

**BOARD OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS
JANUARY 7, 2023**

#	RC	Question	Response
1	1	What will class sections look like based on enrollment if PE/Health and Science FTE requests are approved?	The increase in total sections for each semester of PE/Health would be 6 sections, resulting in 66 sections of PE/Health each semester with an average class size of 22. This would result in significantly fewer classes enrolled between 28-30. There are currently 25 sections in science enrolled with the maximum of 24 students. In two courses, AP Biology and Honors Physics, every section of the course is full at 24 students. We would add two sections of science to avoid full enrollment in any course and reduce average class size overall.
2	1	What are the day to day roles and responsibilities of the department chairs?	<p>Supervision and Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead and facilitate recruiting and hiring efforts (reviewing applications, coordinate, schedule, and run: screening interviews, committee interviews, demo lessons, reference checks) - Conduct classroom observations/teacher evaluation (including observations, post-observation discussions, reviews of practice, and conducting rounds). - Facilitate and support teacher goal-planning (including goal-setting meetings, mid-year meetings, end-of-year meetings). - Plan, schedule, and facilitate meetings <p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead curriculum development efforts - Plan and execute Professional Development sessions - Facilitate all course placements/advanced course placement process - Develop budgets/provide resources for teachers and students - Support academic integrity policy - Coordinate and collaborate with MMS and DHS building administrators to support school vision and initiatives. - Support school-wide assessment efforts, including SAT, SBAC and NGSS assessments. - Develop DHS schedule based on student registrations. This ranges from creating sections to fit student registrations to developing course schedules, room assignments and teaching assignments for DHS teachers. <p>Parents and Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate parent-student-teacher communication - Advise parents and students about courses - Support, promote, and help coordinate all department-related student activities

3	1	<p>What are the World Language classes taught in DRG A (K-12)?</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="877 118 1035 170">District</th> <th data-bbox="1035 118 1953 170">Langs x Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 170 1035 248">Easton</td> <td data-bbox="1035 170 1953 248">Grade K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French & Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 248 1035 326">Redding</td> <td data-bbox="1035 248 1953 326">Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French, Spanish & Latin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 326 1035 435">Darrien</td> <td data-bbox="1035 326 1953 435">Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: Spanish or French, Grade 6 Mandarin as of SY 22-23 Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, Mandarin or Latin, ASL in SY 23-24 budget cycle</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 435 1035 544">Ridgefield</td> <td data-bbox="1035 435 1953 544">Grades K-5: None Grades 6-8: Spanish, French Grades 9-12: French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 544 1035 652">Weston</td> <td data-bbox="1035 544 1953 652">K-5: Spanish 6-8: French & Spanish 9-12: French, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 652 1035 797">Wilton</td> <td data-bbox="1035 652 1953 797">Grades K-2: None Grades 3-5: Spanish, French Grades 6-8: Spanish, French Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, German, Latin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 797 1035 875">New Canaan</td> <td data-bbox="1035 797 1953 875">Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-12: Spanish, French, Latin Mandarin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 875 1035 984">Westport</td> <td data-bbox="1035 875 1953 984">Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: Spanish, Mandarin or French Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, Italian or Latin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="877 984 1035 1128">Fairfield</td> <td data-bbox="1035 984 1953 1128">Grades K-2: None Grades 3-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French & Spanish Grades 9-12: French, Spanish, Latin, Italian, Mandarin</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	District	Langs x Grade	Easton	Grade K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French & Spanish	Redding	Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French, Spanish & Latin	Darrien	Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: Spanish or French, Grade 6 Mandarin as of SY 22-23 Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, Mandarin or Latin, ASL in SY 23-24 budget cycle	Ridgefield	Grades K-5: None Grades 6-8: Spanish, French Grades 9-12: French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish	Weston	K-5: Spanish 6-8: French & Spanish 9-12: French, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish	Wilton	Grades K-2: None Grades 3-5: Spanish, French Grades 6-8: Spanish, French Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, German, Latin	New Canaan	Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-12: Spanish, French, Latin Mandarin	Westport	Grades K-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: Spanish, Mandarin or French Grades 9-12: Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, Italian or Latin	Fairfield	Grades K-2: None Grades 3-5: Spanish Grades 6-8: French & Spanish Grades 9-12: French, Spanish, Latin, Italian, Mandarin
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4	1	<p>Are we exploring other exchange trips since we are not doing the China exchange trip next year?</p>	<p>We have not pursued other exchange programs given the challenges of the pandemic and the significant investment in creating new coursework to support such changes to the current model. The Social Studies Department hoped that we could renew this relationship and we are disappointed that we have not been able to do so. Given the decision to postpone the China Exchange again, we will explore other opportunities.</p>																				
5	1	<p>How do all the mental health resources (school, town, SRO) fit in, can we see an org chart?</p>	<p>This will be addressed during the January 24th presentation to the BOE.</p>																				

