

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chairman), Hess-Mahan (Vice Chair), Baker, Lipof, Parker, Merrill, Sangiolo

Also Present: Ald. Weisbuch

Others Present: David Naparstek (Commissioner of Health and Human Services), Linda Walsh, (Director of Health Services), Jayne Colino (Director, Senior Services), Daniel Funk (City Solicitor), Kathy Walker (Clinical social worker), Maggie Kennedy (Outreach worker), Audrey Cooper (Council on Aging), Joanne Fisher (Program Coordinator), Alice Bailey (Administrative Coordinator), Kathy Glick-Weil (Library Director)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0-2 (Parker, Sangiolo not voting)

NOTE: Commissioner Naparstek began with a list of accomplishments.

Emergency Treatment Clinic

They conducted a flu clinic in December for the public, but it was more an exercise for 5 communities to come together using volunteer help to conduct a treatment clinic in an emergency situation. They gave 700 shots in 2 hours.

They are working with neighboring communities. The Board authorized a mutual aid agreement to do these kinds of programs. They are working with Newton-Wellesley Hospital in anticipation of an influenza pandemic at any time. They know the hospital will be overwhelmed with people wanting care. A concept was devised, the Influenza Special Care Unit. Newton H&HS and Newton-Wellesley Hospital are the two leading agencies working with Wellesley, Waltham, Weston and area colleges in preparing to serve people who do not have that level of intrinsic health need. This could be up to 500 people. They have a site selected, are getting equipment, and training volunteers. Next year they will test their ability through a “table-top” exercise, their ability to work together to serve the community should a pandemic occur.

Ald. Johnson said she went to the new emergency room this weekend and they did a wonderful job on the facility itself. She said it took 6 people before she saw a physician. Also, they have a fast track, so that someone with a non-emergency situation can be seen. However, they have very limited hours and what happens as a result is that the wait time

becomes 4-5 hours. The nurses said they were trying to get more hours for that but they had no success so far. She said that when they approved that special permit it was with the understanding that it would be better than it was, but her visit didn't convince her of that. Mr. Naparstek said this illustrates how having an in-home care program would really alleviate some of that problem.

Food Safety

He went on to say that they are working with the Food and Drug Administration on a voluntary standards program where they would beef up their program of food safety inspections. There are 9 elements and the first 4 have been accomplished.

First Responders

They are working with the Police Department medical system to become the communities contact for people who have frequent 911 calls. These are people who could be better supported in the home so they don't need 911 ambulance calls. They've been able to reduce the numbers in individuals who just need in-home support. They're also making sure people understand the 911 system and how it should and should not be used.

Newton Serves

They had 1,200 volunteer at Newton Serves doing tremendous things in planting. This is the beauty of Newton, people who come out and help. Newton Serves is asking to restore the dollar appropriation amount, which they forgot to put in

School Nurses

To fund a nurse in every school, they need \$103,000. It is their hope that this will be replaced by a state grant. Because they can't count on that, they are budgeting it.

Grants/Gifts

National Association of County and City Health Officials have given them a grant of \$10,000 to help them develop the Medical Reserve Corps, a group of volunteers. They have received a gift for an emergency assistance community social worker. They would also like to have more capacity to raise more money for emergency assistance programs: food, rent, air conditioners, for example.

Ald. Sangiolo said that Springwell told her that they were taking the Newton grant back.

Beyond the Numbers

Commissioner Naparstek told of a child who received life saving treatment from a school nurse to illustrate the importance of having nurses in the schools. Only a nurse can administer epinephrine, for example. The nurses are working without a contract right now. Negotiations are ongoing.

A Kindergartener failed a hearing screening test in the right ear. The child was referred to a physician who thought it was just fluid.

The school nurse and audiologist retested the child and made follow-up calls to the parents. The mother took the child to a specialist who diagnosed a benign tumor which, if left untreated, leads to hearing loss and other serious health consequences. The child is fine and has some hearing in her right ear.

The Newton Fire Department contacted Ana Gonzalez, their community social worker, about a family whose home had flooded when the pipes froze and broke. The family was in a Catch 22 situation, they could not afford to fix their tank so they couldn't receive heating oil. Ana found temporary residence for the family at a BC dorm, assisted them with applying to NHRF for many needed home repairs. She obtained a free new oil tank and furnace for them from ABCD along with fuel assistance. A week later, the family was back in their home.

Looking Forward

- They would like to reactivate Activate Newton to make better choices for healthier foods.
- Promote home emergency preparedness not just for pandemics. They are working with public safety agencies, service people, as many people in Newton at home as possible for emergency situations.
- They are looking to have an effective food safety program for Newton.
- In the school health program, they're going to do a patient satisfaction survey. They never evaluated what people think about the schools' health services.
- They have long wanted an electronic database for reporting communicable diseases. There is a long list of such diseases that need to be reported to the state and they're hoping they can get one up and running as soon as possible.
- Fair housing person. They want to make sure citizens know they are entitled to fair housing. Not just issues of race, creed, etc., but also people with disabilities. They are trying to get the word out on the many different aspects of fair housing.
- On the issue of emergency assistance to families and individuals, they want to make sure the money is distributed fairly and efficiently. They'd like to formalize the protocols for emergency and holiday food and goods programs.

