East Greenwich Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Meeting Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Location: Archie Cole Middle School Library & Via Zoom
100 Cedar Ave. East Greenwich, RI

Minutes

Mr. Marcaccio presented information on the budget process.

Budget process overview: Whereas in many communities the School Board operates as an independent entity, the EGSD School Committee is budgeted from within the Town Council budget. Budgets are capped at 4% increase over previous year but can be given exception for a year with state waiver process.

4% increase would cover increases for inflation, increases in health insurance costs, pension, etc.

The district budget must include larger cost items like out of district placements and students in residential or highly specialized programs as well as partial hospitalization programs.

Another budget item is transition services with focus in academics/life-skills. The district is hoping to expand these in-house with the addition of facilities in the school district building projects.

The district also provides and pays for nursing services and out of districts ESY services.

Each building has a budget with line item budgeting. Budgets are notoriously difficult to predict when they are based on individual student needs. Plans to embed RBT staff, behavioral personal care attendants into district are ongoing.

General staffing and curriculum purchase are costs centralized in teaching and learning. Mr. Marcaccio will continue to talk about budget with committee to gain insight and gather ideas.

Update on school district.

Increased need in SLP. District will bring in another SLP.

Co-teaching established as a way to improve across the board for all students with no documented negative effects. Fidelity to model, guaranteed and viable core curriculum.

SEAC continues to be eligible to place SIT team participants and continues to seek candidates at each school and to improve coordination among schools.

Plan for social meet-up in late January 2025.