6	1	Who does the Wellness Center and Teen Talk report to?	The Wellness Center coordinator will report to the Director of Guidance and the Teen Talk counselor would be supervised by Kids in Crisis. The Teen Talk counselor would be appointed a school liaison who would be either a member of the school support team or a school administrator.
7	1	Does Teen Talk/Wellness Center Coordinator replace anyone?	No, it complements the existing staff who support mental health.
8	1	How can we gauge the success of Teen Talk? The Wellness Center?	This will be addressed during the January 24th presentation to the BOE.
9	1	What is the capacity of Kids in Crisis to staff Teen Talk?	This will be addressed during the January 24th presentation to the BOE.
10	1	Should there be an MMS Teen Talk?	The Director of Mental Health will evaluate this need upon her arrival in March.
11	1	Can we see Psychologists Case Loads?	Case Loads
12	Grants	How many FTE's are in grants, will any expire in future years?	Total FTEs
13	1	What are the goals of the wellness center coordinator?	To expand access to the Wellness Center for Students all day. The coordinator will assume the primary role in developing programming and arranging the activities delivered through the Wellness Center and will be a facilitator to any clinical resources students may require.
14	1,3, 5-10, 1, 24	Can we see a financial model of all the costs of substitutes (daily and building) and interns. Historical costs, fill rates over time?	Substitute Analysis As shown on the attached we have continued to see a decline in fill rates over the past few years as substitute coverage has been more difficult to find, while the number of absences has been relatively consistent.
15	2	Any offsets for adding the 0.2 FTE at Fitch?	There are no offsets for this FTE request.
16	2	Will we eventually need a counselor at Fitch given the space being constructed?	The space being constructed is supporting the psychologist at Fitch.
17	2	Will Fitch students have access to Teen Talk?	Yes
18	2	What is the current and historical enrollment at Fitch?	Currently there are 13 students. Enrollment typically fluctuates between 10 and 24 students every year.

19	2	Can we generate revenue?	No, at this point surrounding districts have their own program.								
20	11	Should we charge gate receipts for other sports? What would it look like?	None of our peer districts currently charge for sports other than football and basketball. The BOE could consider charging for night games under the lights, given the expansion of the lights.								
21	11	Can we see voluntary fees charged for athletics?	Voluntary Athletic Fees Approximately 85% of parents pay the voluntary athletic fee.								
22	11	What are the coaching ratios for Unified Sports?	1 Coach per season for 27 athletes up from 23. In addition we have up to 5 paras and a nurse assigned to a unified sports team.								
23	11	Can we receive a breakdown of coaches by sport by level (Varsity, JV, Freshman)?	Coaches by level								
24	11	Can we receive a list of Booster Club donations?	To date we have received \$31,292 in donations from the booster club. They are as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="869 761 2064 1153"> <tr> <td>Launch Monitor-Golf</td> <td>\$515</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backpacks-Wrestling</td> <td>\$1,562</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Football (Throwing Machine, Kicking Net, Pop Up Dummies, Hudl, Homecoming, Senior Day, Turkey Bowl, Black Game uniforms, Banquet Awards, Weight Room, Banners)</td> <td>\$29,215</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$31,292</td> </tr> </table>	Launch Monitor-Golf	\$515	Backpacks-Wrestling	\$1,562	Football (Throwing Machine, Kicking Net, Pop Up Dummies, Hudl, Homecoming, Senior Day, Turkey Bowl, Black Game uniforms, Banquet Awards, Weight Room, Banners)	\$29,215	Total	\$31,292
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25	3	Will robotics be available to everyone?	Due to the high level of interest students are selected to participate in robotics at the elementary and middle school by lottery. The high school club is open to all students.								
26	3	What have we accomplished with Genius Hour?	We are in year 1 of Genius Hour, with it running 1 hour a month. Students have had lessons on developing topics, how to create a research question, and how to begin their research with a target audience in mind. Genius Hour supports Vision of a Graduate by developing the skills of communication, creativity, curiosity and independence. Students are asked to think of a creative topic they would like to explore, how to communicate this to a target audience,								

