

March 12, 2012



Updates from *Marcia Asdal*, a Chester Representative to the West Morris

Regional Board of Education marcia.asdal@gmail.com

Note: This document is not an official record of any meeting; it is an informal dissemination of information by a private citizen. This information is a matter of public record and any views herein are mine alone and not necessarily those of any other Board member.

The public is urged to attend the **2012-2013 Budget Presentation.**

Monday, March 26th 7:00 p.m. Central High School

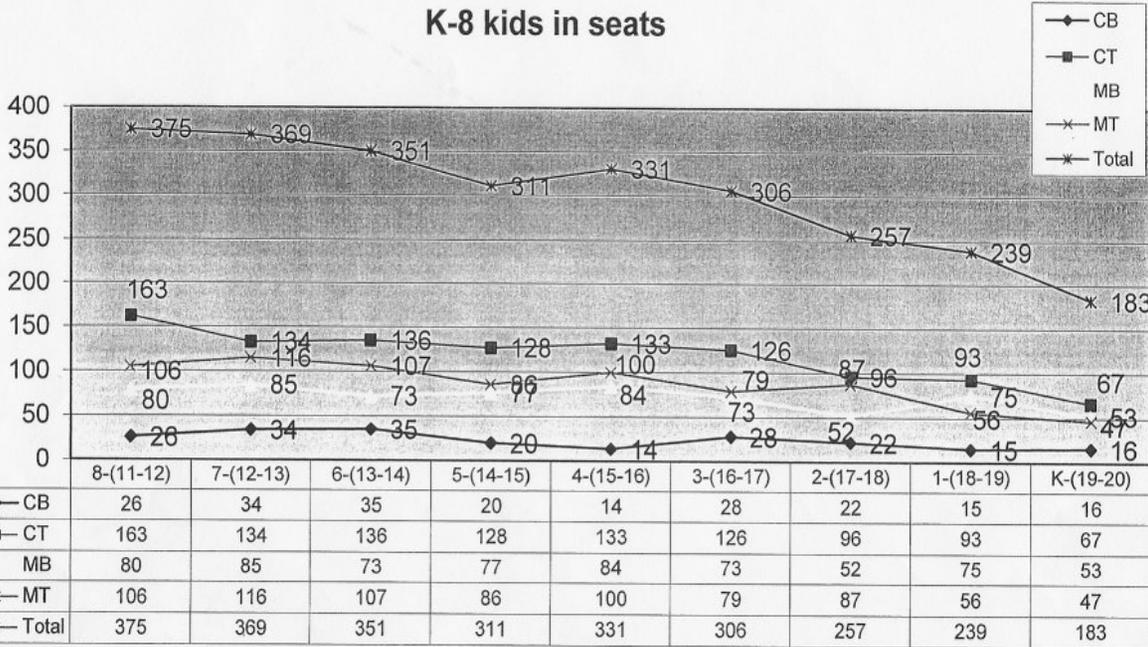
There will be **no public vote** on this budget, so your input and comments are especially crucial.

