

2010-2011 Budget Committee Presentation

We want to thank all the administrators for coming to the meetings to present data and answer questions from the members of the committee.

The budget committee was originally formed three years ago under the guidance of Superintendent Dr. Marc Space. This year, seventeen active participants from the Putnam Valley School District representing community and school organizations have met regularly since December 1, 2009. The majority of these participants have been on the committee since it was first formed in the fall of 2007, but there are also a few new faces. Occasionally, residents who were not on the committee came to listen to what was going on at the meetings.

Before discussing the committee's recommendations for the 2010-2011 budget, we feel it is important that the Board and the community have a clear understanding of what reductions in staffing and programs were made in previous budgets.

Since the end of the 2005-2006 school year up until today, the district student population has decreased by about fifteen students. During this same time period, district staff was decreased by eight teachers, five aides, four secretaries and a head custodian. In the 2009-2010 budget, the district publicist was eliminated. Staff development was reduced by \$30,000, the Twilight Program was reduced by \$11,468, and club stipends saw a 10% cut of \$10,847.

At our first meeting, Dr. Space provided us with important background information such as the district's vision and mission statements. Paul Lee provided us with background information relating to school budgets.

What is a Budget?

What are Budget Revenues?

What is a Tax Levy and how is it distributed among the towns that make up the school district?

What are Equalization and the Equalization Rates and what do they have to do with school taxes?

What is a Tax Rate and how is it determined?

How do the Tax Levy and Assessed Values lead to the Tax Rates.

What is the Budget Expense?

We needed to focus on Budget-to-Budget changes in Expenses and Revenues. We heard about projected losses in State Aid. Paul presented a list of mandated costs for services, reporting, health and safety, AIS, and other areas. This \$7.9 million is about 18.5% of the budget and approximately 84% of these mandates are UNFUNDED MANDATES.

Dr Space encouraged the members of the committee to give suggestions and ask questions about what was presented or to get additional information. He provided a "suggestion box" for these confidential suggestions and he

promised he would get us the information, bring in members of the administration to address the issues, or provide the answers to our questions.

Some of the questions/suggestions were: (These were NOT consensus recommendations.)

- Class sizes at all schools, and elective classes at the HS – **have a minimum enrollment in electives and college level (AP, DCC) courses before running the classes. Increase class sizes at the HS for required courses.**

- “We need to make education a priority” – cut back on other areas before we consider cutting teachers

- Look at sharing services, including staff, between the HS/MS.

- Offer some type of retirement incentive

- Freeze the current budgets in all areas, stop conferences and staff development and spend only on essentials for the remaining 2009-2010 school year.

- Are there positions that could be scaled back to part time, or cut?

- Cut back or cut completely (for 2010-2011) funds for staff and curriculum development

- Cut all areas by the same (10%) percentage – no area is “sacred” or protected, and “every area suffers equally” (This WAS a consensus recommendation and is in the recommendations summary.)

In February, Paul gave us an update on Budget challenges that the district was facing and projected estimates for 2010-2011 revenues and expenses. He offered us possible scenarios to offset projected losses in state aid and some of the contractual increases. We listened, asked questions, debated, agreed, disagreed and discussed. This, again, is a very difficult year because of the economic challenges. We needed to maintain the quality educational programs, while being cognizant of the financial hardships that many community members are facing.

After weighing all the information, and knowing we had to focus on expenses and revenues, we asked ourselves the following questions. What tax levy would we, as a committee, be comfortable with presenting as our suggestion, to the Board of Education? How do we get to that percentage?

Dr. Space and Paul Lee presented us with documentation of how they arrived at preliminary, contingency and “zero” budget scenarios. (This document was also presented at the March 11, 2010 Board of Education meeting.) We had been given “initial cut” suggestions, “additional cut” suggestions, and also arrived at additional cuts, that we, as a committee, agreed on.

Member, Bob Canavan prepared the final summary of these suggested cuts, and member Rita Sharples will now present this information.

PVCSD Budget Committee Summary

Budgets	2009-10	2010 - 11			
		Rollover	Preliminary	Contingency	Contingency 'Minus'
	\$ 43,528,963	\$ 45,059,586	\$ 44,267,241	\$ 43,962,750	\$ 43,892,750.00
Budget Increases from 09-10		1,530,623	738,278	433,787	363,787
Budget reduction from Rollover			(792,345)	(1,096,836)	(1,166,836)
% Tax Levy increase from 09-10			2.12%	1.21%	1.00%

All Budgets are increases from 2009 - 10

Committee Consensus - 1.21% was OK but 1.0% was more likely to pass

Program / Expense Reductions	Source	Budget Reduction	% of "1%" reduction	Cumulative Reductions	Comment
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Reductions in FTE Teachers	4	Preliminary Budget	\$ 545,086			Agreed to by Budget Committee
	2	Contingency Budget Update	\$ 279,556			Agreed to by Budget Committee
	6		\$ 824,642	70.7%	70.7%	

Reduction in Athletics Budget	Preliminary Budget	\$ 89,000	7.6%	78.3%	Agreed to by Budget Committee
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Materials and Supplies	Budget Committee	\$ 80,000	6.9%	85.2%	One of the 10% 'share the pain' reductions All Schools, all departments
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Professional Development	Summer Prof Development	Preliminary Budget	\$ 50,000			Agreed to by Budget Committee
	Summer Prof Development	Budget Committee	\$ 7,000			One of the 10% 'share the pain' reductions
	BOCES	Budget Committee	\$ 5,000			One of the 10% 'share the pain' reductions
			\$ 62,000	5.3%	90.5%	

Twilight Program	Preliminary Budget	\$ 50,000	4.3%	94.8%	Agreed to by Budget Committee
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Future School Leaders	Preliminary Budget	\$ 20,000	1.7%	96.5%	Agreed to by Budget Committee
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Non-Mandated Conferences	Budget Committee	\$ 20,000	1.7%	98.2%	"Placeholder" estimate
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Clubs [non sports]	Budget Committee	\$ 15,000	1.3%	99.5%	One of the 10% 'share the pain' reductions
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1 School Monitor	Contingency Budget Update	\$ 8,169	0.7%	100.2%	Agreed to by Budget Committee
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Music & Drama	Budget Committee	\$ 3,250	0.3%	100.4%	One of the 10% 'share the pain' reductions
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Total Reduction from Rollover Budget		\$ 1,172,061	Any savings beyond '1%' target should be used to reduce amount used from 'Rainy Day Fund'?		
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Reduction in FTE Teacher Aids	2	Contingency Budget Update	\$ 84,099			
Replaced by Monitors	3	Contingency Budget Update	\$ (25,000)			
			\$ 59,099			

Not agreed to by Budget Committee