

WRSD School Committee
Community Outreach Sub-Committee

**FY '06 Budget Considerations
Potential Impact of State Increases**

A Discussion With
WRSD Town Representatives

June 23, 2005

Agenda

Appropriation

Under-funding

Suburban Legends

The Future

WRSD FY '05 COMPARED TO FY '06

- WRSD FY '05 budget appropriation \$55,169,705

- WRSD FY '06 budget appropriation 60,052,440

Increase \$ **4,882,735**

(8.85 % increase)

PURPOSE OF FY '06 INCREASES

- To maintain WRSD FY '05 program level

\$ 2,759,485 5.00%

- Towards restoring services lost in FY '03 & FY '04

2,123,250 3.85%

8.85 %

FY05 v FY06 Appropriation Comparison

	FY05	FY06	\$ Inc	% Diff		FY05	FY06	\$ Inc	% Diff
PERSONNEL					SCHEDULE B - SPED				
Salaries	34,630,095	37,590,729	2,960,634	8.5%	Instructional Support	378,137	463,218	85,081	22.5%
Benefits & Insurance	5,066,476	6,272,962	1,206,486	23.8%	Tuitions-Other Schools	3,242,548	2,892,548	(350,000)	-10.8%
PERSONNEL TOTAL	39,696,571	43,863,691	4,167,120	10.5%	SCHEDULE B TOTAL	3,620,685	3,355,766	(264,919)	-7.3%
SCHEDULE A - REG ED					SCHEDULE E - VOC ED				
District Administration	222,500	222,500	0	0.0%	Instructional Support	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Instructional Support	2,428,848	2,947,294	518,446	21.3%	SCHEDULE E TOTAL	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Fixed Charges	273,621	273,621	0	0.0%					
Tuitions-Other Schools	869,997	917,347	47,350	5.4%	SUBTOTAL	49,487,117	54,159,939	4,672,822	9.4%
Heat & Utilities	1,469,631	1,543,113	73,482	5.0%					
Buildings & Grounds	616,862	748,205	131,343	21.3%	OTHER				
Custodial Services	184,841	184,841	0	0.0%	Transportation	2,922,497	2,985,120	62,623	2.1%
Athletics/Stud Act	98,561	98,561	0	0.0%	WRHS App Projects	2,760,091	2,907,381	147,290	5.3%
SCHEDULE A TOTAL	6,164,861	6,935,482	770,621	12.5%					
					TOTAL	55,169,705	60,052,440	4,882,735	8.85%

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON RASA IF ADDITIONAL CHAPTER 70 & 71 AID AND CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT WERE APPLIED AS OF THIS DATE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY'06 appropriation 	<p>\$60,052,440</p>
Original State Aid (House 1)	(\$16,241,308)
Anticipated Additional State Aid	<u>(\$ 651,186)</u>
(Chapter 70 & 71, Charter Reimbursement)	
	\$43,159,946
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) 	<p>\$33,777,736</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 	<p>\$</p>
1,414,614	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt Service 	<p><u>\$ 2,907,381</u></p> <p>\$38,099,731</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total assessments to towns 	<p>\$43,159,946</p>
(LLC + Transportation + Debt)	<u>(\$38,099,731)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Revised RASA 	<p>\$</p>
5,060,215	

BASED UPON ADDITIONAL CHAPTER 70 & 71 AID AND CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT BEING APPLIED TO RASA AS OF THIS DATE

Holden	\$ 2,111,122
Paxton	494,105
Princeton	437,380
Rutland	1,053,638
Sterling	<u>963,971</u>
	\$ 5,060,215

WHAT ARE THE SERVICES TO BE RESTORED?

While the superintendent ultimately decides staffing issues, the following **43.5** positions have been identified as the most urgently needed for restoration by the superintendent and the principals of WRSD.

10	High School Teachers
1.5	Per Pupil Ratio Teachers
6	Art, Music & PE
2	Model Enrichment Teachers
2	Technicians
2	Custodians
6	Kindergarten Aides
12	Special Education Aides
1	High School Administrative Aide

THE "IF" RASA CALCULATIONS BASED ON THE VARIOUS TOWN OFFERS

	'IF' RASA	Town Proposed
		Budget
APPROPRIATION	5,060,215*	60,052,440
STERLING	4,330,665	59,322,891
PAXTON	3,940,580	58,932,806
RUTLAND	2,637,442	57,629,668
PRINCETON**	2,323,368	57,315,594
HOLDEN***	2,157,237	57,149,463

THE “IF” RASA CALCULATIONS BASED ON THE VARIOUS TOWN OFFERS(continued)

Notes:

* After adjusting for \$651,186 in additional State Aid.

** Princeton number could require reduction of more than 11 teachers from FY '05.

*** Holden number could require reduction of more than 15 teachers from FY '05.

WHY IS THE *Status Quo* INADEQUATE?

According to DOE WRSD's per pupil expenditure is far below the state average and surrounding communities.

