

2018-2019 Budget Questions
January 16, 2018 BOE Meeting

1. **What are the Vocational Tech transportation costs?**
Vocational Tech is the cost of transporting Suffield students who attend Cheney Tech. We are required by law to transport these students.
2. **What is the percentage of textbooks that includes an active online subscription?**
Almost all of the textbooks that have been purchased in the last three years have an online subscription included.
3. **Why is there a reduction of paraprofessionals at SHS and SMS and a large increase at McAlister proposed?**
There is an increase of 1.8 FTEs at Spaulding and 5.4 FTEs at McAlister and a combined reduction of 5.0 at SMS and SHS. These numbers compare the budgeted FTEs for this year to next year. Next year's budget is based on current assignments plus the addition of 2.0 FTEs at McAlister. The 2018-19 assignments for these new paraprofessionals as well as all current paraprofessionals will be determined over the summer and will be based on specific student needs. Also, younger students typically need more one-to-one support. The philosophy is to prepare students to be as independent as possible and that is why older special education students do not and should not have as much support.
4. **Why is there a 42% drop in PreK salaries?**
That reduction is due to a teacher who retired last year at a much higher step than the teacher who replaced her. There is no change in teacher staffing in PreK.
5. **Why is there a noted increase in outplacement tuition since the 2015-2016 school year?**
In 2015-2016, outplacement tuition was budgeted net of excess cost.
6. **What is the Excess Cost reimbursement rate budgeted at?**
70%
7. **Degree changes are budgeted the same as last year. When will you know the exact amount?**
Teachers have until January 2 to notify the district of degree changes. It is now estimated to be about a \$10,000 increase over this year.
8. **Will the pension contributions number change?**
Yes, but we do not have final numbers from the Town yet. It should be less though as no new employees are enrolled in the pension.
9. **Why has the copier contract increased for Central Office?**
We used to have a vendor contract to provide service and toner for printers throughout the district where we paid on a per print basis. After evaluation, we determined that we could more effectively purchase the toner ourselves. We included in the Central Office copier budget line \$5,000 for toner throughout the district.

10. **What expenses are included in the BOE line item?**
Legal fees, audits, purchased services, supplies and CAFE dues
11. **Why is there an increase to the food subsidy?**
That is the proposed guarantee from Aramark that will be negotiated in the contract.
12. **How many retirements do we have this year?**
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