

Wallingford Public Schools

Budget Workshop #1

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Clarifying Questions

**Can you explain the role of
the Communications
Specialist?**

Communications Specialist

Responsibilities for the Communications Specialist would include but not be limited to the following:

- communicate to the public on behalf of WPS through social media,
- write and publish press releases,
- attend and report on local events and WPS-sponsored meetings,
- and act as spokesperson for the WPS, as authorized.

The superintendent would still be the official spokesperson for the district.

Clarifying Questions

Can you explain the role of the grant writer and which other districts have one?

Grant Writer

Responsibilities for the Grant Writer would include but not be limited to the following:

- locate and identify grants for which the district may be eligible,
- research and collect necessary data for such grants,
- coordinate the writing of grants with district personnel,
- submit grants in a timely manner for consideration.

Districts that have grant writers include:*

- Ansonia
- Meriden
- Hamden
- Stafford
- Stamford
- Torrington
- Vernon

*This list is based on responses to requests of districts in the state.

Clarifying Questions

**Can you explain the role of
the Dean of Students?**

Dean of Students

Responsibilities for the Dean of Students would include but not be limited to the following:

- assist with chairing PPTs, Section 504 meetings and SRBI meetings,
- assist with student discipline,
- assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of intervention/curriculum programs that meet the needs of all students,
- assist in preparing and maintaining district and state reports,
- work with the Principal to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for students.

Clarifying Questions

What is the cause in the decrease in textbook funding?

Textbooks

- Each year the amount budgeted for textbooks is dependent on revised curriculum and student need.
- The curriculum office has a review cycle in place and textbooks will be proposed as the curriculum is revised.
- As we have done in the past, we anticipate the use of unencumbered funds to purchase the textbook needs for next school year.

Clarifying Questions

**How many retirements are
we projecting?**

Projected Retirements

- **9 Teachers**
- **1 Administrator**
- **2 Paraeducators**

Clarifying Questions

Please provide more information about the requested Medical Careers/Certified Nursing Assistant position.

Medical Careers/ CAN Teacher

- An additional 10 students will be placed in the new CNA class.
- This additional teacher would also provide the opportunity to offer new courses such as medical terminology and record keeping.
- An additional 50 students would be impacted.

Clarifying Questions

Please provide information about the district's approach with assistive technology as related to its use with students and training for staff.

Assistive Technology

- The District does have an Assistive Technology Team. It is in its second year of existence.
- Assistive Technology resources are provided to identified students as determined appropriate through the Planning and Placement Team process (PPT).
- Professional development has been offered from the team to staff, but more needs to be done in this area.
- Professional development needs to be for the special educator and classroom teachers.
- We are interviewing outside consultants for assistance on this plan.

Clarifying Questions

At what levels do we have co-teaching between a special education teacher and a general education teacher?

How does co-teaching work in our district?

Co-Teaching

Middle School and High School

- All of the middle school and high school special education teachers "co-teach" several classes with the exception of our teachers in specialized programs (ARTS, Inspire high and middle).

Elementary School

- Elementary special education teachers provide in-class and out-of-class support, but they do not officially co-teach.
- Most elementary teachers are using an "inclusive, push in" model when they are teaching in the general education environment.

Co-Teaching

- Special Education teachers develop and deliver specialized instruction on an individualized basis, but not for every special education student.
- We are in the process of assessing our co-teaching models.
- There are advantages to using different models depending on student need and subject matter.

Clarifying Questions

Must the 1% account be used or may a portion of the amount be used and the remainder be reserved if needed?

1% Account

- A new 1% account is established each year with the funds remaining from the prior fiscal year.
- These funds do not lapse.

Clarifying Questions

How many employees are not eligible to join a union?

Non-Union Members

- 291 employees are not eligible to join a union.
- These employees are comprised of:
 - Central Office Administration
 - Athletic coaches
 - Permanent part-time and full-time employees
 - Security
 - Greeters
 - Lunch/Recess
 - Part-Time Clerks
 - Certified Nursing Assistants
 - College and Career Specialists
 - Superintendent's Administrative Assistant
 - Adult Education tutors and per diem teachers
- These numbers do not include employees who work for the district on an inconsistent basis.

Clarifying Questions

**How did the Facility Study
impact the budgeting
process?**

Facility Study Impact on Budget

- The maintenance and capital items in the budget will be in flux until a final decision is made as to next steps in the Facility Study.
- Items included in the Strategic Plan budget have been determined to be necessary prior to the potential 5 – 10 year waiting period for building renovations.

Clarifying Questions

Please provide more information on the oil tank replacements.

Can these be Capital requests to the mayor?

Oil Tanks

- The 5 oil tanks that are required to be replaced first are already included in the bondable list of items for the mayor.
 - Cook Hill Elementary
 - Mary G. Fritz Elementary
 - Highland Elementary
 - Rock Hill Elementary
 - Pond Hill Elementary
- They should not in the Strategic Plan Budget for this year's request.

Clarifying Questions

**Please explain the Foods
Service Equipment request.**

Food Services Request

- The following equipment items for Food Services are already being completed with funds allocated this year.
 - Convection Steamer Oven at Sheehan High school
 - Electric Convection Oven at Sheehan High School
 - Warmer at Dag Hammarskjöld Middle School

Revised Budget Numbers

	Financial Request	Percentage Increase
Sustained Services Budget	\$104,138,962	2.40%
Strategic Plan Budget	\$2,829,850	2.78%
Combined Total Request	\$106,968,812	5.18%