

EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT
Business Administrator's Report – October 6, 2011- REVISED

Furniture Donation – The value of the items donated by Criteria is \$30,350. A donation in this amount requires a public hearing to accept. A list of the items with values is attached.

Forecast – The initial forecast for 2011-2012 shows approximately \$275,200 remaining at year end. The anticipated surplus is comprised of the following:

Regular education forecast is currently \$68,500 less than budget. This is made up of \$34,000 budgeted for drivers' education which has been discontinued by the State; and \$52,610 additional needed for kindergarten salaries being offset by \$70,562 in retirement savings, \$11,000 in teacher hiring savings and \$4,862 in health/dental/FICA savings.

Special education forecast is currently \$144,500 less than budget. This is made up of tutor, tuition, and transportation expenses coming in \$57,600 under budget; extended year costs shifting to middle school expense lines for a savings of \$24,200; \$19,300 in other salaries; \$8,500 in FICA; \$5,000 in health; and \$29,800 in retirement costs.

Vocational education forecast is currently \$22,000 less than budget.

Extracurricular and athletics forecast is currently (\$6,700) more than budget. This is made up of a \$12,500 overage in middle school extended year costs offset by \$5,800 savings in retirement and Saturday detention.

Support services forecast is currently \$71,100 less than budget. This is made up of \$58,500 in lower retirement rates, \$10,000 in administrative/nonunion support raises under budget and \$2,100 in FICA and other benefits.

Fuel oil forecast is currently (\$24,000) more than budget. At current projected rates, the cost for 60,000 gallons of oil will exceed budget by about \$24,000.

This year the budget process has been complicated by an adjusted deliberative budget, default budget and State retirement changes. A summary of the history of this year's budget development follows.

1) After the deliberative session on February 10, but before the final vote on March 8, the State decided to move 100% of retirement funding to the local level. On March 23 School Board adjustments were made to the voted default budget to fund the additional \$273,000 needed to cover the increased retirement cost. These adjustments included use of \$21,000 savings due to the confirmed health insurance rates being 1% lower than GMR, and cutting or reducing eight staff positions: 40% of the professional development director, the new grade 4 teacher, 40% of the math specialist, the full time kindergarten teacher and para, the Novanet para, the guided study para (offset by increased 6th period teacher stipends); 50% of the technology facilitator and 50% of a nursing assistant.

2) On March 23, the home to school coordinator and an elementary special education case manager were reinstated. Funds for the home-to-school coordinator came from default budget vote (\$10,000), cuts to curriculum (\$20,000), retirement stipends (\$15,000), and supply lines (\$3,000). Funds for the case manager came from reducing the number of paraprofessionals in district.

3) In August, the NHRS recalculated its retirement rates and lowered both teacher and employee rates, resulting in only \$122,000 being needed for the increased retirement costs. On August 18, the School Board voted to

reinstate the full time kindergarten, adding back in a kindergarten teacher and aide (\$59,000), and also adding back in the 50% tech facilitator (\$36,000).

The professional development director to 60% (\$44,551), grade 4 teacher (\$52,392), novanet para (15,340), math facilitator to 60% (\$32,442) and nursing assistant to 50% (\$9,461) cuts are still in place. At this time \$217,000 of the \$273,000 in adjustments/cuts has been used to fund the new lower retirement rates, reinstate a third full time kindergarten class and increase the tech facilitator position by 50%, leaving a net balance of \$56,000 available.

Audit – The District audit has been completed. The auditors were here for a week examining the District’s books in all areas. This year, for the first time since I began working here, we had no findings. I would like to thank Cheryl MacLeay and Stephanie Sturzo, school bookkeepers, and Ronnie Bush, food service supervisor, for their great record keeping. Special thanks also to Melinda Stanley for providing the auditors with needed information and reporting on payroll and accounts payable, and Melissa Swirbliss who provided records for the detailed audit of the IDEA/Preschool grant.

Fuel – I will be speaking with Buxton Oil and will have updated rates for Thursday’s meeting.

Tree Removal – Last meeting the School Board tabled discussion of tree removal at the edge of the SAU playing field, pending members examining the trees under questions. A decision needs to be made as to which trees, if any, to remove.

Martha Williamson
Business Administrator