

**TALKING POINTS
COMMON COUNCIL
FY 2011-2012 BUDGET
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011**

The Board of Education directed me at their October 12th meeting to develop a budget that reflects contractual obligations and no increases to supplies, materials, and equipment. This represents funding levels for supplies, materials, equipment, as well as curriculum/instruction or teaching/learning support that will be three years old (from 2009 - 2010).

MPS HIGHLIGHTS: FOCUS

- We achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for CMT and Safe Harbor as a district
- We made Safe Harbor for every single one of our subgroups on the CMT
- We were the only one of the 18 Needs Improvement districts to improve enough to make Adequate Yearly Progress.
- We are in year 3 of our District Improvement Plan (DIP)
- District Improvement Plan is used as a State model
- The SDE Consultants say that MPS is the best in the State with regard to the DDT process
- The SDE Consultants also say that the depth of our conversations, understanding of instruction, and the instructional leadership is second to none in the State
- The SDE has recommended that MPS meet and talk with Governor Malloy with regard to school reform and closing the achievement gap
- The report to the Governor on school improvement from CAS, CABE, & CAPSS referred Governor Molloy to the MPS Website
- The only district in the state showing data and how the CALI initiative is supposed to be implemented
- Presentations at numerous State-sponsored Data Showcases
- Numerous Districts and administrators attend and model our District Data Team (DDT) process
- How did we do this?
- Over the past two years we have reduced staff, contained cost, and used non-ECS Stimulus Funds
- We did this on a 0% increase in our budget over the past 2 years
- Two years ago the teachers did not take a step increase
- In addition, all of our unions as well as Central Office this year negotiated a 0% increase in salary, as well as no step increase
- Our Health insurance has been 0% increase for the past 2 years

Points of Interest: 3.45% increase or \$2.4 Million

Salary Line:

- Certified: Administration (009)
 - 1.9% Salary Increase (009)
 - No Step Increase
 - No new administration positions
 - Central Office included
- Certified: Teachers (110)
 - Step Increase ONLY (110)
 - \$1,000 Increase Teachers at top Step
 - Loss of \$2.4 Million Stimulus Funds

Employee Benefits:

Agent for the Board of Education: 14% (220)

Unemployment & Workers Comp

Total: \$0.5 Million

Diesel Fuel: Buses \$3.00 Gallon (416) \$537,000

The district did not budget this year because the BOE voted to purchase current year bus fuel with 2009-2010 funds.

Professional Services: (300) \$256,800

Medical services from Pupil Transportation
and SP/L service being provide by an outside agency

Cost Savings:

Transportation: (331) Consolidation of routes, elimination
of bus run due to non-public school closing (\$88,000)

Computer Equipment: (546) 300 Lease Computer and
and Virtual Student Terminals (\$58,235)

ARRA: Funding for ECS (2009 - 2010 and 2010 - 2011) \$4.75 Million

ARRA Funding for District (SPED & Title I) \$1.9 Million

ARRA Lack of Funding for FY 2011 - 2012 \$6.65 Million

Remember the funding cliff I spoke about two years ago as well as last year – its here

Further points of interest Association of School Officials (ASBO) International Budget Award

Middletown is the only district in the State to ever win this prestigious award and one of 24 cities in the country to win the award.

The Cambridge Group Report (an independent audit of our school district) in 2007 rated our budget the highest rating available: specifically noted: it is comprehensive, transparent, has numerous stakeholders involved, increases communication, the Cambridge Group said it was the best budget manual they have seen, they praised our monthly budget committee process, as well as the inclusion of our SMART Goals

Furthermore, we have won numerous awards from CABA/CAPSS for our budget

Audit:

As I am sure you have heard, there have been many allegations made by the Mayor. Here are the facts:

- The audit was for the year ending June 30, 2010
- The audit has a “Finding” against the City
- There is no “Finding” against the BOE
- A finding in an audit is a bad thing – could affect the City’s ability to get future grants
- The Management Letter is suggestions for the City and BOE to improve financial practices
- Blum Shapiro quote - “We offer as constructive suggestions for your consideration”
- Both the City and the BOE were offered constructive suggestions in the Management Letter
- The Mayor alleges we had: money disappearing, sloppy accounting, mismanagement of funds, and ongoing criminal investigations
- Nothing could be further from the truth
- The Mayor has had the Audit since December 31st and the Management Letter, both of which do not support the Mayor’s claims
- On June 11, 2010, the Budget Committee went through every line item transfer in the budget
- Budget Committee meetings are posted, open to the public, includes 3 BOE Members, and 2 Community Members
- The Line item transfers were: documented, reviewed and discussed, and voted on by the BOE at Board their meeting, June 15, 2010
- This process is documented, transparent, and standard procedures are followed
- The fact is the BOE returned to the City \$50,776
- Quite frankly, we know where every penny is spent in our budget

MJF:mp