The Commissioner said that the numbers have not changed that much. They continue to look to make improvements in their operations and make alliances with fire, police, EMS, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and the many other agencies that serve Newton.

School Building Health Status Database

Ald. Parker wanted an update on the school building health status database. It was to be used to track problems or issues in the buildings regarding misuse of containers or mops or those kinds of things. That particular database has not been developed. The

Commissioner says there is a program called School Dues. It tracks problems and issues in all city buildings and would be the closest that they have. He is meeting with the School Department next Monday to discuss an alternative to the current mops. The mops for the tables have short handles which would make them very difficult to use on floor surfaces.

They are looking at all school buildings as well as municipal buildings. Ald. Sangiolo said that if there are different departments looking at various problems it should be consolidated and the database should be implemented. Ald. Johnson asked that they speak with Ald. Albright about a knowledge management system.

Youth Services

Ald. Parker said that Youth Service Outreach workers were lost and the youth that needed services were stigmatized. They are told that it's always medical and they have to go to Riverside. Under clinical services on the org chart, one has to work down 3 levels to get to the youth outreach function. Restoring some social workers to work with the kids in a non-medical way seems important. This should be on the human services sides, not on the medical side. He felt they needed to model the way they deal with youth in the same way they deal with seniors. There should be at least one person who reports directly to the H&HS top level who is the youth person for the city to find services, programs, etc.

Linda Walsh, Director of Health Services spoke of the Youth Interagency Task Force, which is recreational and much as medical. The Riverside people find places for kids to go in their down time and they are at risk. It is not a health model at all. They work with the schools, Parks & Rec, and the Y, to develop a booklet for all youth in the City of Newton. They are really able to connect people. Ald. Parker is interested in seeing a full time social worker devoted to working with youth. Ald. Johnson agreed that they have lost something. In general, adolescents are the lost group of people and there is a fallacy that in Newton, because it's a wealthy community, that everything is fine. And it's not. She would like to see a dedicated person working with youth as well.

The Commissioner said that The Youth Commission just came out with a drug and alcohol prevention guide for parents. That was done by several agencies putting it together. He would like to look for a model for a way to make this happen.

Newton Youth Commission and the Youth Outreach program were both zeroed out. Ald. Parker asked if they were actively fundraising and the Commissioner said they were not. He said there were a lot of changes in the numbers. Ald. Johnson asked for a written statement around the whys and wherefores of the revolving accounts and hold them for now.

The Committee moved for approval.

SENIOR SERVICES BUDGET

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Lipof, Sangiolo not voting)

NOTE:

Personnel

Jayne Colino said she separated out the employees by their funding sources: solely city funded; city and state funded; city, state, and federally funded; solely state funded; and city and federally funded. In the budget book the only positions that were listed were only those that were either partially or fully funded by the City. She noted that the weekend coordinator, the administrative assistant and the custodians are part-time positions. They have added volunteers to their organizational chart. It was part of their accreditation. There is one position that wasn't included which is a social work intern that is placed with us and supervised by the clinical social worker through the academic year.

Council on Aging is a board appointed by the Mayor to advocate for the needs of Newton's seniors. It's a mutually supportive relationship between the department staff and the Council on Aging effort.

Sources of Funding

The majority of their funding comes from the City budget. The next largest is from the State formula grant (per capital grant). They get \$6.30 per elder and are currently advocating for an increase in that grant to \$7. It doesn't look hopeful this year to get to that and it may translate to maybe \$3,000 - \$4,000 increase to their state budget. They were hoping for the \$7 as it would have allowed them to hire another part time outreach worker.

Revolving Accounts

The revolving accounts are not truly budget items but they do supplement their budget line items. The Senior Center Revolving account is their programming budget. All of the program revenue goes into the revolving account and helps supplement items that need it.

Accomplishments

Transportation

They launched a brand new transportation system in July that enhanced some of the services that had already, but offered more flexibility, destinations, and individualized service. Last year they provided 18,000 rides and through March of this year they have already reached 16,000 rides projecting about 21,000 by the end of the year.

The house of worship rides and visits to relatives and friends are two additional services they added this year, and people are accessing those. The vehicles that are being dispatched are elder friendly. Some houses of worships have bought vouchers from them to contribute to their congregants and they hope more will do that. They have a contract with Veteran's Taxi. They consolidated the service under one provider to get the most

cost effective contract and make it easiest for people to access. It was a much more complicated system before.

Website and Brochure

They updated their website and brochure. They've been working with IT to track how their website is being accessed and they found, for example, in the month of April 2,581 accessed the website with over 16,000 hits. This was an increase of 1,500 people from last year.

The new brochure was partially funded by some money leftover from a grant from Newton-Wellesley Hospital that the Council on Aging had received for an outreach project. This is very consistent with outreach. Fewer copies of it were printed so that the new picture of the Senior Center can be incorporated in and then reprinted.

