

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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“Cape Elizabeth School Department: Open Minds and Open Doors”

Cape Elizabeth School Department School Board Budget Goals FY21

1. *Maintain and improve the high quality of education for every student.*
2. *Careful examination of line items and consideration of the success and effectiveness of the expenditures in order to provide a fiscally responsible budget.*
3. *Support the current strategic plan goals.*
4. *Clear and continual communication throughout the budget process.*

Cape Elizabeth School Department Strategic Plan Goals

1. **Health and Well-Being:** *Our schools will provide a supportive learning environment in which physical, social, and emotional well-being are valued and promoted.*
2. **Global Competency:** *Our students will be personally responsible, aware, empathetic, and engaged local and global citizens.*
3. **Multiple Pathways and Definitions of Success:** *Our schools will value, promote, and celebrate multiple pathways and definitions of success.*
4. **Safe, Sustainable, and Effective Facilities:** *Our schools will be safe and effective facilities. They will be updated and maintained to meet the needs of students and staff in accordance with long-term financial planning.*
5. **Environmental Responsibility:** *The school department will prioritize environmental responsibility, including stewardship and sustainability.*

Budget Update #3

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020 the Cape Elizabeth School Board met with district administrators who provided answers to questions the Board posed regarding their budget requests. In addition, School Business Manager, Marcy Weeks, offered an [explanation](#) of the [ED279 State Subsidy Report](#), and a revised [New Positions Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021](#).

To date, we have not received word about the percentage of increase for health benefits. Currently we have included a 10% increase in the FY21 budget, however we are hoping to be able to decrease this amount when we receive notification of our actual increase. In addition, we have received an increase of \$36,321 over our state subsidy in 2020. \$44,415 of this funding is in adjustments based on our participation in the Greater Sebago Education Association, our regional service center.

During the budget workshop, Jason Manjourides, Principal of Pond Cove Elementary School answered questions about his proposed guidance counselor position, explaining that state guidelines (Essential Programs and Services) suggest a ratio of 1 counselor to 250 students, while at Pond Cove there is currently 1 guidance counselor for over 500 students. The additional counselor would work to meet the needs of our students as well as teaching guidance lessons in classrooms.

Jason also spoke about his request for a full-time substitute teacher, and provided data about the number of days that teachers were out for either sickness or professional development, and the number of unfilled requests for substitutes. He reported on the difficulty schools are having in finding substitutes and the need to have at least one substitute available at all times.

Another question focused on the need for an ed. tech to support a student with medical needs, a legal obligation at this point, and about the inability to fill two lunch aide positions that are presently still in the budget. Principal Manjourides has some ideas about securing people for those positions in FY21.

Principal Manjourides also provided information regarding the effectiveness of the additional .4 Health Teacher that was included in the FY20 budget and suggested that the request for whiteboards be removed from the budget due to uncertainty about a possible building or renovation project.

Troy Eastman, Principal of Cape Elizabeth Middle School addressed the question of the reduction of a 5th grade teacher. The projected class size for 5th grade for the 2020-2021 school year is 20.2 (5 teachers), a decrease from the current class size for the present 5th grade which is 21.1 students. 5th grade teachers at CEMS have met with Pond Cove 4th grade teachers as they plan for the transition of these students next year. Troy is confident that the 5th grade teachers will be able to meet the needs of their incoming 5th grade students.

Troy also spoke about plans to expand the experiential learning program into a 7th grade and an 8th grade team through the use of thematic units. In addition, Troy spoke about the cohort of teachers who are studying mindfulness during early release PD Wednesdays, and the application of their learning in their classrooms.

Jeff Shedd, Principal of Cape Elizabeth High School shared data about the unexpected increase of students this year and the expected increase of students next year, as the large 8th grade class enters the high school. He explained the average class load for teachers, excluding teachers who work in the achievement center and teachers who teach science labs. Jeff spoke about the addition of a .4 French teacher in order to offer a period of French 1 (an expected 10-14 students), about staffing for the Achievement Center, about the proposed teacher leader position, about responsibilities of the High School librarian, and about the proposed laptops for the computer programming class.

Please see the attached for specific information on the Principals' presentations:

[*Pond Cove School, 2020-2021 Budget Questions and Answers*](#)

[*Middle School Responses*](#)

[*Response to Board Member Questions Concerning Proposed High School Budget*](#)

The next School Board Budget Workshop will be on March 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers at Town Hall. Administrators will continue to present answers to the questions posed by the School Board regarding their budget requests. There will also be a discussion on staffing and enrollment. This meeting is open to the public and I urge citizens of Cape Elizabeth to attend. There will be two opportunities for public comment at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Wolfrom