

# **2010 – 2011 C-A School Budget**

## ***Board of Education Meetings***

***March 9, and 23, 2010***

# ***Proposed Staff Reductions with Two Additional Non-Staff Reductions***

## **Rationale and Ranking**

After reviewing all sections of the 2010-2011 budget for non - staffing reductions, which amounted to **\$650,000** in cost savings, the District's administrators and managers reviewed options for staffing reductions to put forward to the Board of Education. The following reductions would have limited to no impact upon the education of students. Each reduction is posed with a rationale.

Board of Education members completed an exercise whereby they ranked each item individually from the first to the last. Individual responses were compiled to generate the following listing for the entire Board of Education. This listing is not sequential since some items had the same number of points. For example, the first two items received the same total points from the Board of Education, and thus, they were identified with the ranking of 1. They would be the first items to be removed from the budget among those listed.

**1. One Kindergarten section at Coxsackie Elementary School.** With an incoming kindergarten class of approximately 46 students, the district could reduce the number of sections from four in 2009-2010 to three in 2010-2011. The kindergarten class size would remain at approximately 15 students per class, the same as in 2009-2010. *(The contract with the Coxsackie - Athens Teachers' Association (CATA) specifies that the District will establish the following goals with regard to class size at Grades K-3: 26 students on average and 30 students as a maximum.)* The proposed class size would be less than the average or maximum numbers specified within the contract with the CATA.

**1. One Teacher's Aide at High School.** This would reduce the amount of supervision available, but this could be resolved by revising the master schedule at the High School.

**3. One .6 full - time equivalent Spanish Teacher at High School.** Because only two students are enrolled in French IV, one student in French V, and eight (two seeking a third language) students in French I for 2010-2011, these classes would not be taught at the High School. Ninth grade students in need of a first year of language would take Spanish. French II and III would be offered for those students pursuing Regents credit. Due to this reduction, a part-time Spanish teacher (.6 FTE) would not be hired since the French teacher is dually certified and could pick up the remaining Spanish classes.

**4. One Special Education Teacher at E. J. Arthur Elementary School.** There has been a decrease in the need for services for Special Education children at E. J. Arthur Elementary School. Three remaining Academic Intervention Services teachers and one Special Education teacher could provide the needed services to students.

**4. One Teaching Assistant in Academic Intervention Services in Science at High School.** There would remain a full-time teacher for Academic Intervention Services in Science. Students in need of assistance for the Living Environment and Earth Science Regents examinations would still be served.

**6. One Elementary Enrichment Teacher at Middle School.** An enrichment program at the Middle School is a non – mandated program according to State Education Law. Practitioners in other disciplines could provide a program given the reduction of other classroom sections.

**6. One Teaching Assistant in Computer Lab at High School.** A full - time teacher oversees one of the Computer laboratories at the High School. If the teacher were not present, a Teaching Assistant could cover this laboratory, thus not requiring a full - time assistant at all times.

**8. Elementary Librarian for Elementary Schools.** New York State Education Law does not require that elementary schools be staffed with a certified librarian either on a full - time or part - time basis. The District would reduce this position to maintain smaller class sizes and the Academic Intervention Services program. Two full - time Teaching Assistants in the elementary libraries would continue to staff the elementary libraries.

**8. One Reading Teacher at Middle School.** Given the number of sections of English language arts, Academic Intervention Services in English and Reading, and the small student enrollment in many of these classes, one Reading teacher could be reduced and other providers could pick up the academic needs of students without a negative impact on their education.

**8. One Teaching Assistant in Academic Intervention Services in English at High School.** A full-teacher is available to provide Academic Intervention Services to students. This reduction might reduce some flexibility in the provision of Academic Intervention Services.

**11. Evening After School Clubs Bus Run for District.** The elimination or consolidation of this bus run was given consideration as a means to reduce cost. **The Board of Education restored this item to the 2010-2011 budget on March 30, 2010, since students need to sign up for it and since members wish to have more data before making any further decisions about it. (RESTORED TO THE 2010-2011 BUDGET)**

**11. One Second Grade section at Cocksackie Elementary School.** With an incoming second grade class of approximately 60 students, the district could reduce the number of sections from four in 2009-2010 to three in 2010-2011. The second grade class size would increase from 15 to 16 students per class this year to 20 students per class next year. *This reduction in sections would leave the class sizes below the goal set out in the contract with the teachers.*

**13. One Special Education Teacher at High School.** Forty-three Special Education students will be enrolled in general education classes at the High School in 2010-2011. Three instead of four teachers could serve these students by providing support in identified core subjects and having students for one supported study class daily. Special Education teachers would work with Guidance Counselors in developing schedules so that each student's needs could be met.

**14. Athens Sports Bus Run.** The elimination of the sports bus run to Athens was posed as a possibility. **The Board of Education restored this item to the 2010-2011 budget on March 30, 2010, for the same reasons as stated above for the Evening After School Clubs Bus Run. (RESTORED TO THE 2010-2011 BUDGET)**

**14. One Fifth Grade section at the Middle School.** Six sections of fifth grade students serve 103 students this year, with a class size of 17 to 18 students. Five sections of fifth grade students would serve 93 students in 2010-2011, with 18 to 19 students per section. *(The contract with the Cocksackie - Athens Teachers' Association (CATA) specifies that the District will establish the following goals with regard to class size at Grades 4-6: 28 students on average and 32 students as a maximum.)* The proposed class sizes would be less than either the average or maximum number stated in the contract with the CATA.

**16. One Sixth Grade section at the Middle School.** This year's sixth grade enrollment of 124 students is split into six sections of 20 to 21 students per class. With an enrollment of 105 students next year, only five sections of 21 students per class would be needed. The class sizes would remain nearly the same, and the proposed class

sizes would be less than either the average or maximum number set out in the contract with the CATA.

**17. One .6 Mathematics Teacher at the High School.**

The improvements in mathematics at the Middle School level over the past two years could contribute to fewer students being in need of Academic Intervention Services in mathematics at the high school level. This change could reduce the amount of time available to students for Academic Intervention Services in mathematics, though a full-time Teaching Assistant would remain.

**18. One Fourth Grade section.**

With an incoming fourth grade class of approximately 51 students, the district could reduce the number of sections from three in 2009-2010 to two in 2010-2011. The fourth grade class would increase from 17 students per class to 25 and 26 students per class. *While the class size would still meet the goal as set forth in the contract with the CATA,* **the Board of Education restored this position to the 2010-2011 proposed budget on March 30, 2010.** Three sections of fourth grade will remain at E. J. Arthur Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year, with approximately 17 students per section. **(RESTORED TO 2010-2011 BUDGET)**