

RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 90 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
**January 22, 2022**

Cost Center	Questions	Answer/ Follow Up
<b>Special Services</b>	What do the HS supervisor positions plan to accomplish?	The replacement of the chairperson roles in counseling and special education with the supervisor roles allows us to provide further support to students and faculty as our high school populations' needs change.  These supervisor positions are funded by a HS Asst. Principal reduction.
	Is it accurate that Special Education students make up 14 percent of the population, but only 16% of the budget?	Yes. That is accurate.
	Given all the legal mandates and the budget stay flat? Does special services have a budget contingency?	None of our cost centers budget for staffing contingencies
	What proportion of the students who are referred are eligible?	Between 60-65% of students referred in K-12 are found eligible, and closer to 75% found eligible for PreK.
	Can you explain the increase of 8.3 percent for secretaries?	This is inclusive of contractual salary obligations and a category shift in job classification.
	Can you offer stipends to families for transporting their own children?	We will look into that option- and we have had to do that in the past due to bus shortages related to COVID..
	How many of the one third of the families that do not qualify, mount a legal challenge?	Will find an answer and report back to the board.
	Supportive of transportation ideas and curious of mitigation for keeping students in the district?	The district is working on strategies to mitigate transportation costs.
	Would the district consider transportation vouchers for parents of students in outplacement schools?	We have done this in the past out of necessity. Will investigate this option further.

<b>Curriculum</b>	Multi year licenses - Do we know when they increase long term?	There is a financial savings when you purchase multi-year licenses versus single year-licenses. For example, in Big Ideas (mathematics) for grades 6-8, a 1-year subscription is ~\$25,000 while a 3-year subscription is ~\$55,000. We negotiate with each vendor to bring down prices as much as possible. In FY22 we have not purchased multi-year subscriptions, see <a href="#">here</a>
	Was there something else that you wanted that you did not ask for?	We believe that this budget sets us up for the innovations moving forward while meeting the immediate needs of our students, teachers and administrators.
	Transfer of expenses - where are correlations in other budgets?	There was ~\$216,000 transfer for digital instructional tools originally budgeted in the technology budget. These are products that contain curricular content or are digital assessments. There is still ~\$150,000 budgeted in FY23 in the technology budget on the existing line for digital platforms. These would be platforms that house information, for example our Google platform.
	List of digital tools and prices	Click <a href="#">here</a> for list of digital tools by cost center
<b>Elementary</b>	Are these roles, elementary supervisor, in the wrong budget (implying SPED budget, not elementary)?	While PPTs and special education meetings are a big part of the supervisor's role, special education is not their sole role, and thus these positions are not in the special education budget.
	In a year with increased inflation, property tax, and everyone is asking to do more with less, our enrollment isn't supporting this ask. The ask for administrative positions - we are encouraging you to rethink how this will help children directly.	<p>This is more than checking the boxes. We do not have the capability to run the buildings with the number of meetings, PPT's, behavior, instructional tasks. We are looking at teacher leadership structure at the three smaller schools- however, it is not manageable to do this with the growing population at the elementary level.</p> <p>Enrollment is not decreasing at the elementary level.</p> <p>While our leadership team did review the DRG data, what was most important for us was to look at our needs and values and determine what was necessary for us. These positions are necessary. It is beyond compliance, and our ability to run our schools.</p>
	Increase in needs for students, administration is required at each PPT meeting. Increase in PPT meetings requires more time of the administrator. Trying to understand if this is the driver. Compliance is a driver for this.	This is one of the drivers. It is not the only one. The demand on the schools is growing across a variety of aspects of the school.

	Are the two teachers added last year in this budget?	Yes, an additional 4.5 staff were added over the summer. Increasing the budget salary line that wasn't there from year to year. We stay the course with our class size guidelines.
	Are we discussing essentials for elementary? (example: Art)? Is the district coming back to the board with an analysis of elementary essentials?	<p>We are not asking for increased essentials at this time. We have been working, since the spring, on a study of the K-12 departments, the pathways and student access across all essentials. The K-12 Music Department was the first of the series of essential department presentations. The results of the department studies will set up our analysis of the essentials at the elementary level.</p> <p>This school year we are enjoying art off the carts and back in art rooms, the implementation of Art Leap for students seeking art enrichment and are looking forward to celebrating student art at all levels in a variety of ways.</p>
<b>Middle School</b>	SBRI interventionist - can you explain this position more and is there someone already doing that now?	The role addressing behavior concerns is a 1.0 to be split between both schools. With the increased need, we need personnel to work with students. Similar to how we have our MTSS process for Math/Literacy. We do the same for behavior. If we were able to split that, we would be able to transfer that work for tier 2 and 3 interventions. Our counselors/school psychologists are also providing support to meet goals related to SPED/504. This role impacts ALL students.
	Is there something that you really wanted to have in the budget that you could not add this year.	We need the SRBI behavioral interventionists. We wanted one at each school.
	In 2020-21 the sub line was double what you thought it would be, your budget is consistent with years past. Is that what you need?	<p>We have kept it flat because of the fluctuations with salaries.</p> <p>Also, it is not a one for one. You might see an increase in the sub line and a decrease in the salary line for a staff member who is not being paid.</p>
	I agree with the support for dyslexia - I think it should be a 1.0, not just .5.	We may request an increase next year, depending on need and population.
	DBT - Does it link to SRBI?	DBT - started 2 years ago. At the MS level, they are trained. They are engaged in skills training/coaching. The new interventionist would be trained as well for tier1 and tier2 support.

