

## FY 23 Questions - CDSP

January 08, 2022

#	Question	Response
<b>RC 1 DHS</b>		
1	Is there anything in the budget for the China Exchange? Is this all funded by parents?	Yes, there is \$7,000 in RC1 for China Exchange, in other student activities. This covers transportation to the airport for the students and incidental expenses for hosting the China students in Darien.
<b>RC 2 Fitch</b>		
2	Do we have plans to bring in outside students to produce revenue?	Most neighboring districts have a similar program to Fitch. There are not any realistic opportunities for generating revenue with Fitch. This situation has evolved since the administration first proposed Fitch and the possibility of revenue from other districts. At that time very few districts had programs similar to that at Fitch.
3	At what size would Fitch no longer be effective for students?	The answer to this question requires analysis that we are planning to do in preparation for the 23-24 budget recommendations as the current space limits any expansion now. The administration will consider the staffing, space, population, student learning and support implications of increasing the program in the coming year. Additionally we will continue to gauge the request for placement in Fitch Academy.
<b>RC 3 Middlesex Middle School</b>		
4	Will Project Lead the Way include Robotics?	The new PLTW course is Automation and Robotics. Students explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer controlling systems using the VEX Robotics platform.

5	Can you include money in the MMS or Facilities budget for the Outdoor Classroom?	The recommendation was to not include the outside classroom in the FY23 Operating Budget and to seek outside resources to implement the outside classroom at MMS.
6	Will the STEM class and PLTW be offered equitably?	Yes. The classes will be open to all students.
<b>RC 11 Athletics</b>		
7	Are all gate receipts included in the budget?	Only gate receipts for athletics. Gate receipts for theater directly fund expenses for putting on events. Gate receipts for athletics should offset operating costs such as additional security and officials, which were already in the BOE Operating Budget.
8	Why are there fees for basketball and football games and not other sports?	These are the sports Darien and many other neighboring districts charge for, likely due to the added cost of running these home events.
9	What would be the savings if we made cuts from freshman teams? Please include transportation costs.	There are no extra costs for transportation because of the no-cut recommendation. Savings would come from the elimination of each of the freshman coaches \$(59,815).
10	Why doesn't the BOE have a policy about cuts vs no cuts?	This is an operational issue that does not require a Board policy.

### RC 25 Fixed Expenses

11	Would the BOE consider a review of the policy regarding the bus/walking radius?	The BOE considered this policy last year and did not recommend any changes.
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### RC 15 Technology

12	Are there recycling credits available for any of the other equipment in this budget?	They are only available on the iPads. The Chromebooks have no useful life or trade in value.
13	Will we still replace the teachers' Chromebooks and desktops in FY 25?	The replacement cycle for teachers' devices remains as planned.

### RC 19 Curriculum

14	Are textbooks needed for engineering?	There is not a textbook request for Principles of Engineering.
15	Will we be instituting co-taught classes at the elementary level?	The District is currently amidst a self-study that partially examines the benefits and feasibility of co-taught classes at the elementary level.
16	Can we expand dyslexia screening to kindergarten? Can we screen for all students? Should the Margie Gillis professional development be increased?	Teachers monitor student development through general instruction. When concerns arise, current levels of student performance are discussed with interventionists for possible recommendation to SRBI. The professional development regarding early literacy is robust and increasingly refined to meet the learning needs of all students. This includes an increased focus on phonology and phonemic awareness to support young readers.

17	Where do parents outplace students in literacy programs? Have we provided enough OG training? Is Foundations a successful program?	<p>Windward and Southport are special education private schools that parents often seek to place their children.</p> <p>The district provides Wilson training for our teachers, not OG training. As of this date the district has trained 30 level 1 certified Wilson teachers grades K-12. Foundations is a Wilson based phonology program that has been an effective program for all learners in grades K-3.</p>
18	Is our SRBI program successful? How many students in SRBI are referred for special education services?	<p>Our program is successful in meeting the needs of students and determining whether they may completely return to general instruction, receive increased tiered support, or be recommended to special education. Success is not determined by the percentage of students referred to special education services. Approximately 25% of students are classified for special education or 504 services after receiving tiered interventions.</p>