

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

Marcia Abbott Weeks
Business Manager

Catherine A. Stankard
Director of Teaching and Learning

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS

320 Ocean House Road
P.O. Box 6267
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
Phone: (207) 799-2217 Fax: (207) 799-2914

Del Peavey
Director of Special Services

Donna H. Wolfrom Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
dwolfrom@CapeElizabethSchools.org

June 15, 2020

Town Council Members:

Attached is a description-by-cost-center of the organization of the FY21 School Budget, depending on three different options for how school will be offered in the fall; 100% in-school based on the original budget, the hybrid model using a combination of in-school and remote learning and 100% remote learning. Given the recent release of CDC guidelines, 100% in-school compliance with those guidelines would be cost prohibitive due to increased staffing needs and not feasible given our current space availability.

The hybrid model leaves many of the proposed positions under Regular Instruction unfilled and shifts those costs to Transportation and Buses (increased hours for bus drivers, gas) and Facilities Maintenance (supplies such as masks, gloves, sanitization supplies). Funding from the Student and Staff Support cost center have been shifted to Facilities Maintenance and Transportation and Buses as well.

The remote model leaves fewer proposed positions under Regular Instruction and Student and Staff Support cost centers unfilled and shifts funding from Transportation and Buses to Regular Instruction and to Student and Staff Support to provide programs for teachers and students to access in the remote learning environment and to provide professional development for teachers in order to better implement those programs.

In addition, the adjustments in the line items have been adjusted to accommodate the match required in order for us to receive the approximate \$35,000 Efficiency Maine grant which will provide an LED lighting project for the high school and see projected cost savings within two years.

Although the Maine DOE has released guidelines for opening, the opening of school buildings in Cumberland County is questionable and we are still operating under the Governor's school building shut down orders. We want our students in school when those orders are lifted, however following the opening guidelines will be costly. Cutting the proposed FY21 School Budget could have a serious impact on our ability to get our students back to school. We respectfully request that you support our FY21 proposed school budget.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Wolfrom