Senior Center Park

They received a \$271,000 grant from the Community Preservation Act, and the Senior Citizen Fund of Newton has contributed another \$90,000, for the park at the Newton Senior Center. Everyday there are improvements in the park. It was the only recommendation from their original accreditation process, to improve the physical presence in the community. They are planning a late summer, early fall grand opening. Parks and Recreation Department managed this project in a timely fashion. The engineering department and all those that helped with this project did a wonderful job.

Accreditation

They are beginning their accreditation process. As of May 1st they completed the self-assessment process. There were 9 committees that covered all the areas with close to 60 volunteers as well. They are collating all of the recommended action steps and putting them into priority to present to the National Institute of Senior Centers for ultimate accreditation. That would be happening in the fall. Ms. Colino mentioned that she was elected by her peers in Massachusetts as the Massachusetts state delegate to the National Institute of Senior Centers. She's been able to gain a lot of professional knowledge and bring it back to their day to day work. She promotes accreditation throughout the Mass. network as well, not just in Newton.

Programmatic Accomplishments

- Education and connection to resources is what their mission is
- An emergency preparedness series in conjunction with the Police Dept.;
- MediFair was a project they did in response to the first year of Medicare D implementation to help people who were stymied by this process;
- The Women's Bar Association has held the Elder Law project at the Senior Center and this allows people to get documents that would be available only through private venues; They acted as an outpost for the MBTA pass program and it was a wonderful way to draw people into the Senior Center;
- They are providing programs on using the internet.
- The Italian Exchange program with a local middle school. It's an exchange between people who are from Italy.

- Tax preparedness program. They were all e-filed by volunteer staff.
- Cultural diversity film series
- Alone but not Lonely project
- The Clothesline Project which raised awareness of Domestic Violence and that it cuts across all ages.
- Mental Health at the Movies. It allowed people to come in and talk about mental illness through the use of videos. It can be harder to talk about personal experience with mental illness so this was a vehicle through which people could talk more comfortably. Some are commercial movies, some are documentaries.
- Beliefs: Your and Ours helps people examine their values and beliefs and how they intersect with this program.
- Parenting Adult Children: About children moving back home and being dependent on their parents longer. It gives people a chance to talk about these intergenerational issues.

Social Service Statistics

In the first 9 months of FY07 in their case management, outreach services, and mental health services, they had reached the same level of the number of people served in all of FY06. This speaks to how many cases our social workers hold. Right now the clinical social worker does both case management, pretty much on demand, and mental health support on. One of their goals was to recruit a social work intern that might be able to focus more on case management and outreach services so that the social worker would be able to really focus on the mental health support aspect. If the numbers continue to grow and the staff doesn't grow, it challenged them to look at other options such as closing cases earlier than they'd like, or creating a waitlist, or not being able to monitor cases as closely as they should. They would hate to see any of things have to happen, but they may have to.

Outcomes

They are evaluating many of the programs to find out what the outcomes are. They found in their outreach programs clients receiving home care services, food stamps, housing through Newton Housing Authority, and financial assistance. In the mental health programs they have found a reported decrease in symptoms of anxiety and depression, improved emotional mood and a sense of connectedness through the center.

They did a general survey and 99% of the people surveyed found the building welcoming and easily accessed, and that their needs were met all, or most of the time. Their expectations were met coming to the Senior Center. The Matter of Balance program is run in conjunction with Newton-Wellesley hospital and is a fall prevention program. They found that the fear of falling puts people in more risk than falling itself.

They started a donation program to acquire durable medical equipment. They take those walkers, wheelchairs, etc and advertise that they're available. They've doubled the number of pieces of equipment they can donate to the community.

FY08 Goals

Transportation

They have been working with the UMass Gerontology Institute and one of the research projects they did was to assess the elder friendliness of transportation services in 2 communities. Our community has received 23 out of a possible 25 points, primarily focusing on Veteran's Taxi as the vendor. The only recommendation they could make was to explore volunteer opportunities that could supplement the existing services.

If the transportation program grows as much as last year, they are projecting 25,000 rides next year. Their current budget is the same as this year's fiscal year budget of \$226,000. Their actual expense for FY07 is projected to be \$251,000 which leaves a deficit of just under \$25,000. Their revenue from the vouchers alone was \$28,000. People are required to travel with a voucher and they are asked to make a suggested donation of \$2 a voucher. They need one to get there and one to get back. This year, they will be able to cover the deficit based on the revenue alone, but next year if it continues to increase, so will the deficit.

Some ways to close the gap would be removing the position a transportation coordinator who was a staff person from Veteran's taxi. They have removed that from the contract and put that money directly into rides; they might limit how far people can go outside the City for medical appointments, and limit other destinations; they could change from a donation to a fee - they would do a means test which would be a huge administrative cost but it would be necessary.

