

Greenwich Board of Education Follow Up Questions Part II Following November 7, 2024 Budget Meeting

Sophie Koven (December 4, 2024)

- 1. The increase in substitute costs is due to increase in pay, not increases in teacher absenteeism?**

Yes, and the loss of the ARP to supplement the funding increases.

- 2. Are higher bus costs due primarily to Special Education transportation of Prek students? Change of dismissal time at the high school?**

Primarily due to the increase of PreK students.

- 3. Are we required by contract to run a certain number of bus routes?**

No. The contract with the bus company provided existing conditions (e.g., number of vehicles and bell times) with language: "These times and numbers are subject to change depending on the needs of the school system."

Needs of the school system is also a function of the BOE Regulation 3541R-3541.3R regarding walking distance.

- 4. How often can we review our PreK rates? They are well below market.**

We review them every year, but they are intentionally set below market as those who attend our preschool are typical peers who are supporting a federally mandated preschool program. It is very different from a community preschool.

- 5. Can you speak more about the excess cost reimbursement for out-placements? It seems to be increasing at about \$1M a year? Does this discussion need to happen in an executive session?**

We have been increasing our excess cost reimbursement as we make sure that students are in state approved schools. Dr. Heilgenthaler has also done a tremendous job making sure that all of the eligible services are calculated and submitted.

In 2024, we were eligible for \$2,162,503, but the state ran out of money and we did not get all of what we were eligible for ([page 193 in budget book](#)).