			and build independence in researching and presenting their topics. This month, students participated in a lesson which taught them how to develop an 'elevator pitch' and they had to 'pitch' their topic to their classmates or teachers. This was a lesson for students to ask questions and clarify their topics if needed. Students are now entering into the research phase and reaching out to administrators, teachers, and community members for support. A few examples: Students asking the principal to paint a kindness mural on a wall, students starting an ASL club at MMS, planning and designing a golf course, researching how to and creating a claymation video, and learning about how to trade on the stock market. In the Spring, Genius Hour will culminate with students being able to walk through and see other students' projects in a science-fair type of set-up.
27	3	How many students are in Mandarin? How many are expected next year if the 0.4 FTE is approved?	Mandarin currently has 29 students in two sections. We are anticipating an additional 36 students next year.
28	3	Are general teaching supplies too high?	General Teaching Supplies includes supplies to support the entire student body (20 per student), Science Supplies, English Supplies, and Math Supplies. When looking at the historical actuals you cannot factor in Genius Hour as this was not in place in FY22. The per student allocation of \$20 per student has ranged over the past 3 years between \$17 per student and \$19 per student for actual expenditures.
29	3	Can we see a club breakdown district wide?	<u>Clubs and Councils</u>
30	5-10	Rather than increasing the Ox Ridge Secretary should we move one secretary from Royle (given enrollment) to Ox Ridge?	While Royle secretary to student ratio is the lowest of the elementary schools and Ox Ridge is the highest, moving the 10 month secretary from Royle to Ox Ridge would leave Royle without a special education secretary.

31 **5-10** **What is the secretarial model at each elementary school?**

Each Elementary School has two secretaries. One 11 month secretary who supports the Principal and a second 10 month secretary who supports Special Education. The ratio of students to secretaries are as follows:

School	Students	Secretaries	Ratio
Hindley	423	2	1:212
Holmes	426	2	1:213
Ox Ridge	617	2	1:309
Royle	353	2	1:176
Tokeneke	431	2	1:216

32 **5-10** **Should we consider parent volunteers over lunch monitors?**

No, we have evaluated multiple models for supervising lunch and believe lunch monitors are the most appropriate model.

33 **12** **Can we get a comparison of field rental rates to our peer districts? Can we increase these rates?**

The biggest source of revenue for facility rentals is field rentals per participant fee to Youth Sports. Every \$1 added to the per participant fee adds approximately \$4,688 in total revenue.

Many of our peer districts only charge an hourly rate and not a per participant rate for rental of our fields:

Field Rentals			
District	Hourly-Non Profit	Hourly-Profit	Per Participant
Fairfield	\$75	\$100	N/A
Westport	\$50	\$75	N/A
Darien	\$92-\$272	\$97-\$286	\$31
Stamford	\$100	\$150	\$2
Newtown	\$100	\$130	\$30

34	22	How many competitions are budgeted for robotics?	The budget supports 10 competitions over the course of the fiscal year.														
35	22	Why are we asking for iPads for a club when we stopped providing them for students at the HS? Aren't there iPads that students are no longer using?	iPads are the best device to interface with the robots and programming applications. The device portability is an important component of controlling the robots for competitions. We will revisit our current iPad usage and device availability.														
36	22	How many students are involved in the program?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Hindley</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holmes</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ox Ridge</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royle</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tokeneke</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middlesex</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DHS</td> <td>35</td> </tr> </table>	Hindley	72	Holmes	72	Ox Ridge	36	Royle	34	Tokeneke	36	Middlesex	45	DHS	35
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37	22	We have budgeted \$30,000 for supplies, \$21,200 for professional development and \$20,000 for field trips related to Robotics. Is this equitable?	The FY24 requests covers all expenses related to the program. The Board covers the full cost of other athletic programs that have similar or higher per pupil expenditures.														
38	26	Can you break down ELP PD?	Literacy How: \$10,000 CT Seds: \$3,000 Total: \$13,000														
39	26	Are there any savings or efficiencies of having ELP consolidated at Ox Ridge?	While there are no cost savings, there are program enhancements with a state of the art facility, opportunities for collaboration among staff and direct access to the program director throughout each school day.														
40	26	Can we see area preschool tuition comparisons?	Pre-School Tuition														
41	24	How much do we save with Suburbans?	Currently our two most expensive OOD transportation routes cost \$103,000 and \$84,000. A suburban driver costs the district \$46,656 in salary, \$3,569 in payroll taxes and														