Per Pupil Cost Calculations*	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Original Budget	2011-12 Revised Budget	2012-13 Proposed Budget	% Annual Change	% Change, three years
Total Budgetary Comparative Per Pupil Cost 2012-2013	14,029	13,486	13,799	14,032	15,098	+ 7.60	+ 7.61
Total Classroom Instruction	7,918	8,689	7,893	8,018	8,871	+10.64	+12.03
Classroom-Salaries & Benefits	7,653	8,385	7,578	7,694	8,558	+11.22	+11.82
Classroom-General Supplies & Textbooks	223	256	253	259	250	- 3.47	+12.11
Classroom-Purchased Services & Other	42	48	61	64	63	- 1.56	+50.00
Total Support Services	2,134	1,634	2,031	2,065	2,168	+ 4.99	+ 1.59
Support Services-Salaries & Benefits	1,926	1,442	1,805	1,832	1,945	+ 6.17	+ 0.97
Total Administrative Costs	1,604	1,199	1,572	1,599	1,599	0.0	- 0.31
Administration-Salaries & Benefits	1,253	897	1,179	1,197	1,177	- 1.67	- 6.06
Legal Costs	0	38	15	46	47	+ 2.17	+100.0
Total Operations & Maintenance of Plant	1,338	1,144	1,327	1,354	1,370	+ 1.18	+ 2.39
Operations & Maintenance of Plant-Salaries & Benefits	660	515	643	652	663	+ 1.69	+ 0.45
Board Contribution to Food Services	14	0	0	0	0	0.0	-100.0
Total Extracurricular Costs	1,005	820	955	976	1,074	+10.04	+ 6.86
Total Equipment Costs	169	81	36	37	67	+81.08	-60.35
Employee Benefits as a % of Salaries	24.0	24.4	27.2	27.2	26.8	- 1.47	+11.67

* **Total Budgetary Comparative Per Pupil Cost:** current expense exclusive of tuition expenditures, transportation, residential costs, and judgments against the school district.

The information presented will be found in the **2012 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending** on the DOE website.

K-8 kids in seats



Enrollments by Grade & (Year)

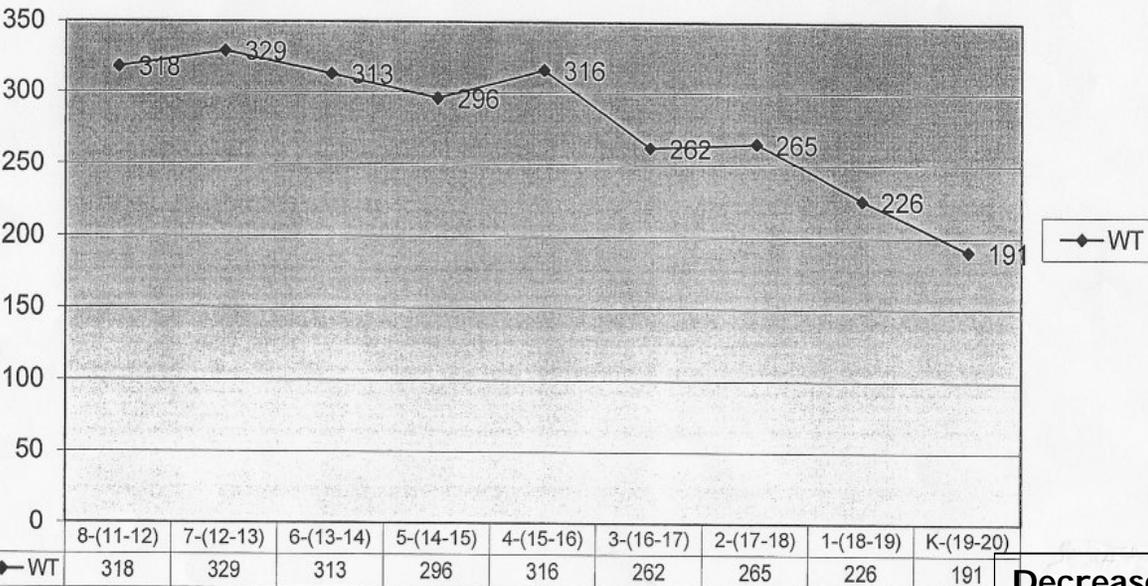
Decrease of 51.2% by 2019

Below are comments I made at the BOE meeting, March 12th, regarding these demographic charts included in the 2012-2013 Budget Handbook.

These two charts, **K-8 Kids in Seats**, caught my attention as they showed a drop of 51% in the Chesters and Mendhams, and 40% in Washington Twp. by 2019. Couple these reports with the recent reporting from Washington Twp's Board of Education's demographic study indicating a 100 student drop in the kindergarten population every year for the next five, and I believe this Board needs to follow their lead and start a conversation about **possible demographic changes on the horizon**. This magnitude of drop will require innovation, right-sized staff and expert facilities management.

