

Board of Education Questions

Jan 6, 2024

RC	Question	Response																
1	What other structures did the administration look at and why is the proposed structure the best option?	<p>We reviewed and considered eliminating and restructuring building level and central services administrators. We considered a Dean of Students rather than Assistant Principals, however a Dean of Students does not provide a strong career path for teachers looking to make a move to an administrative position given the narrow scope of this role. They cannot supervise PPT's and their role is primarily focused on lower level discipline. A Dean would not be able to evaluate staff.</p> <p>The consistency of a team that is chairing PPTs is an important factor to consider systemically. There is a benefit to having the building administrator who holds the student in their caseload also serve as the Chairperson for the PPT process. This supports continuity of service and familiarity for the student and family. We will continue to explore opportunities for the Department Chairs to take on other responsibilities to grow their capacity in other areas of leadership. However, the assignment of an AP to be forward facing and interacting more consistently and directly with students is by design.</p>																
1	Provide a chart that includes special education administrators	<p>DRG A HS Building Level Admin with Special Ed</p>																
1	Create a chart that shows all administrators in the district compared to the DRG	<p>DRG A Administrators</p>																
1	Why are we not looking at counselor loads?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="779 1052 1417 1117">District</th> <th data-bbox="1417 1052 2060 1117">Ratio</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1117 1417 1182">Weston</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1117 2060 1182">1:118</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1182 1417 1247">New Canaan</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1182 2060 1247">1:117</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1247 1417 1312">Westport</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1247 2060 1312">1:165</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1312 1417 1377">Darien</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1312 2060 1377">1:175</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1377 1417 1442">Wilton</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1377 2060 1442">1:185</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1442 1417 1507">Ridgefield</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1442 2060 1507">1:180</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1507 1417 1572">Average</td> <td data-bbox="1417 1507 2060 1572">1:175</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	District	Ratio	Weston	1:118	New Canaan	1:117	Westport	1:165	Darien	1:175	Wilton	1:185	Ridgefield	1:180	Average	1:175
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		The high school average counselor caseload is in line with the DRG. The last time a new counselor was added at DHS was 2017-2018.												
1	Why is our identification rate so much higher than our peers?	The classification rate reflects the individual outcomes at PPTs based on multidisciplinary evaluations, observations, and parent input on current student levels of functioning and performance. The District continues to be recognized for the high quality services provided to all students.												
1	Can you show a day in the life of an Assistant Principal?	To be included in the January 17th BOE special meeting												
1	Who will evaluate world language teachers?	Principal and Assistant Principals												
1	Why was the World Language Department Chair chosen as the reduction?	<p>Size of the department. World Language is the smallest department of the current Department Chairs. It has the fewest graduate requirements of the departments listed below and the major components of a world language program are in the palace at elementary, middle school and high school.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Total Proposed Supervision of Each Department Chair</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>31.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>28.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td>30.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Studies</td> <td>28.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>World Language</td> <td>24.60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total Proposed Supervision of Each Department Chair		English	31.80	Math	28.60	Science	30.20	Social Studies	28.60	World Language	24.60
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1	How will student experience change with the World Language Chair elimination?	There will be no direct impact on the student experience. The classroom teacher is the primary student facing a staff member.												
1	Can we see an org chart of all administrators?	Organizational Chart												
1	Can we see a breakdown of all HS clubs and councils including enrollment?	DHS Clubs and Councils												