<b>RHS</b>	The administrative makeup and layout has a clear rationale. This budget reflects the care for the student body.	This is not to say that we will not change the admin. structure in future years- as this was not an enrollment decision, but rather a decision that reflects the needs and trends we are seeing right now.
	Clubs: supportive of high school clubs.	Yes, this is an important part of our school. We did not add any clubs last year in an effort to keep the budget down.
<b>Athletics</b>	We have about \$36,000 for reduction for pay to play? Is there anything we can do with gate receipts, marketing, and etc.	If we were to increase rates without a reduction in pay to play - concern is about parents paying at the gate, to play, and boosters. So we don't want to increase without having a more clear correlation to other schools (re: gate receipts)
	Setting aside the pay to participate, the board contribution is 12% increase over last year. If we asked you to move it from 12% to 6% could you do that...	If it was reduced, the first place that we would pull back on would be weight room supervision/dues and pay to play. Sport by sport analysis would need to be done. We would also look into the possibility for volunteers for some things. It would be difficult to find a 1 'chunk' to decrease.
	Can you expand on repairs at Tiger Hollow?	Parts of tiger hollow are aging - some equipment repairs two years ago were \$20K. Now we need new ice machines, electric gate maintenance/replacement. etc.
	Is Rugby a new sport?	The Rugby club formed in 2016, if a club has existed as a club, they are able to move to a school sport - Varsity status. Instead of being self-funded, they would be part of the larger budget and gian funding.
<b>Technology</b>	Is there a large cost in creating a life-cycle system? Would this be an ongoing cost?	This budget line will be expanded to support our district's 1:1 initiative. The other half of this line will be for all other needed hardware that will be updated in timed cycles. This line will stay at this size in perpetuity.
	How fast are we fixing trouble tickets?	Depends on the situation, location, priority. It is becoming a management issue. We quadrupled the devices (especially in the elementary schools), so it is more to manage.
	Is Two-Factor Authentication required by towns ?	Not by town but the state insurance broker. All towns and schools in CT are dealing with this new mandate from the insurance companies.
<b>General</b>	No questions	

<b>Services</b>		
<b>Transportation</b>	Do we pay for transportation for magnet schools?	Yes, we are required to. Also, for St. Mary's and Ridgefield Academy.
	What happened to the app for the bus route?	Unfortunately, the buses are equipped for it, and our contract allows for it, but the town doesn't have sufficient cellular coverage to accurately track the buses and allow for accuracy of the information for families.
<b>Facilities</b>	There are some areas that seem discretionary- what if anything would you cut out of here to cover the inflationary pressure?	Will look at district wide equipment and projects. Unfortunately, most often it is school furniture.

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**January 24, 2022**

<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answer/ Follow Up</b>
<b>Special Services/Pupil Personnel</b>	Explain expulsion line	
	Can you explain the increase of 8.3 percent for secretaries?	This is inclusive of contractual obligations and a category shift in job classification.
<b>Curriculum</b>	What is the increase without the tech line?	The increase in the curriculum budget without the technology transfers is approximately \$223,000, which is a 20.53 percent increase from last year's budget.
<b>Elementary</b>	Ridgebury is up double, end of report grand total?	This is due to enrollment.

	FES went up by 5.6%	They used the enrollment in the formula, in addition to one area that required more resources. The LMC for FES specifically.
<b>Middle School</b>	No Questions	
<b>RHS</b>	No Questions	
<b>Athletics</b>	Are there other ways to bring in more revenue in order to lessen the increase?	Will have Dane come back to this
	What part of the switch is part of the methodology?	Up 9.5 percent, not including PTP, Dane will come back
	What would have been that status quo budget without the increase?	
<b>Technology</b>	I would like to see all of our subscriptions on one page, costs and contracts	Working on this. See first version attached above.
<b>General Services</b>	Management consultant line item, what does it cover? It went up 2 percent.	Annual costs - SLAM (demographer), OMNI (457 and 403b consultant), other charges here are for any temporary services help or consulting work for CO. Further, we have cybersecurity consultants as well. Prior FY hired consulting for the Technology Director vacancy. Current FY hired temp(s) to support vacant position(s) in the business office.
<b>Transportation</b>	When is there a new contract for transportation?	Current contract expires June 2023.
<b>Facilities</b>	Oil pricing?	Oil consumption was adjusted to reflect maintaining building heat with covid ventilation protocol and outside air induction. Oil pricing per gallon for next year is also \$1.00 higher than the current budgeted price per gallon.