

FY 2021 Westford Public Schools Budget Questions & Answers (2nd set questions)
Finance Committee

Dept. Number, Name + Account	Questioner's Name/Question	Response
300 Education	Galvin: Please explain the increase in the # 1420 Human Resource and Comp Reserve from 44K to 1.7M	The FY21 compensation reserve holds funds needed for the unsettled contracts for Unit A (teachers), Unit B (curric. coordinators and team leaders), Unit C (nurses), Unit E (Math and Reading Interventionists), and non-union COLA increases.
300 Education	Galvin: Please explain the increases in the following salary categories – Prof Sal Spch Miller from 96K to 187K – Prof Sal Spch Occ Ther Miller from 95.8K to 187K - Prof SalSpch Occ Thr Miller from 41K to 81K – Prof SalSpchOccTher Abbot from 27K to 41K	The specialists/therapists are assigned based on the needs of the students at each particular school. This changes every year. In FY20 we moved 4 special education preschool classrooms to Miller School. This resulted in an increase in teachers, teaching assistants, and related service providers at Miller.
300 Education	Galvin: Please Explain the increases in the following salary, Reg Teach assist Kind Miller 62K to 87K	The new teaching assistant contract, signed after the FY20 budget was finalized, was funded with money in the compensation reserve. The expense line in FY21 reflects the increase in FY20 and FY21.
300 Education	Galvin: Please Explain the increases in the following salaries; SPEDtchrAsst Nab from 131K to 149K- SPEDtchr assist Rob from 94K to 110K, SPEDtchrassistAbbot from 103K to 161K- SPEDTchrAssistDay from 116K to 153K, SPEDtchrassistBlanch from 135K to 157K- SpdtchrStnybrk from 245K to 263K- ProfSalary GuidAcad from 877K to 934K	The special education teaching assistants are assigned based on the needs of the students at each particular school. This changes every year. Additional TA's may be hired as reflective in a student's IEP requirements.
300 Schools	Shankar Hegde/ It is alarming that the operating budget has increased by 40% while student enrollment has decreased by 410, since 2010. School committee needs to work with the superintendent to improve operational efficiency so as to provide excellent	81% of the FY21 budget goes to salaries, 6.3% to out of district special education tuitions, 4.5% to transportation, 2.5% to utilities, 1.1% to maintenance, leaving 3.8% for all other (technology, instructional

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	education under budget. Please identify any steps that have been taken to increase operational efficiency.	supplies, special education contracted services, etc.). There cannot be a direct correlation between enrollment and overall budget because the budget reflects the particular needs and complexities of students, not just the straight number of students.
300 Schools	Shankar Hegde: There is decrease in teachers' budget while overhead budget is going up. Instructional leadership went up by 1.8% and pupil services up by 5.3% even though projected student population will be down by 64. Please tell us how you are going to keep programs like Latin while decreasing overhead budget (Like Instructional leadership, Pupil services...).	The Pupil Services (special education) student population continues to increase, even though the overall student population decreases. Instructional Leadership (principals) increased by the COLA amount.
300 Schools	Shankar Hegde: Why not contain or decrease transportation service cost commensurate with decrease in student population? It is going up by 14% while projected student population will be down by 64.	The regular transportation costs reflect the 3-year bus contract signed with Dee Bus (the only bidder for transportation). In FY21 we are obligated to pay the contracted rate for Year 2.