1	Where do parents go if there is a question about World Language?	Inquiries about curriculum would be directed to the Teacher Leader (stipend) for World Language and the Assistant Principal.
1	What is our total PD budget across the district?	PD Totals
1	What is our total consultant services budget across the district?	Consultant Services
3	Can we not eliminate a TEAM and have more rainbow teachers with these proposed reductions?	This is under review. Teachers who teach “across teams” would perhaps not be available to attend team meetings which would impact the Team Meeting structure. Rainbow teachers might not be available for team meetings. Students would still be a part of a ‘team’.
3	What are the caseloads for middle school teachers?	Every core academic teacher has 4 or 5 classes and a FLEX daily. Unified Arts (Specials) that change quarterly. UA teachers one quarter could have 4 classes and another quarter have 5 classes. This is where the 4.5 caseload comes from. PE, Music and Art also fluctuate by classes, but average is 4-5 a day.
Elem	Day in the life of an instructional para	Currently instructional paraprofessionals are being pulled daily to provide substitute coverage for teachers who are absent. Because of this the district has lost instructional paraprofessionals this year as they are being used to cover classes. Day in the Life of a Para
11	Can we have a breakdown of athletic uniforms by sport and cost?	Uniform Costs FY25 Budget
11	What are the comps for Ticket Prices?	Ticket Prices
11	What safety equipment is provided by the BOE?	Boys Lacrosse Helmets Girls Lacrosse goggles Football helmets and shoulder pads Baseball and Softball helmets Baseball and softball catchers gear Field Hockey Goalie gear Sailing life vests Wrestling headgear and knee pads
3	What has been the impact of in-migration enrollment at MMS?	This year saw a total of 61 in-migration students at MMS. 25 in 6th grade, 21 in 7th and 15th in 8th grade. However, persistent ratios have been under 100% meaning we are not retaining all students in the Middle School, primarily students who move from 7th to 8th

		grade. Over the last ten years net migration has been 0.01%.		
3	How does teaching a fifth class impact this proposal?	The proposal to reduce teachers at MMS does not include having teachers currently teaching 4 or 4.5 teach a fifth section as this can only be done through attrition. The reduction in staff at the Middle School is based on enrollment only.		
3	What are the classes under 18?	There are 215 classes under 18 at MMS, which is 38% of all general education classes. This excluded co-taught classes. Classes Under 18 at MMS Classes over 24 at MMS		
3	How many students in level 1, 2, 3 SRBI?	Level 1 - 3,158 students in K-8 (100%) - of these, 173 students in K-5 have a more targeted goal - 39 students in 6-8 have a targeted goal in Tier I grades 6-8 Level 2 - 102 students (3%) Level 3 - 33 students (1%)		
3	How much time does it take to provide SRBI?	It depends on the students' needs. Tier 2 is 3-4 sessions per week or cycle for 30 minutes per session, and Tier 3 is 5-6 times per week or cycle for 30 minutes per session. Teams meet every 6-8 weeks for progress monitoring. In addition, our interventionists provide support to our multilingual learners. Further details included in Jan 9 BOE presentation.		
5:10	Can we see paraprofessionals and building substitutes allocated based on enrollment and or sections?	Support Staff Formula Comparison		
5:10	Can we see special area formulas referenced on Saturday?	Elementary Specials formula		
12	What would we collect if our auditorium rentals mirrored our peers?	If we charged \$600 similar to Westport we would collect an additional \$7,812		
13	Do any districts sell tickets to concerts?	No DRG A district sells tickets to concerts.		
13	What is the student impact of combining art and music supervision?	There is no direct impact on students as the students will still interface with their respective teachers.		
13	Clubs and Councils breakdown	RC13 Clubs and Councils		
13	DRG Comparison of Director of Visual and Performing Arts?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">New Canaan</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Director of Visual & Performing Arts (Admin)</td> </tr> </table>	New Canaan	Director of Visual & Performing Arts (Admin)
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Westport	Director of Visual & Performing Arts (Admin)
Wilton	Instructional Leader-Art (Teacher) Instructional Leader- Music (Teacher)
Ridgefield	None
Weston	Visual and Performing Arts Leader (Teacher)

14 **How many students and teachers in art and music?**

FY25 Proposed Staffing						
	Art Enrollment	Art Teachers	Music Enrollment *	Music Teachers	Total Enrollment	Total Teachers
Elementary	2,110	4.0	2,110	9.6	4,220	13.6
Middle School	1,010	3.0	955	6.0	1,965	9.0
High School	787	5.8	270	2.6	1,057	8.4
Total	3,907	12.8	3,335	18.20	7,242	31.0

***Excludes Instrumental lessons**

15 **What options do we have to not provide staff with multiple devices?**

Building level administrators have been moving away from two devices (desktop and laptop) with the sole device being a laptop. The proposed laptops are a replacement cycle for laptop devices.

