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Winifred Hamilton, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

**To:** Dr. Winifred Hamilton  
**From:** Hugh Murphy and Cheryl Poltrack  
**Re:** CBAC Debriefing Meeting  
**Date:** January 26, 2012

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On January 23, 2012 the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee was reconvened to give members an overview of the proposed 2012-13 budget presented on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Below are responses to two questions that were asked.

Committee members were thanked for their wonderful input, much of which has been included in the proposed budget.

### **Three areas of the budget we should highlight to the public**

- Creative approach to budget reductions: transportation, building utilities, contract negotiations
- 95% of budget is fixed and maintained quality instruction
- Efficiencies in transportation, moving Adult Ed. to Ripp
- Discuss gains of academic progress in last few years, funding reductions will reduce progress
- Collaborative effort of all parties and all items considered
- Great gains with low budgets
- Level of service (maintained)
- Achievement gap, consistent instruction, maintaining class size
- History of cuts, add stuff back such as World Lang, can't keep cutting
- Second lowest proposed budget in 10 years, 3.9% to 3.49% without cutting services
- Accuracy of budgets, tighter
- Efficiencies in Sped (OOD costs)
- Grant positions (how they are built into operating), backgrounds of students (demographics)

### **Three ways to communicate the highlights**

- Put together Op Ed piece to be submitted to the "Advocate"
- Get info to real estate community
- Lowest budget in DRG, lower than Darien, Hamden, Bristol
- Newspaper article from Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)
- Come to "Public to Be Heard" February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Westover"
- Let colleagues know what we did: "no job cuts" of staff, no curriculum-loss of momentum, coaches continued, reduction in "things" consumables, not people
- Educational Access Channel