The concern about the voucher revenue is that some people may be holding on their vouchers and so the revenue may decline a bit because of that. Ald. Parker suggested a possible solution to the deficit. He said there had been several special permits that required developers to make contributions to the Nexus bus system. It doesn't exist anymore and they're not making those contributions anymore. Perhaps an argument can this is the replacement for the Nexus bus system contribution. There is \$10,000 - \$15,000 in revenue there that could go to defray some of these costs.

Prescription Pick-up

They are working on a new prescription pick-up program. When they started to roll out their new transportation program last year, many people called who were challenged by their ability to get their prescriptions. They were approached by the Charles River Medical Society to put forward a proposal for something they would fund and they have provided them with a grant to allow emergency one time prescription pick ups. Someone in an extenuating circumstance would call the Center and things would be set up to cover them for that one time. But they would also help get them into a system that would provide delivery on an ongoing basis through a pharmacy.

If the person has a credit card, we ask the person to call the pharmacy to pay for the prescription. If they don't, Veteran's Taxi will go to the person's house and collect an envelope with the money and then deliver the prescription. This would require 2 trips so it's better to have it paid in some other way.

First Year Action Steps

- They would like to implement their first year action steps from accreditation.
- Create a participant advisory council to give a larger voice to those who use the Senior Center services
- Creation of a marketing committee
- Establishing a regular schedule for program evaluations
- Expand upon emergency response plans. They need to work with the emergency support systems in the city on how to handle larger problems as in evacuating the city.
- Building improvements primarily improving safety measures. They'd like to install a full building wide address system. The phone based system doesn't reach everyone.
- Automatic door closers for fire safety purposes. They will be working with the Building Department on that. Also having doors with windows so that someone isn't accidentally hurt by a door being opened.

Marketing

This is a specific FY08 goal. They'd like to increase the awareness of the department and the services and programs that they offer. They've been involved with a management consultant group from Service Opportunities After Retirement (SOAR). They are in the final steps of a process with them that includes the survey she mentioned earlier. It's helping them for suggestions of programs, and it's helping them see where people look for information. The final report will be submitted in June from the SOAR group.

President Baker asked if some areas of the City were being serviced more than others. Ms. Colino said that they do have full representation from all the villages in the City. Newtonville residents have responded in the highest numbers to the survey. They will be sharing the results of that and the recommendations of the marketing consulting group.

Increased Funding and Revenues

They hope all of this results in increased revenues, increased sponsorship and for funders to become more aware of what they do. In an upcoming Tab, there will be a senior supplement and they will be highlighted in that. They have been growing their relationship with all the media venues. Increased funding is an ongoing goal as we need more for transportation, staff and programs.

They had originally been receiving \$60,000 from CDBG– that would cover t the outreach worker, the clinical social worker and a portion of the program coordinator. Each time they incur a cut from CDBG it trickles over to the state grant and that doesn't look very promising in terms of growth. They need to advocate as strongly as they can for increases at the state level.

Serv-Tracker

Serv-Tracker is a software system used to track who is participating at the Senior Center, who is using their transportation, how often are people participating in certain programs,

etc. One of their goals is to track information and referral requests because it is such a huge part of what happens at the Senior Center. They received about 30,000 calls a year last year and many of those are referred to social services staff but they all capture information and referral requests. They will be able to then translate all that into units of service and unduplicated numbers. That will be started July 1st.

They are exploring the implementation of a case management module. All the case records are currently kept separately and this system does allow case records to be held there and then transfer them into units of service. They could bill CDBG on an hourly basis for the outreach position and it would allow them to do that more efficiently.

They will be implementing a touch screen sign in method for participants. They are rolling it out with their volunteer staff and it provides an accurate tracking of volunteer hours and what they're doing. It will ultimately be used for all participants. The first part will be implemented through a grant from the Rotary Fund to buy the hardware. It's a fantastic way to track participation in the various programs and services. Half the people coming into the building are not signing into the building so this will help with that.

Their ultimate goal is to strengthen the connections between people, people and the center, and people and resources.

Final Comments

Ald. Parker said that he would love to see the level of excellence that he sees in the Senior Services be applied to Youth Services. He very much supports this budget.

Ald. Johnson said they are an aging population and she wants them to be proactive in thinking about the future. As companies merge and so forth, there will be fewer offering grants, and the government is constantly getting squeezed. Much of this budget is reliant on money that can go away in a heartbeat.

Ald. Hess-Mahan moved approval.

SOLICITORS OFFICE BUDGET

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining, Lipof not voting)

NOTE: Dan Funk said that his budget is primarily personnel oriented. They have been staffed with 2 associate solicitors and 5.2 assistant solicitors. They have Angela Smagula working 4 days a week and Catherine Farrell working 2 days a week which makes up the 5.2 They do very different things as Angela is primarily a litigator and Catherine does miscellaneous things; real estate and contracts in particular.

Impact of Special Education Cases

The substantive change is the Law Department is the tremendous increase in the number of Special Education cases. For many years, Ouida Young did all the Special Ed matters in the office as there were a relatively small number of cases, periodic advice, and some

settlement agreements. In the last few years, Donnalyn Kahn has been brought in to take on quite a bit of the cases they're facing, and now Angela is added to the mix bringing the office to 3 attorneys working on Special Ed cases.