- **WRSD spends \$1873 less per pupil than the state average**

– WRSD PPE	\$ 6,683
– Massachusetts average in FY '04	8,580

- **We spent \$ 277 more per student in FY '03**

– WRSD PPE in FY' 03	\$ 6,960
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- **PPE in neighboring communities**
WRSD

Above

Fitchburg	\$ 7,662	\$ 979
Worcester	8,390	1,707
Auburn	7,960	1,277
Spencer East Brookfield	7,682	999
Quabbin	7,165	482

WHY IS THE Status Quo INADEQUATE? (continued)

- **WRSD is 12th lowest out of 329 School Districts in Massachusetts.**
- **WRSD is 7th lowest out of 294 K-12 School Districts in Massachusetts.**
- **WRSD is the lowest out of 85 Regional School Districts in Massachusetts.**

How much lower can we go?

The “status quo” budget will not raise this very low standing.

Notes:

Figures are for FY'04 from Massachusetts Department of Education as of 5/3/05.

DOE' s Per Pupil Expenditures include all pupils enrolled in local schools, even non-residents who attend on a tuitioned-in basis. This measure does not count children being educated outside the district. Tuition, regional district spending, and other payments for out-of district pupils are not factored in.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNDER FUNDING EDUCATION IN OUR DISTRICT

1. Over crowded classrooms

- This year WRHS has 38 classes with 28+ students.
 - All elementary and middle schools in the district have classes that exceed WRSD's recommended maximum class size:
 - K-2: 19 students,
 - Grades 3-5: 22 students,
 - Grades 6-8: 23 students, and
 - High school: 23 students.
- Some K-4 classes have 26 students.

2. Falling MCAS scores

- MCAS Math Composite scores for WRSD fell from 66% in advances and proficient for FY '03 to 62% in FY '04.
- MCAS English/Language Arts Composite scores for WRSD fell from 78% advanced and proficient in FY '03 to 76% in FY '04.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNDER FUNDING EDUCATION IN OUR DISTRICT

3. The “community service” problem

- Under Ed. Reform study halls were abolished. But, at WRHS, due to the teacher shortage, over 450 students a day sit in assigned “community service” classrooms without teachers, and then find something outside of school to do that can be qualified as “community service” to meet the time on learning requirements.
- Another 250 students are enrolled in directed study due in part to lost programs.

4. Cuts in Art, Music & PE, and the loss of common planning time

- In Holden, Sterling and Rutland art, music and PE were reduced due to a loss of teachers.
- The students lost the instruction in these areas and the teachers have lost common planning time across grade levels.
- Chorus and band have been cut or eliminated in all middle schools.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNDER FUNDING EDUCATION IN OUR DISTRICT

5. Loss of kindergarten/primary aides

- Loss of these aides reduces the amount of early intervention our schools can offer children, resulting in lower achievement and more demands for special education services later on.

6. Loss of Advanced Placement courses

- AP Biology, Chemistry and Spanish have been eliminated at WRHS, which represents lost opportunities for our higher students.

ALLIGATORS IN THE SEWERS

WRSD Suburban Legend #1

- **WRSD spends too much money on the Central Office.**
 - **FALSE.**
 - In FY '05, WRSD was projected to spend \$ 1,071,811 (61.52%) less in Central Office salaries than DOE figured was necessary when they calculated the Foundation Budget used for setting the FY '05 Local Minimum Contribution.*

* Source: WRSD Comptroller's Activity Report, Sept. 21, 2004

ALLIGATORS IN THE SEWERS

WRSD Suburban Legend #2

- **WRSD'S per pupil expenditure should be less because it is a large district (economy of scale argument).**
 - **FALSE.**
 - If true, then K-12 systems with 6000-7000 students should have per pupil expenditures comparable to WRSD. But they are much higher, for example:

WRSD	\$ 6,683
Attleboro	7,372
Malden	8,477
Leominster	7,125
Fitchburg	7,713

ALLIGATORS IN THE SEWERS

WRSD Suburban Legend #3

- **WRSD has a low student to faculty ratio at 16 to 1.**
 - **FALSE.**
 - The state average is 13 to 1. The ratio includes all faculty, not just classroom teachers.
 - We have a very high ratio!

CHALLENGES FOR FY '07

- **New contract with the teachers union**
- **New transportation contract**
- **Reinstating the remaining services lost in FY '03 and '04**
- **Replacement of obsolete technology**

HOPE FOR FY '07 AND BEYOND

- **Retirements**

- In FY '06 we anticipate 16 teacher retirements.
- In FY '07 there are 60 teachers eligible for full retirement.

- **Debt Relief**

- In FY '08 the Commonwealth will pay off the state portion of the outstanding bonds for school building projects in the district.
- The payoff will leave the towns with debt service on only the remaining local share (25-35%) of the original principal.

This pay-off should result in reductions in debt exclusions and lower tax rates in all WRSD communities.