

FY 23 Questions - RTM Education

January 08, 2022

#	Question	Response
RC 1 DHS		
1	What does the stipend for the SSD Coordinator add for the Director of Guidance?	This stipend will allow the Director of Guidance to be available for their professional responsibilities for grades 6-12. There is an increased demand for testing accommodations and more students taking tests at the high school.
2	Why is there not a full FTE added for physical education?	The 0.6 request at DHS is based on enrollment needs. 0.6 FTE in PE/Health creates 12 semester sections of PE/Health which will bring the class sizes to an average of 22.
3	Is there a general standard for class sizes in physical education?	Generally, the targeted class size is 22-24 students. This additional FTE would make this possible with greater frequency.
RC 3 Middlesex Middle School		
4	What is the projected enrollment for Mandarin? How many sections do you plan to run? Have we assessed student interest? If Mandarin doesn't run will we be able to reassign students?	We are anticipating that there will be three sections of Mandarin next year, with approximately 15 students in each class. Students and families have expressed interest in Mandarin at MMS for many years. If Mandarin does not run, students will be assigned to another language.

5	What specific supplies do you need for Genius Hour?	There is an allocation of approximately \$15 per student for Genius hour. This includes supplies for the “interest fair” that will represent a variety of topics based on a student interest inventory. Classroom supplies will be purchased to support those interests. Funding for genius hour also includes the professional development for teachers.
6	Will all students have access to Genius Hour? Will you monitor how many students are using it?	Yes, all students will have access to Genius Hour during their FLEX period. All students will participate in Genius Hour during Flex.
7	Why is there only 0.99 FTE for the IDEA program in such a large school? Is this a demand or supply issue?	There is currently 0.99 FTE for Idea at MMS. This allocation meets the scheduling and enrollment needs for Idea.
8	Is there money in the budget to hire a consultant to deal with issues like the swastika found at MMS?	There is \$46,000 in RC19 Consultant Services for DEI consultant work.
RC 5 - 10 Elementary		
9	Did we plan for the additional custodian at Ox Ridge when we planned for the new building?	Yes, it was included in the Ed Specs to add two custodians when the building is complete. Since only the academic wing will be complete for next school year only 1 custodian was requested. The 2nd custodian will be requested in FY24.
RC 12 Facilities		
10	Did we revert to the old agreement with the Y? Do we charge them for overtime?	We are enforcing the new agreement with the YMCA and are billing custodial overtime to the YMCA starting in FY22. This is why custodial OT has been removed from RC11.

Capital Budget

11	What are the dollars that we have spent on capital projects historically?	Attached is a capital spending budget to actual for the last three years Capital Spending
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RC 25 Fixed Expenses

12	Is it true that there is low utilization for Bus 25? If so, would we consider eliminating it?	The bus census this year for Bus 25 is approximately 30 students in the morning. Due to driver shortages we have used bus 25 to also transport student athletes to the YMCA, which has increased ridership on bus 25 in the afternoon as student athletes are also on the bus.
13	Have we considered combining property insurance with the Town?	The BOE and the Town share a policy for Property Insurance and Workers Compensation.

RC 15 Technology

14	Has Joan McGettigan changed her mind about iPads at the high school?	The administrative team is in support of the BYOD program as presented to the Board.
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RC 24 Special Education

15	We would like to understand the trend in speech services over the last few years.	We saw an 8.5% increase in classified students recommended for SLP services from last year. We are anticipating, based on IEP's, a 2% increase from this year to next year.
16	What percentage of our legal fees are spent for cases that end in a unilateral placement?	Approximately 15% of legal fees are for unilateral placements.

17	How many students are outplaced? Are they included in our enrollment numbers?	As of the October 1,2021 SEDAC report there are 29 Out of District IEP Placements grades K-12+. Yes. IEP placements are included in our SEDAC enrollment numbers.
18	Have we budgeted enough for evaluations? What is the average cost of an evaluation?	Yes, we have budgeted appropriately. Costs vary depending on the type of evaluation. Types of evaluations include Neuropsychological, psychiatric, speech and language, literacy evaluation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and central auditory processing evaluation. Costs may vary by vendor.
19	Have we considered adding additional programs to keep students in the District?	We continue to review and design programs to support our students in the District. The District's commitment to Wilson training, Foundations, and Heggerty all support literacy and address the needs of students with reading differences. Our specialized programs, DLC, ALC, AIM, CORE, and Excel, provide programs in the District to support our learners.
20	Why is there a large increase in paraprofessionals and not teachers?	The increase in Teacher Aide in RC24 include the contractual 2.25% general wage increase, Employees who are set to receive an anniversary increase as well as restoring the funds transferred out in FY22 that were salary savings due to turnover.
21	Where is the professional development for the new AP's charged?	RC19 and RC24. Professional development for these positions is provided by District personnel.
22	Do the teachers teaching co-taught classes at MMS have PD?	There is job-embedded professional development for these teachers.

RC 11 Athletics

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Is the Turkey Bowl the only event that has gate receipts included in the budget?

No, there are gate receipts for football games and basketball.