

Board Involvement in Certified Budget

Development

Key Questions for Board Members to Ask When Administration Presents Proposed Budget

1. Is the budget set within budget parameters approved by the board?
2. Does the budget address budget priorities approved by the board?
3. Are our educational priorities/new programming to be funded based on research demonstrating educational effectiveness?
4. What will be our average class size? By grade level?
5. How does our staffing level compare to the past? Is it sustainable?
6. How do our tax rates compare to the past? Why the changes? How do rates compare to surrounding districts? To statewide tax data? What does it mean to individual taxpayers in our district?
7. Are this year's budget decisions (for all funds) sustainable into the future?
8. What will be our unspent authorized budget ratio (unspent balance)? Is it within targets? Is it sustainable?
9. Can we sustain all other key financial indicators into the future?
10. What will proposed (if any) budget reductions mean to our district's educational programming? To our staffing levels?