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February 9, 2015

Board Meeting Highlights

The budget season has officially begun and Monday's meeting marked Budget Work Session #1. Next year's tentatively proposed budget is \$28,123,622. Enrollment increases are proving to be the biggest hurdle this budget season. The budget is currently predicting 292 general education students to be enrolled at East Hampton High School next year, which would be an increase of about \$1 million in tuition costs. The current high school enrollment is 274 students. Most of the higher costs projected for the 2015-2016 budget are driven by this increased enrollment, in both the high school and in grades kindergarten through eighth. Enrollment in pre-k through eighth grade is now at 746 students. As projected enrollments stand now, there will be a planned addition of two classroom sections for next year, in addition to additional staffing in ESL to coincide with the new New York State requirements for ESL education. Early budget assumptions include the continuing extracurricular program (sports, band, chorus, fourth grade opera, clubs, etc.) and keeping class sizes to their current levels. The proposed budget would not exceed the tax cap limitations. During budget season, administration and the Board of Education will be working to close a \$1.087 million gap between the proposed budget and the tax cap limitations.

In other school news, there is a seat open on the school board for those next year. Vice-President John Grant's term expires at the end of this school year. Those interested should email the District Clerk, Fran Silipo, at: fsilipo@springsschool.org. The budget vote and school board election will be May 19th. In P.T.A. news, "Spirit Wear" (clothing with the Springs School logo) is also on sale now through May. Order forms can be

found in the main lobby. The P.T.A. will be hosting a pasta lunch fundraiser on March 6th to benefit the P.T.A.'s field trip fund. The P.T.A. Booster Club has purchased soccer nets and goalie uniforms in the amount of about \$1,000. The P.T.A. is also seeking people interested in joining their Board for next year. Mrs. Matz also gifted \$5,100, the proceeds from the Turkey Trot, to the Y.M.C.A. swim program.

At the meeting, representatives from Project Most shared that they have the highest enrollment this year, 249 students. Project Most not only includes after-school activities, but also has introduced Homework Club and remedial reading help this year. Science clubs have also been introduced this year, which are led by educators from the environmental group, *Group for the East End*. Travel Club is also a new club that was introduced through Project Most this year. In addition, Project Most was awarded a grant to purchase a Google Chromebook "cart" that will provide laptop computers for students after school. Project Most will once again host a summer "i-Grow" camp at Springs School. More information about Project Most can be found on the Springs School website under "Parents/Students" under the "Project Most" drop-down link.

Mission Statement

"Springs School is dedicated to providing a foundation for personal and social growth in order to develop students of exemplary character who become responsible, productive and caring citizens."