



THE BROOKFIELD BROADCAST

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2016

2016 BUDGET

You may recall that the Board of Education adopted budget included a 4.19% increase over this current year's spending which addressed many long standing needs and exciting enhancements to our existing programs. Earlier this month, the Board of Selectmen proposed the town Budget to the Board of Finance. This proposal contained an \$800,000 or 2% reduction to the Board of Education's adopted budget. The Board of Finance adopted the town budget which includes the 2.17% increase for the schools.

While an \$800,000 or 2% decrease may appear drastic, it is actually an appropriate adjustment considering our collaborative efforts to reduce current health care costs. The Town and Board of Education have been collaborating with the municipal employees and will transition to the CT Health Partnership Plan effective July 1, 2016. This change in health care is a win for all parties, including the Town of Brookfield. With this transition brings a richer health care plan for our employees and the realization of significant savings for the Town. Therefore, the requests and enhancements planned in the adopted Board of Education operating budget for 2016-2017 remain intact.

A budget forum was hosted on April 5th, where the Board of Finance recommended the budget for the residents to consider. This meeting served as a forum for town's people to discuss all Town budget items.

It is important to recognize the educators, parents, and elected officials who have made this years budget process collaborative and productive as we aim to best educate our students.



2016 STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic-Coherence Planning Committee, made up of educators, parents, and a Board of Education member, has convened on several occasions in recent months to initiate this important work. *The vision of the Strategic-Coherence planning process is to create a set of focused goals that identify the most critical, coherent strategic changes that need to be made to address data-based challenges over the next three to five years.* A major component of any successful organization is unity of purpose and with your input thus far important value has been added to the strategic planning process. The Committee has been reflecting on current and past performance, considering the current changes in education, and refining the district's core values and mission statement. Thus far we have articulated several core areas of focus;

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communication | Collaboration |
| Character Development | Critical Thinking & Problem Solving |
| Creativity & Innovation | Connection |

The process is providing the foundation for a viable planning document that explicitly undergirds the actions necessary to propel the students of the Brookfield Public Schools toward their fullest potential.

I thank the Committee for their dedication and efforts thus far in our Strategic-Coherence planning process.

Town Meeting
May 3, 2016

Town Referendum
May 17, 2016
(tentative)

BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET FOCUS AREAS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Bob Belden, Chairman | 1. Student Achievement |
| Paul Checco, Vice Chairman | 2. Leadership & Capacity Building |
| Colette Sturm, Secretary | 3. Adhere to Class Size Guidelines |
| Harry Shaker | 4. Math Curriculum, Program Staffing |
| Steve Harding | 5. Teacher Learning & Growth Plans |
| Tara Lerner | 6. Provide Cutting Edge Technology |
| Eve Sturdevant | 7. Enhance Core Instruction & Assessment |
| | 8. Restore Positions Reduced in Recent Years |
| | 9. Eliminate Pay to Participate |

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2016-2017 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

\$40,381,472 - A 2.17% increase or \$858,706

BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

The past few months at Brookfield High School have been equal parts busy and exciting. In January, our Peer Counselors with help from the National Honor Society, hosted a 9th grade mid-term exam review in the Library. I was amazed at the number of freshmen who accessed sessions on time management, study tips, and content specific tutoring. In early February we were fortunate to hear published author Kevin Breel share his personal story of mental health struggles along with an uplifting preview of how our community can work together to provide much needed supports. The hard work of our art students was proudly on display for the majority of the month, showcasing a multitude of amazing talents. Our faculty spent three full days of professional development time honing their instructional skills relative to argumentation, close reading, text dependent questions, and the gradual release of responsibility model. February also saw success with the advent of our Unified Sports basketball program and a new format for the Incoming 9th Grade Night. March is just beginning but we have already administered the new SAT and CAPT and will patiently await those results. Our DECA and Robotics programs met with success at the state and regional levels and aspire to ultimately win on the national stage. Spring events include the theater department's production of Willy Wonka from April 7th to April 9th, the St. Baldrick's head shaving fundraiser to childhood cancer research on April 11th, the Wellness Festival on April 12th, SADD Mock Crash on April 26th, and the Junior Prom on April 29th. Our calendar of fun and informative events will continue throughout the end of the school year.



WHISCONIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Recently, Whisconier Middle School has had some of our students/teams perform very well at regional and state competitions. Congratulations to all of the students and their teachers!

Iman K. (8th grade alto saxophone) and Minjo M. (8th grade clarinet) were selected to participate in the Concert Band for the **Western Region Middle School Music Festival** at Western Connecticut State University on March 18 & 19. Thanks to Mr. Robinson and Ms. Grace for leading these two phenomenal musicians.

Iman K., Maansi B., Faaiz Q., Irfan A., and Matt A., all WMS 8th graders, participated in the **Connecticut Middle School Science Bowl** at UCONN. The team made it to the 11th round of the competition and came in 8th out of 32 teams. Thanks to their advisors, Mrs. D'Amora and Mr. Kozak.



This year the **WMS Spelling Bee** went on for 16 rounds! Third place was 6th grader Zaen Q., second place was 6th grader Shruti K., and the first place winner, who moved on to the **Connecticut Regional Spelling Bee** at Quinnipiac University, was 8th grader Faaiz Q. Faaiz came in fifth place at the regional competition. Thanks to Mr. Cook for leading our spellers this year.

Our **WMS Mathcounts** Team took 1st place at the **Northwest Regional Mathcounts Competition**. The team consisted of Alex D., Avery H., Adharsh K., Ben M., Faaiz Q., Kevin T., and Andrew Y. Four of the students (Alex, Avery, Adharsh, and Kevin) moved on to the state finals at University of Hartford. At the state finals, the team placed 8th in Connecticut. Alex D. was our top finisher and came in 31st out of 188 students. Our **WMS Math Team** is also currently in 1st Place in the Fairfield County Math League. Below is a picture of some of our mathletes and coach Mr. Reinhardt.

WMS students Hunter F., Ian F., Faaiz Q., Matthew R., and Andrew Y. qualified for the regional finals of the **National History Bee** in Bridgeport, CT., which will be held on April 20, 2016. Good luck to the students and thanks to their advisor, Mr. Milde.

Three of our WMS students participated in the **FIRST Lego League Regional Competition** in Enfield, CT, the home of Lego Corporate Campus in the USA. Maansi B., Tanisha G., and Iman K., were part of Team EPIC (Exceptional People Impacting the Community), who won the 1st place at the regional competition. The team then moved on to the state competition and finished 25th out of 48 teams, but more impressively won the **Gracious Professionalism Award**. It states on the website - Gracious professionalism is part of the ethos of **FIRST**. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. What an honor that these students represented WMS at the competition.

Whisconier Middle School is filled with remarkable artists! March 10th was opening day for the WMS Art Show. This year the halls of Whisconier are alive with student art work. Ms. Agati and her students have spent countless hours working on their masterpieces and it truly shows!

HUCKLEBERRY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HHES students and staff have been too busy learning this winter to hibernate! The HHES learning community has engaged in exciting learning activities including International Week, learning the argumentation protocol, and reducing the volume of our cafeteria trash through “flip-tap-stack.”

Teachers expanded their professional practice by participating in professional learning activities designed to build collaboration and cohesion. Some highlights include delving into the reading and writing units, learning different strategies for writing text dependent questions, engaging students in the argumentation protocol, and sharing expertise with colleagues through an “ed camp” opportunity. These activities have resulted in professional learning for our teachers and students.

Ask your children about our monthly PAWS assemblies. At our February assembly we rolled out our “bus spotlight” to support positive behavior on the bus. Mrs. Panda and Ms. Olivier, HHES Climate Coordinators, worked with our bus drivers to review our PAWS expectations as they apply to riding on the bus.

