

April 27, 2009

Prepared by Stephen Lowery, Coord. Title I

Questions on Title I from Mr. Friel

First of all, let's start with the basics:

What is Title 1 funding for?

Answer- Title I is also known as *Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged*. That basically describes what the funding is for. There is an economic identification process to target funds to schools who are serving populations with higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students than other schools within a school district.

How is Title 1 funding determined?

Answer-**First** the district receives an allocation from the federal government through the state department of education which is formula based and linked to what is referred to as "formula students". These are students who are identified as living in poverty as determined by the USDE Office of Management and Budget. Warwick's allocation has been decreasing for two reasons (a) the number of formula students has decreased as (b) the general population has decreased. **Second**-once the funds are allocated to the district, an annual ranking process determines which schools have the highest percentage of students, who are economically disadvantaged. The grants office completes this task. For the 2009-10 year, the rank order (from most economically disadvantaged to least including % of eligible free and reduced lunch) is as follows –

Oakland Beach	51.97%	Park	25.79
Cottrell Hoxsie	35.37	Robertson	24.92
John Wickes	34.5	Sherman	22.44
Randal Holden	33.45	Wyman	21.5
Lippitt	31	Francis	21.3
Holliman	30.62	Warwick Neck	20.6
Norwood	29.91	Harold Scott	20.51
John Greene	28.62	Dr. Rock ECC	16.8
		Greenwood	15.51
		Cedar Hill	8.84

The elementary average is 26.16% eligible for free or reduced lunch. A school must be at or above the district average to participate in Title I.

Is the recipient of Title 1 funding the District or a Particular School? Answer-both

How many Title 1 schools are there in the district, and what schools are they? Answer-Eight
See above.

What impact, if any, would closing John Greene Elementary School have upon the district's receipt of Title 1 funding? Answer-No direct impact at this time.

What impact, if any, of closing Warwick Neck Elementary School have upon the district's receipt of Title 1 funding? Answer-No direct impact at this time.

Would closing John Greene result in any other school qualifying for Title 1 funding?

Answer-the preliminary data analysis suggests that there will not be a significant enough increase in students who are economically disadvantaged at either Sherman or Warwick Neck to bring those schools above the 26.16% threshold noted above for the school year 2009-10. Therefore, at this time the answer is no.

Would closing Warwick Neck affect another Title 1 school's status? Answer- No not at this time. Since the annual ranking is complete, even if John Greene were to end up with fewer students who are economically disadvantaged, the school would still be eligible for the 2009-10 school year.

What is the amount of Title 1 funding dedicated to John Greene and, assuming Greene is closed, what would become of those funds? Answer-in the current year \$90,283 is invested at John Greene for purchasing the time of .80 FTE-Reading Teacher. Additionally, up to 6 preschool children from the John Greene school attendance area are included in the Oakland Beach preschool program. The cost per child in the current year is \$796.79. The funds will remain in the district budget. Each school will be reviewed for student need at the end of this school year and assignments will be made to Title I schools accordingly for next year. We did cut a Title I funded reading teacher last year and that has resulted in a waiting list for Title I services. Therefore, at a minimum, we would hope to eliminate the waiting list for September, 2009.

Questions on Title I from Mrs. Mota-Costa

Green Students impact on loss of Title 1 funding for next school year.

- **Will Students only receive services up to 2nd grade instead of 3rd grade?**

Answer-the Title I and Literacy programs operated by the Warwick Public schools cover the grade span K-3. The Rhode Island Department of education has approved this Side By Side plan of federal and state funding to bring literacy intervention to the students in Warwick who have educational-literacy needs. The issue of grade 2 and 3 is as follows-ALL schools serve K-2 as a first priority and then, as the caseload permits, we have state and federal approval to include grade 3. It is permissible to have a waiting list or an established priority list to serve students up to the amount of funds allocated to the schools.

- **Will Students no longer be able to attend Oakland Beach Pre school program?**

Answer- Yes, the students will no longer be able to attend the Pre-School. The students from the John Greene attendance area will now be either part of the Warwick Neck or Sherman attendance areas. Since neither of these schools is expected to become a Title I school, these students will no longer be eligible to attend the pre-school at Oakland Beach School.

- **Will stud/parents no longer be able to attend Family center at Oakland Beach?**

Answer – Yes, the parents will no longer be eligible to participate at the Family Center. This service is only available to parents of students who attend a Title I school.

- **Will we not lose funding totaling \$90,283.00? (Figure taken from a copy of a letter of public information from Mr. Lowery addressed to principal of Green) If not this amount, how much funding will we loose?**

Answer – No funds will be lost as a direct result of closing John Greene School or any other school at this time.

- **Was there any attempt made to preserve Title 1 status when consolidating schools?**

Answer – Unclear as to the question being asked. Title I status was reviewed by Mr. Lowery with the Directors and the Superintendent. The funding for Title I is not at risk due to any closure of elementary schools.

DATE: 27 April 2009

TO: Peter P. Horoschak, Ed.D.

FROM: E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator
Warwick Public Schools

RE: School Closings – 2009

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE:

In response to questions on repairs and renovations carried in the 2006 bond request, it might be best to explain the process use to develop a bond referendum.

