

2010/2011

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The cornerstone of school committee work is policy. Educational and administrative policy is developed to guide the school administration in bringing forth the breadth and depth of student educational experiences and attainment that is valued by the members of this community. Our budgets then mirror the guidance of these policies given the balance and responsible use of fiscal resources.

Although local revenues and state funding fell and expenses for health insurance and pensions grew, the elementary school district managed to hold onto all positions and maintain all student programs in the 2011-2012 school year. We have reduced our costs through meticulous reviews of the operating expenses in our budget, successful contract negotiations, replacement of retirement hires at lower starting salaries and continuing energy efficient measures. The hard work and successful advocacy of school committee members across the state through the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) for higher reimbursement rates for extraordinary special education expenses also played an important role in keeping budgets down this year.

The elementary schools moved away from \$5 health insurance co-pays this year; a small step towards the fight against skyrocketing health insurance premiums that affect every single one of our staff and community members. The pool of dollars available to fund the annually increasing operating expenses of Center and Old Hammondtown schools shrink as these expenses grow.

The major sources of revenue for the schools include: real estate taxes, state aid (chapter 70), unrestricted local aid, and federal/state grants. Chapter 70 and unrestricted local aid reduce the total operating expenses while grants are an addition to the operating budget.

Center & Old Hammondtown FY2012 Operating Budget	\$5,692,843.00
State Aid - Chapter 70	\$526,956.00
Federal/State Grants	\$222,287.00

The FY2011-2012 budget of \$5,692,843 represents a funding increase of 1% or \$56,365 from the current year. During the current fiscal year, the Old Rochester Regional (ORR) and tri-town elementary school districts (SU#55) restored the shared director for curriculum and instruction position. The SU#55 schools had preserved their portion of funding to support this position which is currently facilitating district-wide common core teaching standards and assessments across grade levels.

This year we say farewell to committee member Joyce Lavoie who is not seeking re-election. Mrs. Lavoie brought a passion for student education and business experience to the table. School committee members work hard for nothing more than passion for public education, students and their community. In tough economic times we work even harder, often at a loss of personal economic opportunity and strained relationships that come with contract bargaining.

We look forward to a great year for students and staff as paid summer professional development is offered across the ORR/SU#55 school districts and both students and staff benefit from smaller class sizes due to the declining enrollment of Mattapoissett elementary students. The recent census data of Mattapoissett reported a decline in the 18yrs and younger population of 17.9% from the period of 2000-2010. The committee will be analyzing the age subset of 0 to 12yrs old as soon as the data is available.

The Mattapoissett School Committee adopted the following goals for the 20010/2011 school year:

- Support continued efforts and plans to reduce energy costs through advocacy for energy efficient measures that offer quick return on investments
- Advocate for the establishment of a stabilization fund to buffer extraordinary special education costs
- Support the 2008 ORR/SU#55 strategic plan technology initiative through advocacy and funding
- Develop a district budget policy that will capture current and historical data to support data driven decision making and forecasting
- Include informal sessions in board meetings to focus discussions on student achievement, programs and welfare: time-on-learning, formative assessments, common core standards, student nutrition
- Review two school documentaries that examine the cost of today's education policies: Race to Nowhere, Waiting for Superman

Respectfully submitted,

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gracinda Knox, Chairperson

Gerald Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Virginia Beams

Joyce Lavoie

Charles Motta