

Woodbridge School District 2021-2022 Budget Narrative

November 1, 2021

November 1, 2021 represents four months of the fiscal year, but only two months of the school year. With this report approximately one third of the year has gone by and accounts are firming up. This is the first year end estimate this fiscal year.

100 Series Salaries - Salaries represent 60% of the budget. The balance shown for both certified and non-certified position is \$27,362. While these numbers should remain fairly stable, with a staff of 150, change should be expected.

200 Series Benefits - The district is fully insured. The Business Office has been tracking this budget category because yearend estimates were and are concerning. As you can see the year end estimate for benefits is minus \$370,489. The administration is carefully reviewing discretionary spending and reviewing several other avenues to balance the budget. For the long term we are working with our broker and the Town exploring the potential savings of joining a fully insured consortium or the state plan.

300 Series Purchased Professional Services- This category includes legal, audit and other expenses that are generated on a month-by-month basis and generally a month or two behind in the billing process. A significant amount of Other Professional Services (63900) account includes the cost of the SRO. Revenue from the Extended day program helps to offset the cost of the SRO. The Business Office will start posting those revenues this month in order to insure the budget projection is fairly portrayed.

400 Series Purchased Property Services - The Business Office has been tracking utility expenses. When the projection for electricity rose to \$200,000 and heating to \$100,000 the historic consumption was reviewed. During the 2019-20 fiscal year, \$200,849 was spent on electricity and \$96,597 on heat. It is presumed the 2022-23 Budget for utilities was developed from the consumption used during the height of the pandemic when the school was closed.

500 Series Other Purchased Services - This budget series includes Transportation, Tuition, interns, liability insurance and items that do not fall within the professional services/property services categories. Payments for interns occur at the end of each semester. These are relatively straight-forward in predicting expenses unless there are significant changes in the operation of the school and the student population.

600 Series Materials and Supplies - Except for custodial/maintenance supplies, this category is direct and indirect support for classroom instruction. You can see from the projection some savings will accrue in supplies as each order will be judged on its merit.

700 Series Furniture and Equipment - If funds in this group of accounts has not been expended, it is unlikely they will be used by year end.

800 Series Dues and Fees - This budget category is small but important as it links staff to professional organizations that help keep them up-to-date in their respective academic fields.

900 Series Misc. Expenses - The primary expense in this category is the Ezra Nurse, a non-public health expense we are required by law to maintain. These accounts are under review to see if the full amount will be needed at year end.

Conclusion: The administration will be constantly updating its projections and looking for ways to reduce costs in order to balance the budget at year end. Significant work has already been done to balance the budget and it should be known in two or three months if we can be successful.