\$8,000) and Biology textbooks (\$11,165). The Athletic budget was increased by \$1,300 for additional police coverage for home games and additional trainer coverage at hockey games.

Facilities Department:

Utilities: Cost: \$12,599
The utilities are budgeted within the Facilities Department accounts by location. In FY'09, our natural gas contract will expire. In working with the Town, we estimate this contract to increase 3%. The District has implemented an energy conservation program that we anticipate will continue to reduce our energy reliance and costs in fiscal year 2009.

Non-Personnel: Cost: \$2,195
The budget proposes to increase the cleaning supplies by 2.5% at each location for a total of \$1,750 district-wide. In addition, we have increased the uniform accounts per our collective bargaining agreement.

Equipment: Cost: 5,350
The equipment requests include a high volume carpet/floor dryer; high-speed burnisher; mop bucket; custodial cart; and entry mats.

Capital (not in budget): Cost: \$171,000
The capital budget request is for paving at three locations. These include the Middle School/High School bus road, completion of the High School road, and Case House parking lot.

Information Technology:

Capital (not in budget): Cost: \$265,000
The capital budget request is for replacement computers for instructional purposes. The funds requested are part of a five-year capital plan (year 5 of 5).

Special Education:

Personnel: Cost: \$68,195
There are a number of proposed changes to special education staff. Based on the number of children in pre-school with identified needs in school year 2008-2009, the budget includes a reduction in pre-school aide staffing. An additional inclusion aide at Woodland School is budgeted. Finally, the budget proposes creating a new Life Skills program. We anticipate this program will serve 4-6 students. Without this new program, most of these students would require an outside placement at a greater cost. The Life Skills program will include a 1.0 teacher and additional hours for the aide. 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 students' need changes that lead to increases and decreases in hours throughout the system.

Non-Personnel:

Cost: \$5,309

There are a number of contractual service changes. Outplacements are expected to increase overall next year with an increase of \$16K in private school placements and an increase of \$7K in public school placements. Due to these anticipated fluctuations in outside placements, the transportation budget is expected to decrease by \$19,681. 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 Adjusted Budget	14	\$729,193
FY'09 Recommended	14	\$752,203

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: (\$20,543)

In fiscal year 2003, two buses were purchased through lease-to-own financing. The final lease payments were made in FY'08 resulting in a savings of \$19,000 in FY'09. The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority increases the tolls, and therefore, we have increased the budget to cover this additional expense. Over the past two years, we have replaced 6 gasoline buses with 6 diesel vehicles. The budget reflects that shift in costs.

Capital (not in budget):

Cost: \$290,500

The capital budget includes funding for the replacement of four (4) 71-passenger school buses. This recommendation continues the fleet replacement schedule developed in FY'08.

Offsets:

Circuit Breaker:

Offset: (\$187,556)

The Circuit Breaker funding is based on previous year's special education expenses. The legislation provides reimbursement of 75% above \$35,408 for FY'09. 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. In FY'08, we were fortunate to integrate students back into Weston High School. 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 reduced costs in special education in FY'08 will be reflected in our circuit breaker reimbursement in FY'08. In FY'09, we have increased the offset to the level of \$330K.

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'08 is \$7,300; a rate has not been set for FY'09. The additional \$20K in revenue is based on our current (FY'08) tuition paying students.

Transportation

Offset: (\$18,446)

The Weston Public Schools provides transportation to Meadowbrook and Roxbury/Weston Pre-School. Both organizations reimburse the Town for the actual cost. In previous years, the revenue has gone to the Town's general fund. Working collaboratively with the Town, this revenue source has shifted to the schools as an offset to the Transportation budget.

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.

Budget Summary:

The Recommended FY'09 Budget provides for level service and program improvements necessary to sustain the excellent educational system in Weston. I look forward to the budget deliberations. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Thank you.