

Ottoson Middle School
FY17 School Committee Budget Request
12/10/15

- **Rationale for staffing increase**

We are requesting a total of 5.5 additional FTE, to address needs created by enrollment growth at the middle school level.

- " 2.0 FTE Additional Cluster Teachers

- " The current grades 6 and 7 have each added a half cluster in the last two years in order to maintain a smaller class size. In order to maintain smaller more personalized class sizes at grade 8, we are requesting that a half cluster, 2.0 FTE additional teachers, be added for grade 8 for the 2016-17 school year.

- Current 7th grade - 383
- Current 6th grade - 411
- Expected incoming 6th grade - 410-420

- " 0.6 FTE Physical Education Teacher

- " In an attempt to keep PE classes in the 30's, we are requesting an additional 0.6 PE Teacher. Class sizes have become challenging to manage and locker room coverage has become a safety issue with the current staffing. As of right now, we have PE Teachers that are covering the locker room during their planning periods.

- " 0.2 FTE Family and Consumer Science Teacher

- " In order to keep FACS classes at reasonable sizes, we are requesting an additional .2 teacher. We currently have 2.4 FACS teachers and this would provide two extra sections in FACS for next year. This would bring the FACS department closer to the same number of FTE's with other exploratory departments which will allow for more balanced course sections.

- " 1.0 FTE School Nurse

- " To ensure an appropriate student coverage ratio, the district needs to add an additional school nurse at the middle school. Without this position, the district will fall below recommended state and federal student/school nurse level.

- 0.8 FTE World Language

- " The middle school's increased enrollment has created a need for additional class sections in the world language area, so we look to add an additional 0.8 Spanish/French teacher.
- " 0.4 FTE Digital Media/Computer Science
 - " Increased enrollment has created a need for additional class sections in the digital media/computer science area, therefore we are requesting additional 0.4 FTE for this need.
- " 0.5 FTE Social Worker
 - " In the wake of increased anxiety felt by students and in response to the rise of school refusal and hospitalizations, we are requesting an additional 0.5 social worker. The guidance counselor/social worker caseload is currently 300 and if we do not add this 0.5 position, next year's numbers will be over 300 which above the contractual limit.
- **Rationale for supplies and materials increase**

Increased enrollment has also created a need for additional supplies and materials.

 - " Lockers
 - " The lockers in both the girls' and boys' locker rooms are in complete disrepair and prove to be a safety/health risk. The lockers are close to 50 years old and many of them are unusable, broken and unsafe.
 - " In the student hallways we may require an additional 40 lockers for students to use for personal property.
 - " Desks
 - " With the increase in enrollment, we need 50 desks for the incoming students.
 - " Chairs
 - " With the increase in enrollment, we need 50 chairs for the incoming students.
 - " Cafeteria tables
 - " We need 3 additional cafeteria tables for the increase in enrollment.
 - " Folding Chairs

- We need 50 more folding chairs for parents and students for ceremonies and assemblies.
- " Social Studies Textbooks/Digital Subscription
 - " Textbooks used by 7th grade students were published in 1998. Since then, the study of geography has changed and there have been shifts in landforms and climates, and four new sovereign states. This grade also has to use multiple sets of books to cover all world regions. This proposal calls for four class sets of books but the focus is on the six-year digital subscriptions that students can use at home and in class and can be updated as new editions of the book are released.
- " Pilot of Science Textbooks/Digital Subscription
 - " Current resources are outdated (developed in about 1986). Updating was waiting for new standards and digital access, which are both approaching. We request to pilot new science textbooks and digital subscriptions for grade 6 and trial units in grades 7 and 8. A pilot allows a test of new curriculum without committing to the full cost. The new curricula also provide a higher level of differentiation.
- " Latin Textbooks/Digital Subscription
 - " The current middle school Latin books are falling apart. We propose purchasing a class set with online textbook access.
- " Visual Art
 - " While enrollment has grown, funding for expendable art supplies has remained static and the department has added a digital component to the curriculum. We are requesting an increase for expendable art materials.