21 **Why is accessions reduced in RC21**

The elementary level currently has a healthy collection of print books available in the library media spaces. Currently, it is a transition period for the HHR library and not recommended to put additional books in the HHR libraries as some books are in storage for the pending construction. Each year, we supplement the library media spaces with classroom libraries at the elementary school. Middle school classrooms have book collections to supplement the texts available in the library media spaces.

26 **Comparable tuition for Prek**

Program	Number	Number of Days	Tuition Rate
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	of Hours		
Darien-Proposed	19	5	\$11,500
Westport	25	5	\$11,907
Noroton Presbyterian	19.75	5	\$12,168
Saint Johns Pre-School	20	5	\$10,970
Methodist Family Center	23.75	5	\$12,669
First Congregational Church PreSchool	22	5	\$11,874
Holly Pond YMCA	24	5	\$12,110

26	What is the maximum capacity of ELP?	135 Students (9 classes with a maximum of 15 students)
26	Do we need more substitute coverage for ELP given a five day per week schedule?	No. The ELP budget assumes an 8% absence rate from Teachers. There are funds for daily substitutes as well as a dedicated building substitute for ELP.
24	What are the opportunities to bring services in house rather than contracting out (Paras, Speech, OT, PT, Behavioral)	This will be discussed at the January 17th Special Board of Education Meeting.
24	What programs can be created in Darien to reduce the growth of outplacements/unilateral agreements?	This will be discussed at the January 17th Special Board of Education Meeting.
24	Explain the difference between the proposed Director of Special Education K-12+ and the Assistant Superintendent of SESS?	This will be discussed at the January 17th Special Board of Education Meeting.
19	Discuss the loss of the elementary curriculum coordinator.	<p>The work of the elementary curriculum coordinator will be prioritized and distributed among the elementary assistant principals and teacher leader/curriculum specialists through the 5 stipends added to the budget.</p> <p>Some of the related responsibilities under the Director of Elementary Curriculum include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide curriculum resources to all K-5 classroom teachers, interventionists, and administrators

- collaborate on updates to curriculum guides
- serve as a liaison between the data warehouse program and staff
- at the building level, coordinate assessment and instructional materials
- collaborate on the ordering of curriculum and instructional materials
- assist in professional learning for teachers, paraprofessionals, both general and special education teachers.

18 Provide turnover history of the last five years?

Fiscal Year	Number of Teacher Turnover
FY24	66
FY23	74
FY22	32
FY21	31
FY20	28

18 History of salary savings for the last five years?

Fiscal Year	Salary Savings
FY24	\$274,255*
FY23	\$58,540
FY22	\$69,468
FY21	\$122,800
FY20	\$241,624

*As of December 31, 2023

25 Can we see bus schedule of prices?

*Per Day Per Bus Cost

Diesel Buses-RFP Results

	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Type I Bus	\$597.14	\$638,94	\$683.67	\$751.53	\$782.74
Type II Bus	\$549.96	\$588.46	\$629.65	\$673.73	\$720.89
Wheel Chair Van	\$552.68	\$591.37	\$632.77	\$677.06	\$724.45
ELP Bus	\$88.41	\$94.60	\$101.22	\$108.31	\$115.89

Propane Buses-RFP Results					
	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Type I Bus	N/A	\$741.26	\$908.04	\$971.60	\$1039.61

*Buses phased in 50% FY26 and 50% FY27