OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 18, 2016
Meeting Room B, Town Hall

PRESENT: Lynne Vanderslice, Michael Kaelin, Richard Dubow, David Clune, Lori Bufano

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Kevin Smith, Ken Post, Bruce Likly, Laura Schwemm, Glenn Hemmerle, Chris Stroup, Lory Rothstein, Ken Post, John Murphy, Anne Kelly-Lenz

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Board of Education Capital Discussion

- Enrollment Projections
  Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent of Schools and Bruce Likly, Chairman of the Board of Education reviewed the enrollment projections for Wilton Public Schools. A copy of the report provided by Ellen Essman is attached.

- Dr. Smith and Mr. Likly presented the FY 2018-2021 Budget Requests for the Board of Education. There are no requests for FY2017. Mr. Likely noted that there is a Business Operations Sub-Committee on the Board of Education (2 members of the Board of Education and 2 members of the Board of Finance) that meets every month that discusses operation issues with the schools. He stated that an invitation was given to the First Selectman inviting two members of the Board of Selectman to be part of the committee.

Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the department budgets that indicates where we are today in the budget process. Ms. Vanderslice noted a change in the Health Dept Budget for the purchase of a new vehicle that has been changed to the purchase of a used vehicle. She also noted that she is refunding her raise back to the Town for FY2016.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
(Taken from video)

Ellen M. Essman
59 St. Johns Road
Wilton, CT 06897
October 19, 2015

Dr. Kevin Smith
Superintendent
Wilton Public Schools
Wilton, CT 06897

Dear Dr. Smith:

Attached are the enrollment projections for 2015. The objective of my work is to provide a basis for next year's school budget. In order to provide a sense of the future enrollment in the school system, I have also included projections for years 2017 through 2023.

The reports include:

- Preschool census and kindergarten projections
- Enrollment Projections K-12
- Grade Group Totals
- Notes
- Comparisons of projections and actual numbers the next year
- Methodology for doing projections
- List of variables that affect enrollment
- Enrollment projections on one page
- Accuracy

I have included the methodology as background for new board members and as reference for the future.

I am planning to attend the Board of Education meeting on October 22, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Essman

Enclosures, as stated

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT PROJECTION
OCTOBER 2015
MIGRATION ON THE DIAGONAL
DATA BELOW THE LINE ARE PROJECTIONS
ASSUME SAME MIGRATION NUMBERS 2016 AND BEYOND

Year	K		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12	NET MIGR	K-12 TC
2010	292		282		352		317		339		366		330		352		352		310		333		319		317		
		21		2		14		12		5		5		9		-4		-11		-4		-4		-1		44	
2011	274		313		284		366		329		344		371		339		348		341		306		329		318		
		15		9		14		-1		4		-1		-1		1		2		-6		-4		-6		26	
2012	269		289		322		298		365		333		343		370		340		350		335		302		323		
		18		16		18		9		6		8		4		-1		5		-3		-7		-9		64	
2013	244		287		305		340		307		371		341		347		369		345		347		328		293		
		10		1		18		4		4		-9		0		-3		-24		0		-10		-2		-11	
2014	262		254		288		323		344		311		362		341		344		345		345		337		326		
		24		-3		8		5		4		6		-2		1		-17		-7		-11		4		12	
2015	236		286		251		296		328		348		317		360		342		327		338		334		341		
		17		5		15		5		5		1		1		-1		-10		-4		-8		-3		23	
2016	**236**		**253**		**291**		**266**		**301**		**333**		**349**		**318**		**359**		**332**		**323**		**330**		**331**		
2017	239		253		258		306		271		306		334		350		317		349		328		315		327		
2018	242		256		258		273		311		276		307		335		349		307		345		320		312		
2019	247		259		261		273		278		316		277		308		334		339		303		337		317		
2020	183 *		264		264		276		278		283		317		278		307		324		335		295		334		
2021	183 *		200		269		279		281		283		284		318		277		297		320		327		292		
2022	183 *		200		205		284		284		286		284		285		317		267		293		312		324		
2023	183 *		200		205		220		289		289		287		285		284		307		263		285		309		

* Census figures taken from reported prepared by Dr. Peter Prowda, Wilton Public Schools Enrollment Projected to 2023.

5 yr avg	17	5	15	6	5	2	2	-1	-9	-4	-7	-3	27	
4 yr avg	17	6	15	4	5	1	0	-1	-9	-4	-8	-3	23	
3 yr avg	18	4	15	5	5	2	1	-1	-12	-3	-9	-2	22	
Avg.	17	5	15	5	5	1	1	-1	-10	-4	-8	-3	23	
Round	17	5	15	5	5	1	1	-1	-10	-4	-8	-3	23	

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2015 ENROLLMENT PROJECTION NOTES

1. See addendum on methodology for notes on process

2. Wilton's projection model uses a 5 year average migration and continues the past practice of placing more weight on the recent years.

3. The migration numbers from grade 8 through 12 have ranged from minus 24 to plus 5 during the past five years. Next year's projection is minus 25 for this grade group. Previous speculation suggested that this may be due to increased affluence in the town and that more families are using private high schools.

4. The Wilton birth rates for 2011-2014 are lower than the period 2006-2010. In 2016, the projected kindergarten enrollment is 236; this is a decrease of 56 students from the highest enrollment of 292 actual kindergarten enrollments at October 1, 2010. Additionally, it should be noted that in 2012, Connecticut was ranked in 34th in birth rates in the United States. This data was provided by "CT by the Numbers", an independent organization that utilizes data from the US census to extrapolate this figure.

5. The projection indicates that overall enrollment will decline by 82 students. This pattern then continues in a steady decline. This should be monitored closely. New housing starts or significant increase real estate transactions could impact this projection. Finally, an improved economy, could impact the school enrollment as well resulting in higher migrations to private school as well as the migration in and out of our town.

