

# **Lunt School Budget Overview for FY11**

To: Superintendent Barbara Powers and the Falmouth School Committee

From: John G. Flaherty, Principal

Date: March 2010

Currently Lunt School houses seven sessions of kindergarten, nine first grade classes and eight second grade classes. Our students also enjoy art, music, physical education and library. Our gymnasium doubles as our cafeteria, where all of our children eat their lunch. The modular building houses thirteen first or second grade classrooms, two rooms used for special education, guidance, occupational therapy and a literacy center.

The recommendation for FY11 is to eliminate one first grade in order to strictly adhere to the 20:1 class size cap set by the school committee.

Discretionary building accounts have all been reduced by 10%. Although this puts a strain on the Lunt School staff and students, we prefer this measure to losing staff. We feel strongly that the smallest possible student / staff ratio is of paramount importance at the primary school level. Keep in mind that K-2 is where the foundation for educational success is laid.

## ***Rationale for the Lunt School budget, prepared in response to the Community Dialogue goals, is as follows:***

### **Goal 1: Maintain a culture of wellness that promotes the physical, social and emotional well-being of all members of our school community.**

We continue to provide children with programs such as Every Child A Winner in physical education, classroom guidance, "Officer Friendly" classroom visits, enrichment programs focused on respect for others (Six Pillars of Character, Golden Spoon Award, Class Meetings) and numerous classroom activities and projects. As a staff, we continue to revise and refine our school-wide "Code of Conduct". There are no additional expenses incurred by these programs.

Our Wellness Team spearheads initiatives that have an impact on staff and students. **YoKids** (yoga for children) and **Let'sGo!** are two programs supported through a grant.

### **Goal 2: Meet the learning needs of every student.**

At the primary level we do not purchase textbooks, per se, but do incur expenses for consumable materials, math journals and children's literature (individual copies,

multiple copies and leveled texts for reading instruction). Instructional costs are based on projected enrollments.

Summer school provides two weeks of support for children who need academic “tune-ups” prior to the start of school in the fall.

I believe that the Falmouth School Department is well on its way to developing the strongest Response to Intervention program in the state. We believe that early intervention in **reading and math** is the most effective practice for helping at risk students find success throughout their school careers.

### **Goal 3: Promote responsible citizenship behavior (locally, regionally, nationally, globally)**

We continue to develop responsible citizenship qualities in all of our students. We embrace opportunities to hold food drives, clothing collections, toy drives and holiday family adoptions. None of these activities hold any additional expense, yet teach our students valuable lessons in humanity.

We hope to continue to be a host school for UNIBE student teachers. Again, this has no budgetary implications.

### **Goal 4: Build Professional Learning Communities (within our schools, across our district, regionally and beyond).**

Mixed grade level groups and content area groups will continue to meet and develop assessments and review student work. A facilitator will continue to guide the work of these groups. Because of increases in other budget lines, the professional development budget lines have been decreased. Those funds will be used to continue support for ongoing training in **Everyday Math**, Intervention Ed. Techs. and K-4 school counselors. Our hope is to continue to offer more cross-training by our own staff and limit (eliminate) the number of people who attend individual conferences.

### **Goal 5: Continually improve our organizational systems and structures.**

No additional expense at the building level. We are satisfied with the leadership team structure, as it has been defined this year. We utilize parent volunteers and maintain a partnership with Ocean View residents. There are no budgetary implications at this level.