Mr. Funk explained that students with special needs are entitled to an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). Most of these plans are worked out by agreement amongst the staff of the school and parents. It's a double-edged sword because Newton's Special Education program is so good, there are many who are trying to get into the school system to take advantage of it. Because the City has such a successful program, it has begun to cost quite a bit. When parents don't approve of the plan that was given for the student because they feel the student's needs are not being met, they appeal. They might want private placement or individualized home or school tutoring, for example, and the schools may be saying they can provide that with the school staff and program. Some appeals are settled and some are contested through hearing. If the City loses some portion of it, they are responsible for the other side's attorney's fees.

He said that a philosophical change took place over the last few years whereby rather than settle with those families who were not satisfied with the plan that was proposed to them, the City is now saying they will do everything they can to do the right thing by these families, give them what they're legally entitled to, but no more. They can't afford it. As a result of that philosophy and a few other reasons, there are many, many more of these cases. They require immediate attention, hearings come up quickly, and responses have to be filed as this has to do with the placement of a student during an educational time.

Sources of Funding

Mr. Funk has asked for Angela Smagula to come on full-time. The administration told him to see if the Schools would be willing to fund the extra day, and they are willing to do that. Therefore, that doesn't show up in the budget.

There is a certain amount of funding that fuels his staffing through billings or retainer services. A couple of years ago when finances were tougher, he was told by the administration that if they wanted to fill an open slot for an attorney, he would have to find alternative sources of funding. He went to the CPC and they gave him 2 pockets of funding. One was a \$30,000 retainer for work they do for the CPA matters up front. Once the Board of Aldermen approves the project, they then bill for the work in helping that project be implemented after the fact. That was another \$30,000.

Year by year, it comes down to whether or not there's enough billing to make that funding scenario work. In FY07 there was, but this year there wasn't. The turf project did not go through as a CPA project so it took up a lot of time, but no project came of it and, therefore, there were no billings. On the other end, the Stearns Pellegrini case came in over estimates. They didn't expect that to be a lawsuit so they estimated the billing at \$1,500 and spent \$40,000-\$50,000 but can't bill for it. Year to year it's hard to estimate what might be coming through and, therefore, difficult to estimate the billing.

There was another \$30,000 from the assessor because they were struggling with a lot of tax appellate cases and telecommunication appellate tax board cases. These are huge cases; they needed more help and decided to allow \$30,000 of Law Dept. billing for commercial cases. Again, if they settled too many cases and they don't get to try them, they don't get to bill for them and they will fall short.

Staffing

Mr. Funk said he'd be coming forward in the next month asking for some transfers and some appropriations to fill out his salary account – less than \$30,000. Next year that is not likely to be a problem because Gayle Smalley is leaving. She has been here for 23 years and has been wonderful. Mr. Funk said this is a great loss for him, the department and the City. He will be elevating Donnalyn Kahn as his second associate solicitor. He said she is an incredible litigator and a very smart and organized person. He will be hiring a replacement for Gayle Smalley but at less of a salary even with Donnalyn getting an upgrade. He's not concerned about the money issues for next year.

Ald. Parker asked for a comparison of time spent on Special Ed cases a couple of years ago and currently. He wanted to know if they might need another attorney as the special Ed cases, if not handled well, could potentially cost millions of dollars in the future. Mr. Funk said he felt comfortable waiting to see how things worked with the addition of the extra day of attorney time.

Ald. Johnson said she was concerned that he was trying to “make do” and appreciated his effort. But she didn't want him to wait for a year from now to say he needed more help. Mr. Funk said he took the responsibility very seriously to make sure he covered the representation needs of the City. He said he would come forward immediately if he felt the need changed. Ald. Sangiolo asked what he would do if he found he did need someone else and the Mayor would not accommodate that. He said would probably not come to the Board for more money and was not worried about it.

Settling Claims

Ald. Merrill asked how long it takes to settle the small claims that come to the department. Mr. Funk says this varies depending on the cooperation from others involved in the claim. Mr. Funk said that a bad winter brings more claims. He has 3 lists in his office. One is a list of street defect claims which includes potholes, things falling down on sidewalks, things falling on the street, etc. Another is a list of general claims which are mostly motor vehicle claims but can be almost anything. Then there's a list of the City as the claimant when someone damages City property. In a bad winter there could be 200-300 street defect claims and more motor vehicle accidents. This year it's around 40 street defect claims and 30-40 general claims. The recoupment claims can vary from 20-50 claims. Sometimes it's \$12,000 item and sometimes it's a \$1,200 item that is damaged or broken. There are sometimes criminal matters and they deal with the DAs office to get money back and part of the resolution of the defendant's claim might be paying back the entity that was damaged. He said they also have a good record of recouping money from people who don't pay their police details.

