

Budget Questions from the BOE Meeting of December 15, 2016

- 1. When will you have a firm number on the cost of health insurance for 2017-2018?**
Final numbers should be provided by February/early March.
- 2. Can we look at changing insurance carriers?**
Yes, we can. We will be evaluating this possibility with the town. We will be evaluating alternatives for the pharmacy part of our insurance which is the fastest growing expense.
- 3. Will tech specialist be district or school based? Could we contract out for these positions?**
They will be district-based and split among four schools. We are willing to investigate the possibility of contract services.
- 4. Special education costs are 20% of the budget.**
Yes, and it's not atypical; special education costs increasing statewide. Various organizations such as CAFE and CAPSS are discussing funding alternatives and are advocating for changes in state policy.
- 5. What counter levers do we have to control special education costs?**
In district, we are developing programming and building the expertise and capacity of staff so that outplacements decrease. Outplacements are one of the most costly drivers for special education and we have no control over tuition rates.
- 6. Are special education schools' tuition rates legislatively set?**
No, they are set by private schools or RESC.
- 7. What grade level will CCSN ultimately work up to?**
CCSN is currently focused on younger grades. Our work with CCSN was originally created as a five-year plan to include PreK-12 ultimately. CCSN will be working with PreK-3 next year while at the same time the district is improving the special education model PreK-12. A quicker rate of implementation with CCSN consultation is predicted in years four and five.
- 8. What is timeline to review the possibility of an 8 period day schedule at SHS?**
The teacher committee is currently reviewing this model and its implications. The committee gave a presentation to the curriculum cabinet in early December. In order to meet scheduling requirements, a decision will need to be made by the middle of March.
- 9. Will having an 8 period day allow for more varied classes?**
Yes, eight periods will offer more of a variety of classes and more flexibility. This will also allow for intervention and enrichment opportunities.