I recognize that looking seven years out can be fraught with the unknown, but these kind of numbers should warrant solid planning. The demographic factors cited by Washington Twp.'s forecasting firm are fairly straightforward and not surprising to anyone: falling birthrates, low fertility rates, less percentage of females in the 20-34 age group, new construction starts vaporized, home ownership turnover and the statutory regulations of the Highlands which covers 86% of Washington Township and all of the Chesters.

K-8 kids in seats



Enrollments by Grade & (Year)

Decrease of 39.94% by 2019

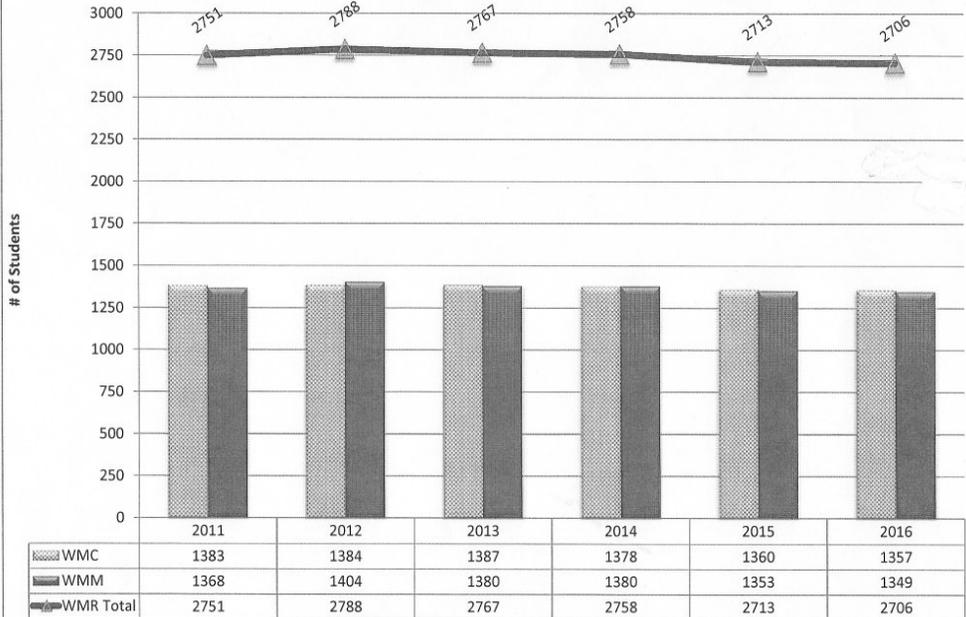
Specifically, we should start planning for population decline. Anyone can manage growth with money. Stability is far more difficult and **managing decline is imperative to maintaining quality in education and value for taxes paid**. Knowing that demographic changes are on the horizon, what is the community's position? Accept larger class sizes for a few years and not encumber the taxpayers with a 20-30 year investment in permanent costs and obligations?

We know that businesses who are more nimble and flexible than a school district governed by union contracts and obligations, are reluctant to add employees in a world of unknown and uncertain economic forecasts. We should take the lead from them and begin to seriously look at our future staffing needs to intersect supply with demand.

In the foreseeable future I envision a graph that shows increasing budgets, mostly driven by staffing costs – salaries, benefits – and a decreasing enrollment, and the delta is painful.

Enrollment data and projections should inform the budgetary process from the very start in November and not just be added to the picture in March, in fact given to the Board after the budget has been sent to the County for preliminary approval.

**WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Enrollment Projections***



*based on Oct. 15, 2011 enrollments

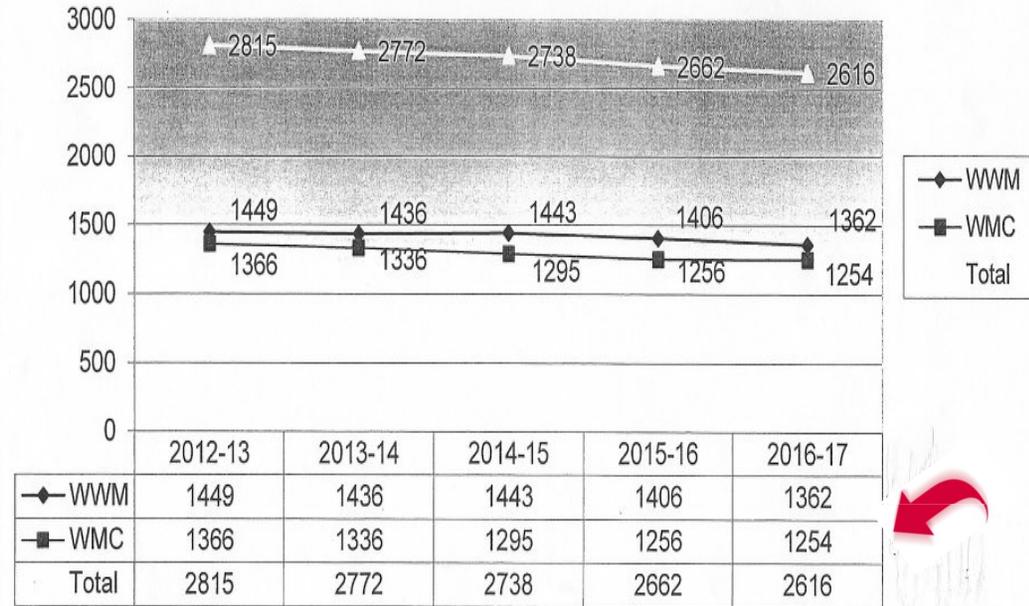
projections based on Sara Weissman's Jan. 29, 2012 report

Current Projection Chart Enrollments

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This chart shows a projected enrollment decrease of **1.39%** at MHS and **1.88%** at Central by 2016.

KIDS in SEATS



Grades 9-12

Decrease of **6.0%** at MHS and **8.2%** at Central by 2016.

**WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Enrollments**

Weissman Projected Enrollments																
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
2001 projections:	2309	2385	2481	2581	2638											
2002 projections:		2376	2446	2494	2549	2681										
2003 projections:			2518	2590	2706	2793	2867									
2004 projections:			2501	2556	2628	2751	2786	2819								
2005 projections:			2558	2616	2723	2744	2767	2813								
2006 projections:			2558	2643	2667	2643	2729									
2007 projections:			2628	2732	2767	2854	2878	2882								
2008 projections:			2664	2708	2814	2843	2938	2927								
2009 projections:			2684	2719	2691	2711	2675	2657								
2010 projections:			2747	2695	2661	2577	2490	2380								
2011 projections:			2751	2788	2767	2758	2713	2706								
ASSA Enrollments as of Oct 15																
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011						
WMC	1202	1256	1309	1299	1300	1,364	1,380	1389	1412	1402						
WMM	1082	1125	1156	1192	1208	1,253	1,274	1297	1324	1391						
WMR Total	2284	2381	2465	2491	2508	2617	2654	2686	2736	2793						
Actual vs. Projected Enrollments																
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011						AVG
Actual	2284	2381	2465	2491	2508	2617	2654	2686	2736	2793						2562
Projected	2309	2376	2501	2558	2558	2628	2664	2684	2747	2751						2578
Variance from Actual	-25	5	-36	-67	-50	-11	-10	2	-11	42						-16.1
(+ over - below)																
% variance from Actual	-1.1%	0.2%	-1.5%	-2.7%	-2.0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.1%	-0.4%	1.5%						-0.6%



This chart shows the demographer's actual vs. projected enrollments from 2002-2011 for the district as a whole. Her average variance has been **-0.6%**.