Drivers rate their students’ behaviors each week and buses who earn at least 12 out of 16 points are “spotlighted”. Winning buses are then featured on a bulletin board and entered into a drawing to win “valet service” during arrival and “open gym” time the following Monday. The first week, 6 buses/vans earned spotlights and by week 3, 9 buses/vans had earned a spotlight. We’re so proud of our students for showing PAWS more frequently on the bus!

Also at the February PAWS assembly, our 4th grade chorus led the student body in singing the new HHES School Song written by Mrs. Greenberg, HHES music teacher. Ask your child to sing

it for you!

Next, PAWS will focus on the cafeteria where children will practice the “flip-tap-stack” approach for reducing waste volume. This initiative is piloted by our 2B community (Bonapace, Naiman, Plue, Steiner, and Stubbs) with the assistance of several volunteers. Second graders are reducing waste created by lunch trays being put in waste barrels. Instead, after finishing lunch, students move to a tray stacking station and “flip-tap-stack”: they flip their trays over the trash barrel, tap the back of the tray to dislodge any remaining debris from lunch, and stack their trays face side down on the tray stacking station. This has resulted in a tremendous decrease in trash volume. Once we have worked out the logistics we will look to expand to other areas as well. Stay tuned!

During the next few months, as spring descends upon Brookfield, students will be getting their hearts pumping and bodies moving during our PE gymnastics unit and before school during Rise and Shine and FIT Club. Huck’s Paw Patch Community Garden is getting a makeover with new mulch, flower pots, and garden stones. Fourth graders are painting sets and designing costumes for our upcoming production of Peter Pan Jr. Budding scientists are finalizing their hypotheses and gathering their data for the science fair. Teachers are planning field trips and spring activities. Learning is blooming at HHES!



CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Center School students and staff have been busy this winter. Teachers are working to embed the learning from our ongoing professional development in their classrooms. Every class has learned to use the iPad StoryKit app to create an informational response that demonstrates their learning. After students learned how to use this app during their library and art enrichment classes, teachers participated in demonstration and debriefing sessions to refine their instructional use of this technology tool. Throughout the spring classrooms will be using the app to demonstrate learning in mathematics, social studies, science, or literacy. Mrs. Zezza’s class produced and shared “How To” books using this tool. In response to other professional development, students in many classes have begun

using learning targets and success criteria to guide and self-assess their daily class work. Parents and children have been reading together at the Family Reading Workshop before school.

Coming up this April and May, Center School is excited to look forward to our annual spring events as well as some new activities.

April brings our annual One Book, One Read reading event sponsored by the Center School PTO and Brookfield Education Foundation. Students will be focusing on Cinderella themed tales from around the world. Each week students will take home a different version of a Cinderella tale to read with their family. In class they will read a different Cinderella story to compare. These books feature rich vocabulary, varied cultures, and variations on the traditional tale that include male main characters. Also coming up this spring, our reading therapy dog will be joining the Center School family for the first time in the reading room. Kindergarten classes are preparing for their spring concerts on April 12th. Grade 1 students will be visiting HHES to share in the fun of the fourth grade play on April 6th. We are also gearing up to welcome new kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school year. We are excited to welcome incoming kindergarten families to Kindergarten Screening (please call the office for an appointment). Parents are welcome to join us for a Kindergarten Information Session on May 19th at 7 PM

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE-INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION PLANS



