

# Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools

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## Board of Education Meeting

### Questions and Answers

**October 29, 2013**

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Question:

Why was the new transportation route for Troy Hills School needed?

- **Due to the Overflow Kindergarten students from Northvail School**

Have you identified how much the cost of technology support will increase due to the increase in technology in our schools and is the increase in the budget?

- **Every three years our district is required (by law) to create a three-year district technology plan. The existing plan, approved last May, forecast our equipment needs and technology support from 2013-2016. Consequently, we do not anticipate any increases in technology support, or staff, over the next three years. We will revisit our technology needs and support in 2016 as we create and forecast the next, 2016-2019 district technology plan.**

Where is the cost of field maintenance if it isn't in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan?

- **It is in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Acct #11-000-261-340-210**

How much capital reserve is left?

- **As of July 1, 2013 - \$1,120,423.00**

How much should be in the capital reserve?

- **The total amount can be as much as your Five-Year Facility Plan, so up to \$20,000,000.00**

### **Questions regarding Reading and Writing Program**

Which middle school students participate in the program – all students or just those with a deficiency in reading and writing skills?

- **All students grade 6-8**

How much time per week is spent on instruction under the reading and writing program?

- **40 minutes a day/200 minutes a week**

What would happen to the free time generated by cuts to the program? Would it result in increased study period time or would it be replaced by instruction in some other area?

- **If the programs were to be realigned, the time would be used to expand all classes to the contractual limit of 50 minutes per class.**

How much redundancy is there between the reading and writing program versus the reading and writing that takes place during the normal English classes that have to be taken?

- **Although both courses are developed and implemented based upon Common Core State Standards, the Reading Writing Course has a more student centered approach; whereas the English Language Arts Class are both teacher directed and student centered and includes reading and writing instruction and activities.**

For which groups of students is the program being reduced/eliminated?

- **At this time no decision has been made to either reduce or eliminate the Reading and Writing Program**

If class periods are increased by 25% as the superintendent suggests, wouldn't there be ample time during regular English classes to spend on additional reading and writing activities if indeed they are necessary?

- **Yes, for the 25% increase in time equates to an additional 36 days of instruction with classes at 50 minutes in length rather than 40 minutes. Furthermore, depending on the schedule, there may be time allocated for additional reading and writing workshops to take place.**