

Question of the Week:

How is the Board of Education Budget Developed?

Since this is the time when you will hear more and more discussion about the education budget, I thought I would outline some of the steps we follow to create a school budget in Region 14.

- The Superintendent and Director of Finance/Operations begin planning the upcoming year's budget as early as October.
- Each building principal, along with the Director of Special Services, Director of Grounds/Maintenance, and the curriculum coordinators develop a budget for their school and/or department focusing on staffing needs, instructional supplies, replacement textbooks, equipment and professional development.
- Budget requests are always in line with the district's long and short term goals. Currently, our goal is to have 85% or more of our students reach goal or better on CMT and CAPT. Many budget requests support that goal.
- The Superintendent and Director of Finance/Operations confer individually with administrators to review budget requests and priorities.
- Using previous budgets as reference, costs of utilities, capital improvements, transportation, health benefits and salaries are all factored into the budget.
- Regular meetings with the First Selectmen from both towns give us a good idea of economic conditions in the community that need to be considered.
- Budget requests from all administrators are compiled into the first draft of the new budget.
- The draft is presented to the Board of Education at a workshop, typically held at the end of January.
- The Board makes suggestions for revisions/modifications. The workshop is also a time for board members to pose questions and offer suggestions.
- Revisions are made and the proposed budget is brought to the board at the regularly scheduled meeting in early March.
- A budget is adopted by the Board of Education in mid-March to be presented at a Public Hearing in early April.
- Final revisions are made to the budget following the Public Hearing.
- The Board of Education budget goes to referendum in early May.

Important Dates:

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| ✓ April 5, 2010 | Public Hearing | Nonnewaug High School |
| ✓ May 3, 2010 | District Meeting | Nonnewaug High School |
| ✓ May 4, 2010 | Budget Referendum | Voting locations in each town |