

March 8, 2010

Dear Region 13 Parents,

I want to alert you to upcoming Board of Education meetings that will be focused on the 2010-2011 budget and encourage you to attend these sessions. Meetings will be held on March 10th, 17th, and 24th at Strong School in the library, beginning at 7:30. All meetings begin with an opportunity for public comment.

This Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, I will focus specifically on projected student enrollment, class size, and the football program coming to CRHS.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board has devoted the first hour of the meeting for dialogue with audience members. This is a great opportunity for the public and parents to have their concerns and wishes heard. In addition, Board members will be at Perk on Main on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon to provide additional opportunities to answer questions and talk with the public regarding the district budget.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 I presented the proposed 2010-2011 budget (This presentation can be found on the website by clicking “finance” on the left side). This budget calls for a 2.88% increase made up primarily of salaries and benefits. This follows a decade-low .58% increase for the 2009-2010 budget we are currently in. It is also important to note that there are 6.8 fewer positions in this current budget than there were the previous year, 2008-2009.

My focus for the 2010-2011 budget is to avoid additional staff cuts while maintaining manageable class sizes and continuing to provide appropriate services for all students. This becomes particularly important as we are looking ahead to our NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation process for Coginchaug in 2012-2013 with preliminary work beginning next year.

Lastly, this year’s budget of .58%, coupled with the 2.88% increase projected for next year, represents an average increase of 1.7% over a two-year period. Again, I encourage you to attend the upcoming BOE meetings this March. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-349-7200 or [sviccaro@rsd13.org](mailto:sviccaro@rsd13.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Susan Viccaro  
*Susan Viccaro*,  
Superintendent