			approximately \$5,000 in fuel/maintenance. Typically suburban drivers have not elected to take benefits. Savings would be between \$28k and \$48k depending on the route to the operating budget.																
42	19	What is the process for picking books?	Teachers and content area specialists / department leaders work together to choose books and other instructional materials to support the curriculum through the curriculum development process. Books for classroom libraries and school libraries are selected using a variety of criteria based on merit, reviews, publishers, accuracy, variety and format. New textbooks are approved through the budget process.																
43	19	Should we invest in Teachers College if it might not be an approved option?	The Teachers College partnership will continue to benefit teachers regardless of where we are with the <i>Right to Read</i> legislation. We are optimistic that the waiver will be approved and looking forward to continuing to refine our practices to meet the needs of all learners.																
44	19	What are the caseloads for the interventionists?	Elementary Math - 10 Elementary Literacy - 17 MMS Math - 21 MMS Literacy - 20																
45	19	What is the book <i>Alternatives to Grading Student Writing</i> request for?	This book addresses strategies for English teachers to address writing and grading as separate entities. When grades are assigned early in the process there is a tendency for disengagement in feedback and multiple iterations to improve the final product. Grades are still given and helps students remain engaged in the writing process for a longer period of time.																
46	19	Can we have the breakdown of ELL students by school totaling the 65 students?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th># of ELL Students</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hindley</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holmes</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ox Ridge</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royle</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tokeneke</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MMS</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DHS</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	# of ELL Students	Hindley	8	Holmes	15	Ox Ridge	10	Royle	9	Tokeneke	10	MMS	10	DHS	3
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47	19	How many languages are spoken with our ELL Students?	36 Languages Represented				
			Japanese	Ukrainian	Chinese Mandarin	Twi	Japanese
			Albanian	Russian	Spanish	Arabic	Telugu
			Wolof	Tamil	Danish	Gujarati	Portuguese
			German	Punjabi	Polish	Visayan	Slovak
			Hindi	Dutch	French Creole	French	Italian
			Kannada	Marathi	Swedish	Albanian	Turkish
			Thai	Norwegian	Greek	Afrikaans	Flemish
Korean							

48	19	Can you break out DEI and Math from Consultant Services?	\$24,000 for DEI Consultants \$60,000 for Math
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49	20	Can we evaluate the org chart?	The Org Chart is designed by direct line of supervision and evaluation. The Org Chart is reviewed when necessary. Org Chart
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50	16	Can we break down legal fees by category?	36 Languages Represented		
			Category	Amount through Nov	% of Total
			General Legal Advice	\$17,887	21%
			FOIA	\$15,122	18%
			Teacher Negotiations	\$27,958	32%
			Vendor Contracts	\$5,895	7%
			Board Policies	\$3,492	4%
			Lights	\$15,723	18%
Total	\$86,077	100%			

51	18	<p>Are there alternate turnover models we can consider?</p>	<p>The budget book assumed turnover savings of \$16,024 for 42 teachers (quantity of teachers replaced at a rate below those who left). This year the district saved approximately \$6,445 per teacher when factoring in teachers who were hired at a rate greater than those who left the district.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="869 277 2064 602"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="869 277 1268 375"></th> <th data-bbox="1268 277 1667 375">Superintendent's Recommended</th> <th data-bbox="1667 277 2064 375">Average of Last 2 Years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="869 375 1268 472">Estimated Number of Teachers</td> <td data-bbox="1268 375 1667 472">42</td> <td data-bbox="1667 375 2064 472">64</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="869 472 1268 537">Estimated Savings</td> <td data-bbox="1268 472 1667 537">\$(16,024)</td> <td data-bbox="1667 472 2064 537">\$(9,282)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="869 537 1268 602">Net Turnover</td> <td data-bbox="1268 537 1667 602">\$(673,008)</td> <td data-bbox="1667 537 2064 602">\$(594,048)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Superintendent's Recommended	Average of Last 2 Years	Estimated Number of Teachers	42	64	Estimated Savings	\$(16,024)	\$(9,282)	Net Turnover	\$(673,008)	\$(594,048)
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52	Cap	<p>Could we receive a breakdown of nice-to-haves vs need-to-haves for the auditorium?</p>	<p>The proposed upgrades should be considered "need to have." We worked with an outside consultant, Paul Merchant from CES and Workspace, CT who is a professional theater designer and video/audio engineer. We assembled a team consisting of DHS music, theater, and technology staff members, as well as DPS administrators and members of the facilities department to ensure that the proposed upgrades were necessary, cost effective, and will produce enduring positive results for concerts and other events held in the space.</p>												