Summary

He said they are one of the few departments in City Hall that is purely a service department for other departments within city government. They try to give the support to all the clients they can in the most fastidious way possible. They're mission is to provide "effective and efficient legal advice and representation to all elected and appointed officials, all city departments in order to enable the city government to operate at maximum potential with minimal risk." He said this is what they try to do on a regular basis. There are always new things that come along but he has a department with longevity. Ald. Johnson said she was concerned that there might be some turnover with so many being here for a long period of time. Mr. Funk didn't think it was an issue at this point. When people leave it's difficult, but it's also an opportunity for good, new people to come in.

The Committee moved for approval.

LIBRARY BUDGET

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0-0

NOTE: Kathy Glick-Weil presented the budget.

Goals and Objectives

- Increase children's programming. More and more they see that people come to the library if there are programs. They have extra money in this budget for children's librarians.
- Extra money for material, so they have an increase in the materials budget.
- Improvement in technology and in their website. Libraries now really need to be 24/7. It has to have databases, be online, and have social networking. They have a great IT person and an intern but they really need another. The Mayor came through and they're getting a new person. They also have an increase in the technology budget to buy new equipment.

She said that over the last couple of years they had been falling back. The Massachusetts Library Convention was last week and they saw some leading edge things. This budget will not make them leading edge, but it will move them forward and help them remain relevant. Circulation was down a little and the use of their online resources was way up.

Facility Concerns and Staffing

Ald. Johnson's concern was with the facility. Ms. Glick-Weil said it was getting old and worn. The carpets are worn, it needs to be painted – it's 16 years old and gets tremendous use with over 600,000 people coming through the door each year. It has never been repainted. The bathroom stalls need to be replaced as the many repairs have left holes in the tile.

Ald. Parker said that people want longer Sunday hours. Ms. Glick-Weil said that they have people working on Sundays, mostly part-timers. No one in the permanent staff wants to have Sunday hours as part of their regular schedule.

Scanning

They're working on the scanning of the books. She is on a committee with a librarian in Brookline, Wellesley, and Sudbury and they are very actively working on that. They're going to come in July to set up a sorting system in the backroom for 3 days.

Ms. Glick-Weil and the Mayor were given the Intellectual Freedom Award by the Massachusetts Library Association.

The Committee moved for approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair



NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Presentation
to the
Board of Aldermen**

