

**REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**2010-2011 – FY11**

KC Kato, Chairman  
Suzanne Littlefield, Vice Chairman  
Ilissa Povich, Secretary  
Diane Campbell  
Wendy Paul

This year was marked by continued budget challenges resulting from the difficult economic climate, increasing Special Education costs and significant work on a number of important building projects—most notably the continuation of construction of the new high school and the approval for construction renovations of the middle school. The School Committee is greatly appreciative of the continued support from the Town's citizens.

The School Committee wishes to report the following:

**Personnel**

1. Forty-six new faculty began the school year in August 2010. On July 1, 2010, four new District Directors began in the areas of Information Technology, Fitness and Health, Middle School Special Education and Food Services. In addition, the new school year brought new Assistant Superintendent, Salvatore Petralia, and Sprague Elementary Principal Stephen Goodwin.
2. In March 2011, voters elected School Committee members Diane Campbell and Wendy Paul to three-year terms.

**School Operations and Budgeting**

3. The FY11 Town Meeting approved total School Department budget was \$55,031,413, which represents an increase of 3.3% over FY10.
4. The School Department ended FY11 with an operational budget surplus of approximately \$57,003. These funds were turned back to the town and reverted to the Town's free cash.
5. The School Committee and Town Meeting approved a FY12 total operating budget in the amount of \$59,353,812, which represents an increase of 4.1% over FY11. The budget was comprised of \$48,035,684 for General Operating Expenses, \$11,318,128 for Special Tuition, Transportation and Inclusion (STTI) Expenses and \$370,080 for incremental costs associated with the move into the new High School.

The Advisory Committee provided the School Committee a total operating budget guideline of 2.5%. The guideline for the School's general operating budget excluding STTI, was 1.5% with the remaining increase to be allocated

to STTI. The STTI portion of the budget includes tuitions for out-of-district placements, as well as the costs of the intensive special education programs run within the Wellesley Public Schools and the costs of transportation required for students with special needs.

The Superintendent's general operating budget initially requested a 4.44% increase from FY11 to achieve level services. The increase was driven by anticipated contractual salary obligations and increasing enrollment. The School Committee was able to reduce the general operating budget increase to 1.4% through favorable cost saving developments, significant expense reductions, removing from the budget library books and much of the funding for new technology, and increasing fees.

The initial STTI budget requested increase was 20.02%, primarily driven by an increase in enrollment of students with out of district placements, the elimination of the ARRA Federal Stimulus Grant funding and conservative estimates for "Circuit Breaker" State Aid, which is partial reimbursement for Special Education Tuitions. Later in the process, Circuit Breaker State Aid estimates were revised, thereby decreasing the STTI increase to 13.3%.

The accelerated timeline for the High School Project indicated an opportunity to open the new High School mid-year FY12. Therefore, in February 2011 incremental costs associated with the move into the new High School were added to the FY12 school budget request.

6. Four contracts were settled in FY11 to begin July 1, 2011: Teachers (unit A), Department Heads, Directors and Assistant Principals (unit B), Custodians and Secretaries.

The School Department achieved an agreement to engage a private vendor to manage and provide food service to the Wellesley Public Schools ending its employer-employee relationship with its cafeteria workers union.

7. The regular comprehensive review of the Social Studies curriculum commenced in FY11.
8. The District has an overall goal to increase digitization of student records and requirements for updates in order to reduce the need for hard copies and storage. All parents or legal guardians were able to access and update student information through Power School for the first time this year. Families were also able to download transportation applications this year, for the first time. The District strives to increase opportunities for paperless transactions.

### **School Facilities**

9. The construction of the new Wellesley High School, which began during the summer of 2009, continued throughout FY11. In December 2010, the construction schedule was revised such that substantial completion would occur in January 2012. The accelerated schedule enables students and

faculty to move into the new Wellesley High School on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The total project costs are currently running within budget.

10. The Middle School Building Committee, at the December 6, 2010 Special Town Meeting, received Town Meeting approval for \$1.75 million in funds for renovations to increase classroom capacity in the Middle School. The project will affect two lecture halls, the music practice rooms, an office suite and a health and fitness classroom. It will yield six additional classroom spaces, including a science lab. These additional classrooms, plus increased sharing of space, will support anticipated classroom needs through the next anticipated enrollment peak.
11. As final punch list items related to the Wellesley Middle School 2005-07 renovation were essentially completed, the School Department welcomed an energy audit of the Middle School offered by the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant for an assessment of current consumption and recommendations for improved efficiency. The audit highlighted a number of recommendations, including adjustments to HVAC controls in order to reduce energy consumption without causing detriment to output. These recommendations are being evaluated for implementation in FY12.
12. Construction continued at Fiske, Hardy, Hunnewell, Schofield and Upham elementary schools during the summer of 2010 as part of the \$11.2 million, three-year infrastructure initiative approved by Town Meeting and voters in the spring of 2007. Refurbishments included new roofs, boilers, windows, ceilings and floors; and asbestos abatement. Remaining outstanding projects include final screen installation at Fiske School and replacement of the Middle School Gym A Floor.
13. At the March 2011 Annual Town Meeting, Town Meeting Members approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Facilities Maintenance Committee to conduct an overview of the Town's buildings and current facility maintenance practices, evaluate best practices for facility maintenance, and make recommendations for future maintenance practices. The committee is comprised of Tom Goemaat, chairman, and Diane Campbell, Gilbert Dailey, Robert Di Giandomenico, J. Scott Hansen, Phil Laughlin, Sarah Norwood, Micah O'Neil and Heather Sawitsky. The Committee began meeting in June and plans to have a report back to Town Meeting no later than the 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

The School Committee extends thanks, congratulations and best wishes to the following members of the faculty and administrators who retired during the past year. We appreciate their dedication and service to the Town of Wellesley.

Marcia Doiron  
Linda Flanagan  
Karen Goulet  
Sondra Hamilton  
Priscilla Leach

Chris Molonea  
Ann Prinn  
Sharon Sholkin  
David Wilkins