Program Enhancements: Curriculum and Instruction 2016-17

YEAR	Curriculum	Curriculum Writing
2016 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Implement Reading Foundations Curriculum K-3; Advance Word Work Grades 4-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Literacy K-5 Reading Foundations and Word Work alignment K-6 (8) (begin summer 2016)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Implement Mathematics Program K-6 (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rollout to be determined by K-12 Mathematics Committee recommendation (grades; gradual vs. full implementation; pilot program, etc.) •Classroom Libraries K-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To support reading foundations instruction; Units of Study, non-fiction content reading •Newcomer Program (English Language Learners) •Review Health Curriculum •Review K-12 World Language <p style="text-align: center;">Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Implement STAR(or other) Math Benchmark Assessments/Progress Monitoring System, vertically aligned K-8 •Continue DIBELS Literacy Benchmark /Progress Monitoring K-4 •Continue Spelling Assessment (WTW) K-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review inclusion 5-8 •SBAC Interim Assessments – ongoing evaluation with integrated implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) –K, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CSDE training modules 2015-2017; CSDE guidance on curriculum writing 2016-17; implementation 2017-18) •Mathematics: K-5/6-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Summer 2016 and school year 2016-17 •Newcomer Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Summer 2016 •Review Social Studies Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Facilitation from CSDE Social Studies Consultant: Spring and Summer 2016. Curriculum and implementation plan summer 2016.



Program Enhancements: Professional Learning & Technology 2016-17

YEAR	Professional Learning	Technology
2016 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NGSS modules & NGSX training •SAT training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data Management System review: Phase 1
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing PD in Literacy (Close Reading, Text Dependent Questions, Writing, Comprehension) •Sheltered English Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment: SBAC interim & NGSS assessments •ReVision: Supervision and Evaluation; Feedback •Social Studies Standards; Inquiry •Mathematics Standards & program implementation •Social Studies framework & curriculum implementation •STAR Mathematics Assessment •Units of Study: Reading & Writing K-4 •Ongoing DIBELS training •Management and use of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •myOn Pilot at HHES, WMS •Investigate StudySync

SPECIAL SERVICES

A COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY DARES TO SPEAK UP! **CHARLIE MANOS, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES**



Brookfield CARES (a community/school partnership), whose primary mission is to raise public awareness around mental health, social emotional, and addictions sponsored a highly successful community forum on March 1st at Brookfield High School. In attendance were key stakeholders including students, parents, community leaders and political dignitaries, school administrators and faculty, local medical and mental health professionals and business leaders. Approximately, 150 invited community members attended to listen to the major issues facing our community in terms of mental health and addiction and to brainstorm on going efforts to address, intervene and support our community.

Brookfield CARES has focused their efforts in the following areas:

Understanding the Addiction Process as both a complex psycho social/medical disorder and a way that individuals are attempting to treat/cope with psych social pain.

Understand the relationship among mental health issues (i.e. anxiety, depression, and trauma), social emotional challenges (i.e. bullying, social media) and addiction (in particular, the opioid/heroin epidemic among upper middle class youth).

Raise the level of public awareness regarding factors that contribute to mental health disorders, which have lethal consequences such as suicide, eating disorders and opioid overdoses.

Help the community view these issues as a Public Health epidemic in our community.

Understand that treatment and intervention is multi systemic involving families, community supports, medical & mental health professionals and the educational system.

Providing the community with the most up to date research and evidence based practices in the areas of mental health and addiction.

These issues are public health and educational concerns which require a highly collaborative and focused effort involving all stakeholders including students, parents, educators, medical and mental health professionals, community leaders and those who hold elected offices.

MISSION STATEMENT

OF THE BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TO INSPIRE, CHALLENGE AND PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO LIVE MEANINGFUL AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

BLUM SHAPIRO FINANCIAL AUDIT TOWN AND SCHOOLS

After months of examining Town and Board of Education financial policies and procedures, we are thrilled to report that business consulting firm Blum Shapiro has completed its audit report of findings and recommendations as a conclusion to Phase I of this town wide project. A joint meeting of the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance was convened on March 30, 2016 to receive the report.

Long standing financial and operational deficiencies and a path forward have been brought to light through the wisdom of investing in this audit project. This is an exciting time for Brookfield in that these fundamental procedures will impact our trajectory for the future. Through our collaboration we will now transition to Phase II (UCOA) and Phase III (Munis Transition) of this important process, propelling Brookfield to a model of financial and regulatory controls.



**SUPERINTENDENT
JOHN W. BARILE**



BROOKFIELD
Public Schools