**School Committee Budget
Fiscal 2008**

May 3, 2007



**FY08
Budget**

TWO BASIC COMPONENTS FOR FY08

- 1. Maintenance of Effort**
- 2. School Committee Priority Initiatives**



**FY08
Budget**

MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

**Contractual
Obligations**

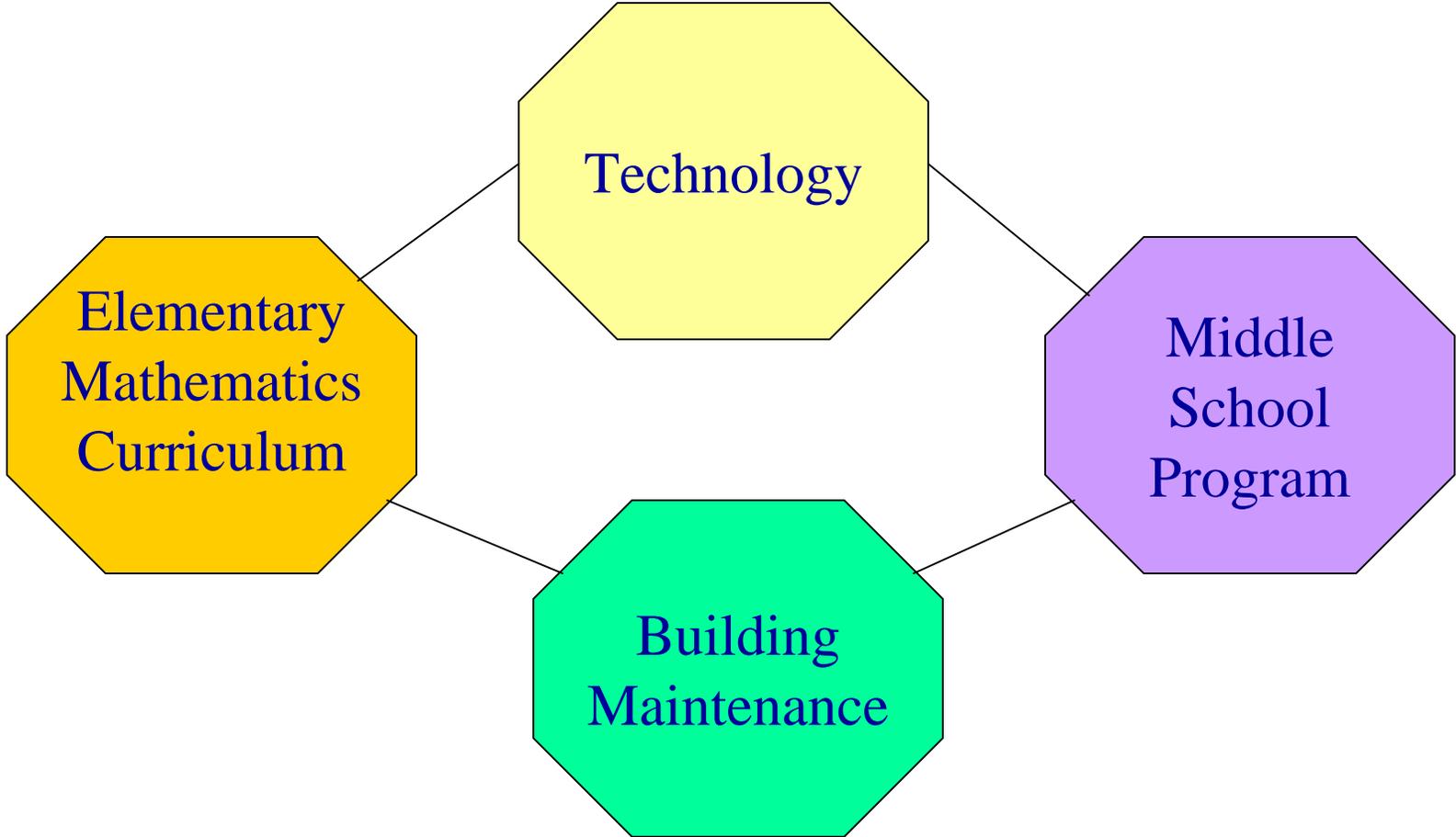
**Fixed and
Mandated
Costs**

**Increasing
Student
Enrollment**



**FY08
Budget**

PRIORITY INITIATIVES





FY08
Budget

Overview of FY08 Budget Increases

Maintenance of Effort

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| Contractual Obligations | +\$6.6M | +4.6% |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Fixed Costs | <u>+\$1.7M</u> | <u>+1.2%</u> |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|

| | | |
|--|---------|-------|
| | +\$8.3M | +5.8% |
|--|---------|-------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| Increasing Enrollment | +\$2.3M | +1.5% |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Total Maintenance of Effort | +\$10.6M | +7.3% |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|



**FY08
Budget**

Overview (Continued)

School Committee Priority Initiatives

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------|
| 1. | K-5 Mathematics | \$175K |
| 2. | Middle School Programs | \$125K |
| ✓ | Technology | \$350K |
| ✓ | Building Maintenance | \$350K |

**Total New Funding Requested
for SC Priorities \$1M**



**FY08
Budget**

Elementary Schools (+207 Students)

- ❑ 263 Classrooms (251 in 2006-07)
- ❑ Projected average class size 21 (21 in 2006-07)
- ❑ Equip eight (8) modular classrooms, including all associated operating costs
- ❑ SPED/Support services for students
- ❑ Restoration of art and music
- ❑ 2.0 FTE reserve teachers, 2.0 FTE reserve aides
- ❑ Mathematics initiative



**FY08
Budget**

Middle Schools (+35 Students)

- ❑ Projected average team size 89 (89 in 2006-07)
- ❑ Corrections to FY07 cuts
- ❑ SPED/Support services for students
- ❑ Elective program remains intact
- ❑ BRIM Initiative
- ❑ Wireless technology in all four middle schools
- ❑ 1.0 FTE reserve teachers, 1.0 FTE reserve aides



**FY08
Budget**

High Schools (-11 Students)

- ❑ Level staffing overall (some shift from NNHS to NSHS per enrollment)
- ❑ Projected average class size 20.6 (21.2 in 2006-07)
- ❑ SPED/Support services for students
- ❑ Adjustment in Physical Education requirement
- ❑ Elective and extracurricular programs remain intact
- ❑ Short-term maintenance plan for Newton North
- ❑ 1.0 FTE reserve teachers, 1.0 FTE reserve aides