6. The net migration for all grades was -78 this year, compared to the 2014 projection of -61, perhaps suggesting that the enrollment decline is slightly faster than projected in prior years. Although overall enrollment is projected to decline from 2016 through 2023, the net migrations are projected to be +23 and the overall decline is due to the lower kindergarten numbers. The cohort retention method will adjust itself to reflect this if it is indeed a trend.

Wilton Public Schools
Methodology for Enrollment Projections

1. Obtain the previous year's enrollment projections. You will need the October first data for each grade level K-12 for the last five years. That is, for 2015, I needed the data for 2010 – 2015.

   This data will also have the migration numbers for each year. They are the numbers under each line on a diagonal as the students moved from grade to grade. For instance, in 2010 the kindergarten had 292 students. You would expect to have 292 in the first grade in 2011. However, history shows that were 313 students in the first grade in 2011. This is an increase of 21. So the diagonal number is 21. That is the history for one year. As you read horizontally you will see the migrations for each class and the net total migration for 2010-2011 of plus 44. Since this is history none of these numbers change and can be copied for every year up to the year you are doing.

2. Obtain the October 1 enrollment numbers for each grade for the year you are doing. To do the 2015 report I then placed these numbers a few lines below the historical data ending with 2015.

3. The next job is to calculate the new history – the migrations from 2014 to 2015. Since the 2014 kindergarten was 262 and the 2015 first grade was 286, the migration is 24. Continue to work your way across the page. You should have 12 migration numbers. The total of these is the total net migration which is plus 12. This is the net number of students who migrated into the system from October to October OTHER than changes due to graduation and new kindergarten.

   As a check to that your math is correct, the following should equate:

   2014 total enrollment – 2014 seniors + 2015 kindergarten

   + Total net migration 2014 to 2015 = 2015 total enrollment

   Translates to: 4182 – 326 + 236 +12= 4104

4. Your next job is to calculate the migrations numbers you are going to use for future years. I average the most recent three years for each grade change for the total, the most recent four years and the most recent five years. Then I average these three numbers. This helps to smooth any anomalous data since the older years will become less and less important before they drop off the chart. For instance, this year the last three years of migrations from kindergarten to first grade was (18+10+24) divided by 3 = 17. The last four years gave (15+18+10+24) divided by 4 = 17. The last five years gave (21+15+18+10+24) divided by 5 = 18. The average of these three numbers is calculated as follows: 53 divided by 3 = 17 to the nearest whole number. Migrations must be in whole numbers since students always come in whole numbers! Since you must average to whole numbers, the sum of the averages for the twelve changes may not exactly match the average for the total migration. Previous experience used total migration as the most significant and gave it priority over the rounding of individual grade level migrations. This means that you may have to alter the rounding of individual grade level migrations so that the sum of the grade level migrations is exactly the same as the total migration.

5. You must project each subsequent year in order, starting with 2015. Take the 2015 kindergarten of 236 and promote them to first grade, adding in the new migration of 17 gives you 253 for the

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT PROJECTION VARIABLES

The cohort retention system is used by the Wilton system to build a projection by using the history of enrollment numbers. This will result in a good prediction as long as the trends in town remain about the same as they have been for the most recent five years.

The following factors can affect the projections.

1. **Housing Starts**
   - Fewer building projects than usual would mean the projections may be too high.
   - More building projects than usual would mean the projections may be too low.

2. **Housing Market**
   - More houses on the market, especially if a significant number are vacant, would mean that the short-term projections may be too high.
   - Fewer houses on the market would mean that the short-term projections may be too low.
   - This factor tends to be self-correcting and not affect long-term projections.

3. **Birth Rate**
   - The Wilton system uses the Preschool Census taken annually in order to prepare the projections for Kindergarten. This is the most difficult part to predict. If the census is too high, our projections will be too high. If too low, we will be low.

4. **Private / prep school preference rates**

5. **Parochial school capacity and preference rates**

6. **Perceived quality of schools**

7. **Trends in school start age – tendency to hold children back a year.**

Others could be listed. These are the factors most often mentioned and which seem most significant.

Note that the projection model calculates that past trends will continue, so it reflects historical change. The model adapts to history when rates of change are altered, but not immediately. The model will adjust itself in future iterations to accommodate new trend levels while it smoothes out short term volatility.

8. **General Economic Conditions**

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS - October 2015

Year	Pre K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Out of District	Total PreK-12	9-12	6-8	3-5	PreK-2-	K-12 (w/o PreK & Out of District)
2014	78	262	254	288	323	344	311	362	341	344	345	345	337	326	20	4280	1353	1047	978	882	4182
2015	78	**236**	286	251	296	328	348	317	360	342	327	338	334	341	20	4202	1340	1019	972	851	4104
2016	78	**236**	**253**	291	266	301	333	349	318	359	332	323	330	331	20	4120	1316	1026	900	858	4022
2017	78	**239**	**253**	**258**	306	271	306	334	350	317	349	328	315	327	20	4051	1319	1001	883	828	3953
2018	78	**242**	**256**	**258**	**273**	311	276	307	335	349	307	345	320	312	20	3989	1284	991	860	834	3891
2019	78	247	**259**	**261**	**273**	**278**	316	277	308	334	339	303	337	317	20	3947	1296	919	867	845	3849
2020	78	183	**264**	**264**	**276**	**278**	283	317	278	307	324	335	295	334	20	3836	1288	902	837	789	3738

Students currently in our schools

Children born but not yet in school

Projections prepared by Ellen Essman, Oct. 2015

Reviewed by the Board 10/22/2015