

Press Release: August 16, 2010

The Goffstown School board and SAU #19 Administration is announcing that there will be an unreserved fund balance of \$2.7M from the 2009-2010 unaudited results of the school budget. This figure exceeds the overall savings of approximately \$610,000 originally projected during the 2010-2011 budget process. Throughout the year, Administration took great care in the monitoring of spending to ensure that we purchased wisely and thoughtfully.

The unreserved fund balance is comprised of three areas. The first area, with a savings of \$1.2M, is from savings in the general budget. These are dollars that were budgeted, but not expended and represent 3.62% of the budget that was requested during the budget process. The district encumbered and utilized 96.38% of the budget. There are many reasons why these savings would occur. In this particular budget year, there are two areas that provided significant savings. The first area can be found in the special education budget. Using additional Federal Stimulus Funds (ARRA), the district was able to develop several new programs and initiatives that provided for cost savings. The programs allowed us to maintain students and services within the district, thus avoiding the need for costly out of district programs and services. The district had a general savings of approximately \$1.1M in the area of special education. The other area was in general energy costs, for a total savings of approximately \$.1M. The district received favorable replies to fuel bids, providing for significant savings from what was budgeted.

The second area that contributes to the unreserved fund balance is the additional revenues that have come into the district that were not anticipated. Additional revenues make up \$1.3M of the total amount. During the 2009-2010 school year, the district received approximately \$.7M in additional regular and special education tuition. These dollars come from the sending districts of New Boston and Dunbarton and include regular education tuition rates, as calculated by the AREA agreement, and special education tuition rates for those students who require more specialized and specific programs. There was also a total of \$.5M in unexpected Federal ARRA funds and Medicaid payments which helped to provide additional revenues for the district.

The third area of savings comes from the realization of \$.2M in encumbrance reserves from the previous school year. These are funds that were encumbered from the 2008-2009 school year and are now released back to the public for tax relief purposes.

These favorable savings and additional revenues place the projected local school tax rate for the 2010-2011 school year at approximately \$10.60, which is \$1.10 more than last year's rate of \$9.50. This compares favorably to the \$12.52 rate projected at the January and February 2010 public meetings. There is a multiyear chart below showing the local school tax rate for the town of Goffstown. As you can see by the chart, the projected local school tax rate is approximately 6 cents lower than the rate from 2009, \$1.16 less than 2008, and \$1.75 less than 2007.

The School Board and SAU#19 Administration continue to be dedicated to providing a quality education to our students, while also being responsible and respectful of the taxpayers of the community.

2007	2008	2009	2010	Projected 2011
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\$12.35	\$11.76	\$10.69	\$9.50	\$10.60
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