

Highlights

- Finance Committee – new members 😊
- FYE 2020/2021 budget closeout: returned **\$64,029** back to the town
- Deficit forecast for FYE 2021/2022 = **\$171,380** (Nov 1), **\$131,882** (Dec 1), **\$44,239** (Jan 1) that has been trimmed to **\$3,294** (Feb 1)
 - Largely driven by **-\$345,546** in Series Benefits in Nov 1 and now standing at **-\$64,851**
- Establish committee with town to examine medical insurance costs – administration successful in *proposing* reduction of around **\$550,000** in medical expenses in 2022/2023
- SPED budget savings have declined annually since 2016 (almost all in-house now)
 - From 2015 onwards, the annual budget increase has been offset by cost savings driven by bringing SPED into BRS (approx. 1%-2% of the budget each year)
- Review revenue and cost structures in ancillary programs: E-Day, Pre-K and Summer Enrichment Programs
 - Extended day running on a monthly profit of around \$7,500
- Budget workshops (2022/2023):
 - Significant increase in salaries / benefits across the board for 2022/2023 (prior/contractual)
 - Significant increases forecast in Purchased Services across the board for 2022/2023 (exceeds inflation)
- Capital budget – submission to the town calling for multi-year investments in facilities/infrastructure
- Operating budget – submission to the town for a 13.5% increase – revised down to 8.9%
 - 94% of costs are contractual and/or fixed
 - Rising trend in social and emotional needs – additional support staff

Growth

Budget represents an investment in our school and kiddos.. Curbing investment has consequences!

- **Audit**
 - Internal Audit - checks: semi-annual basis
 - Verification on AR/AP and services + charges
 - Audit cost drivers: quarterly basis (300-900 Series)
 - Consolidation across the town and across BOWA Elementary schools – scale economies
 - Solicit bids for audit/legal services – rotation is good/competitive
 - Consolidate Insurance across town / umbrella
 - Benchmark to peer districts on benefits/contributions
 - Sustainable cost model for REC and E-Day
 - Grants / endowments and revenue sources
 - Copy of the audit report for 2020/2021 – summary / highlights
 - Non-lapsing reserve for any year-end surplus – see Amity BOF article
 - Communicate semiannual budget variances in Town Newspaper (brief commentary)
- **Partnership between District and Town**
 - Update: chart from 2021 Budget Presentation
 - Chart: Net expenditure per child lower than peers – not padding the budget 😊
 - Semi-annual meeting between the BOF and WBOE – on the same page 😊

Challenges

- COST SIDE

- Last quarter inflation around 7.5% (QE/supply chains/great resignation also impacting teaching profession)
- Unexpected capital costs necessary to keep school open (e.g., JACE, oil tank removal)
- Wage negotiations
- Mandated Pre-K
- Unfunded liabilities (i.e., Sick Bank) – stress testing

- REVENUE SIDE

- Decline in ECS (Education Cost Sharing)
 - Number of enrolled students has increased by 100+
 - ECS has declined from \$721k to \$422k
- Town Revenue and an 'Opportunity Cost' = large impact on the school budget!
 - Woodbridge: Property taxes = 93% of Town revenue (6% from Top Ten on the Grand List) while Orange: Property taxes = 89% of Town revenue (13% from Top Ten on the Grand List)
 - Woodbridge: Growing Town fund balance – FB/Exp. 10% to 13% (sitting at \$7.2m)
 - Intergovernmental revenue declined from \$1.65m (2013) to \$1.2m (2021)
 - Country Club = \$7m (in 2009) with annual debt service of \$448,426 (2022/2023) and environmental remediation \$800,000 (2023)
 - Maintaining a 1-2% increase in the mill rate – fiscally responsible to Town taxpayers
 - Opportunity cost to the school of this investment annually = \$448,426 + upkeep costs x 65%

09/01/2021

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Fiscal Services

Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Entitlements
(Entitlements do not include Prior Year Adjustments)

<u>District Code</u>	<u>Town Name</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
51	FAIRFIELD	3,590,008	3,590,008	3,590,008	3,583,484	1,087,165	903,828	1,091,333	1,102,464	1,111,544	1,117,730
107	ORANGE	1,107,407	1,148,336	1,185,863	1,348,918	1,509,226	1,296,813	1,212,215	1,113,620	1,015,496	1,015,498
167	WOODBIDGE	721,370	727,769	732,889	690,472	656,188	569,353	544,689	508,056	471,575	471,575

FRED — Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average

	2007	2009	2011	2012	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
Teacher Salaries	4,423,003	4,765,969	5,184,216	5,438,806	5,613,850	5,925,109	5,795,923	5,963,780	6,139,328
Teacher Salaries / FTE	\$59,770.31	\$65,287.25	\$73,534.98	\$77,146.18	\$76,378.91	\$80,613.73	\$78,323.28	\$78,990.46	\$79,731.53
Enrolment	4	786	733	737	744	796	771	830	847