In accordance with recommended procedures from the RI Department of Education and the RI Health Department, an Asset Protection program is developed using their guidelines. The questionnaire included in the guidelines is distributed to the Principals of each school. It contains approximately 170 questions regarding building components to determine the staffs' input on conditions. This information is assembled and coupled with the specific knowledge of the Buildings and Grounds' Director and that of the Maintenance personnel and includes the Work Order history of the buildings.

A list is developed and categorized by priority; student/staff health & safety, energy and maintenance issues and overall support of the building structures and features. Conceptual estimates are then developed for the cost of each improvement. In the case of roof replacement, these estimates are based upon the buildings' gross square footage using "per square foot" values as established from in-house practical experience, bidding history, and input from respected trades-firms. Gross areas and general square foot values are used at this point to account for the unseen and unknown conditions such as wet insulation, asbestos content in the original roofing materials, deteriorated structural deck and drainage issues. The estimates are tallied and brought to the WPS Administration and School Committee for review. Priorities are established - certain projects may eliminated due to funding limitations and the resulting list forwarded to City officials for bond referendum approval.

In the specific cases of Greene and Warwick Neck Elementary Schools; both schools have roofs installed in 1992 – additionally, the original 8-classroom section of Warwick Neck was roofed in 1989. The roof at Greene was installed with tapered insulation which facilitates drainage; Warwick Neck is flat. In developing the bond, using the age of the roofs, it was reasonable to assume the lack of proper drainage at Warwick Neck would likely be in need of major repairs during the 5 year asset protection plan. Looking at the roofs long range, both will need to be replaced due to age deterioration at some point in the future. Until funding is provided, WPS Maintenance personnel will continue to service the repairs through patching.

For the purpose of the conceptual estimates for the bond, costs for Warwick Neck were established as follows:

35,000 SF	Gross Building Area	
17,500 SF	@ \$ 7.00 PSF =	\$ 122,500 (assumed partial removal – new roofing)
17,500 SF	@ \$11.00 PSF =	\$ 192,500 (assumed complete removal – new roofing)
		\$ 26,775 (A & E fees)
		\$ 68,355 (inflation – 5 years @ 3.5% per year)
		\$ 61,520 (contingency @ 15%)

TOTAL \$ 471,650

If we were to look at Greene in the same manner, the cost would be:

30,120 SF	Gross Building Area	
15,060 SF	@ \$ 7.00 PSF =	\$ 105,420 (assumed partial removal – new roofing)
15,060 SF	@ \$11.00 PSF =	\$ 165,660 (assumed complete removal – new roofing)
		\$ 23,042 (A & E fees)
		\$ 58,824 (inflation – 5 years @ 3.5% per year)
		\$ 52,942 (contingency @ 15%)

TOTAL \$ 405,888 SAY \$405,900

REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS PRIORITIES

The priority for both schools is equal over the next three years. Neither Greene's nor Warwick Neck's roofs are expected to completely fail over that time span and leaks will be handled through patching by WPS Maintenance personnel.

The utility cost for each school for the last 6 months is as follows:

	GREENE	WARWICK NECK
Electricity	\$ 15,539.76	\$ 14,425.82
Gas	980.17	47820.21
Oil	29,637.38	
Water / Sewer	654.51	943.68
	<u>\$ 46,811.82</u>	<u>\$ 63,189.71</u>

The repairs and renovations costs listed as \$157,025. for Greene and \$687,821 for Warwick Neck are all funded through the 2006 bond referendum, except for a boiler replacement and associated ACBM abatement at Warwick Neck. The only repairs that would have to be performed, even if the bond funding does not materialize, are the possible failure of the sewage disposal systems at both schools. Greene could cost as little as \$15,000 or as much as \$60,000 depending on whether or not municipal sewers are installed prior to a failure. If the Warwick Neck system fails, the cost to connect the remaining portion of the school to the municipal system on Warwick Neck Avenue is approximately \$25,000. We would like to perform the lighting upgrades as soon as possible at both schools due to the rapid energy payback and advantageous utility company participation. Fire Code improvements are over-due in both cases – we won't

know what the repercussions of noncompliance are until the spring of 2010 when our first milestone date occurs.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

The \$13,110. ACBM abatement expense for Warwick Neck is only necessitated in conjunction with the boiler replacement.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY

Greene is fully accessible, the classrooms in the 2-story section of Warwick Neck are not accessible.

AIR QUALITY

WPS Maintenance conducts air quality test only in response to specific complaints or issues. There are no known mold issues at either school.



Message

Mon, Apr 27, 2009 10:46 AM

From: Richard D'Agostino
To: Patricia Macdonald
Cc: Robert Bushell

Subject: mot-costa questions pertaining to special ed students

Handicapped access ability:

Greene is fully handicapped accessible. Warwick Neck is 80% handicapped accessible, however, there has never been a problem, accommodations have been made for students in the past and at the present, there is a physically handicapped student attending Warwick Neck School.

Student Data: There are students in kindergarten at both schools who receive special services according to their IEPs. However, when determining the building "weighted average" they are not counted per contract. The only students that are counted at the elementary level are students in grades 1-6.

Mr. Carrulo's number are not correct. His data analysis begins with a building capacity figure that is incorrect. When one examines Mr Bushell's building capacity form it is clear that 17 classrooms x an average of 25 students = 425 students. When combined with 43 students in kindergarten one arrives at a building capacity of 471 students. At the present, there are 352 students attending Sherman, when divided by the building capacity of 471 the operating percentage for the school is 74.7 %.