**FY08
Budget**

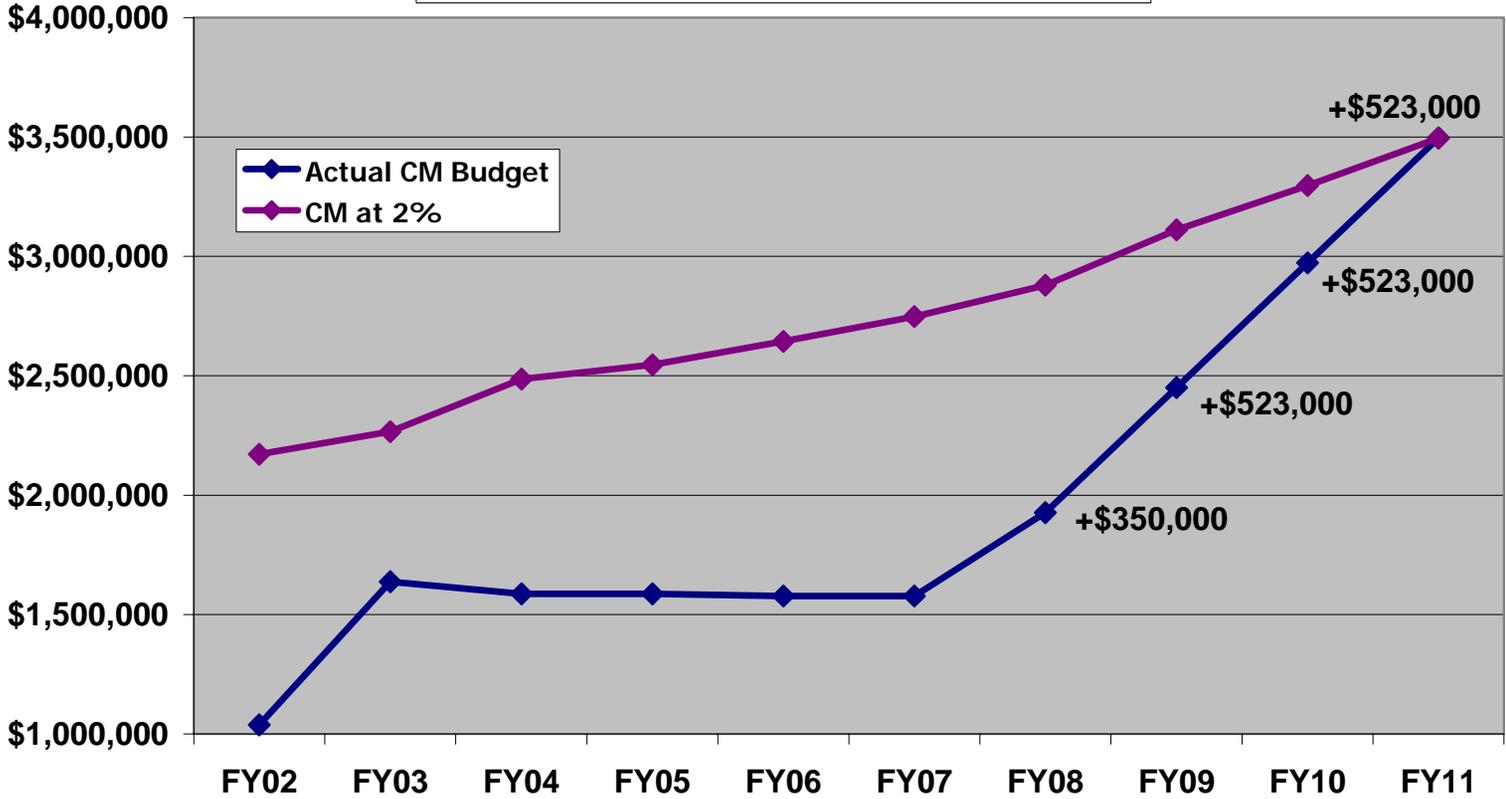
SYSTEMWIDE

- Management/Compensation Studies
- Technology
- Books, materials, supplies, professional development, per pupil allocation
- No new fees
- Building maintenance



**FY08
Budget**

Maintenance Initiative by Fiscal Year





**FY08
Budget**

FY08 BUDGET SUMMARY

- Salaries \$133,970,169
- Expenses \$ 27,433,911
- Offsets -\$ 5,877,861

TOTAL REQUEST \$155,526,219



**FY08
Budget**

SCHOOL BUDGET HISTORY

FY96 to FY08

| | <i>Total School Budget</i> | <i>School Enrollment</i> | <i>Per Pupil Cost*</i> | <i>% Increase Enrollment</i> | <i>% Increase Budget</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| FY96 | \$74,670,057 | 10,680 | \$6,992 | 1.0% | 6.8% |
| FY97 | \$80,894,411 | 10,850 | \$7,456 | 1.6% | 8.3% |
| FY98 | \$88,567,403 | 10,944 | \$8,093 | 0.9% | 9.5% |
| FY99 | \$95,500,709 | 11,166 | \$8,553 | 2.0% | 7.8% |
| FY00 | \$101,561,577 | 11,248 | \$9,029 | 0.7% | 6.3% |
| FY01 | \$107,996,320 | 11,246 | \$9,603 | -0.02% | 6.3% |
| FY02 | \$113,175,197 | 11,250 | \$10,060 | 0.0% | 4.8% |
| FY03 | \$124,675,197 | 11,276 | \$11,057 | 0.2% | 10.2% |
| FY04 | \$127,298,456 | 11,267 | \$11,298 | -0.1% | 2.1% |
| FY05 | \$132,198,007 | 11,268 | \$11,732 | 0.0% | 3.8% |
| FY06 | \$137,685,240 | 11,415 | \$12,062 | 1.3% | 4.2% |
| FY07 | \$143,949,686 | 11,501 | \$12,516 | 0.8% | 4.5% |
| FY08 | \$155,526,219 | 11,732 | \$13,257 | 2.0% | 8.0% |

**Includes Health Benefits*



CHALLENGES

FY08
Budget

- ✓ INCREASING AND INCREASINGLY DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION
- ✓ RECRUITING AND RETAINING HIGH QUALITY PERSONNEL
- ✓ STRATEGIC PLANNING