

# **WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**Weston Board of Education**

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**DATE: March 29, 2011**

I am pleased to present for your consideration and comment the Board of Education's Budget Request for the 2011-2012 school year. We believe this budget both sustains our tradition of excellence and our obligation of prudent financial management. The Requested Budget presents a spending plan that will allow the Weston Public Schools to fulfill its educational mission and supports each of the Board's adopted Budget Assumptions.

The goal of maintaining excellence while continuing to move the Weston Public Schools forward in a fiscally responsible manner has become an enormous challenge. We had to look carefully at our existing programs and staffing and make decisions to modify and rethink what is currently in place to maintain our programs and expected level of excellence. This Requested Budget contains many examples where reductions and cost savings and efficiencies in the present structure have been developed in order to maintain the culture and outstanding performance of the Weston Public Schools.

In order to present a responsible budget to the community, it is extremely important to develop such a plan in a collaborative manner. We have listened carefully to the Selectmen, Board of Finance, parents, staff, students, many groups and individuals representing various interests in the community. We have worked very closely with the administrative team, curriculum instructional leaders, and members of the central office team as we reflected upon the needs of the students in relation to the budgetary items being considered.

The operating standards followed in constructing this budget include:

- Ensure traditions of excellence in teaching and learning continue
- Maintain current class size ratios
- Offer close to the same breadth and depth of course offerings and extra-curricular activities at Weston High School
- Ensure that school facilities continue to be clean, safe and well-maintained
- Ensure that school and district offices function effectively and efficiently
- Ensure that we meet all legal mandates
- Practice financial restraint and efficiency

This budget is the result of months of thoughtful work, is needs-based, and data-driven. The Administrative Team and the Board of Education carefully balanced our continuous improvement efforts and the challenging economic times. It is a well-developed proposal that has been extensively analyzed and we have worked hard to reduce costs.

We are confident that your review of this financial plan will reveal a reasonable and responsive budget for the Weston Public Schools and community. I believe it is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible and welcome your questions and analysis throughout the Budget Workshops.

Accordingly, the Weston Board of Education respectfully presents the attached budget for your consideration. This budget was developed by our administrators, and presented to the Board of Education members in January. After careful review, consideration and modification the Board of education voted to request a budget of \$45,266,337. This budget request represented a 1.27% or \$569,313 increase. On March 24, 2011, the Board of Finance reduced this request by \$100,000 and approved a budget of \$45,166,337, for an increase of 1.05% for the Annual Town Budget Meeting. **The \$100,000 reduction by the Board of Finance represented a 17.7% reduction in the Board of Education's requested increase.**