

Special Education: I was wondering how many special ed students we have in each of the schools. I see there was a substantial increase in special education spending. What is the special ed estimated cost per student? I believe this expense was included in the allocation by total enrollment and was just wondering if there was a significant difference in special ed expense between schools.

Pre-K had a significant increase. I was wondering what had changed there. [Two years ago the state mandated that the school districts provide 10 hours of preschool education for all preschool aged residents in the district. Each year we have to budget for the cost of the 10 hours based on enrollment and projections. In the first budget we had included increased hours of preschool for Bradford however that was removed.](#)

Teacher Contracts: What is the term and raise percentages of the current union contract by year? As the percentages were going up and down, does that mean this is outside of the existing contract? Also is it an across the board raise percentage or are individual teacher positions adjusted according to the state averages you are trying to bring them up to?

OJUSD Treasurer: Why is there a paid treasurer for this board and what is their role?. How does that position interact with the Business Manager? Why wasn't the business manager part of the board meeting discussing the budget? [By law we are required to have a bonded treasurer that oversees the payables and signs the checks. It is a policy that provides checks and balances. The treasurer does work with the Business manager if there are any issues or questions regarding the payables. Lori Blood, our business manager has been at almost all of our meetings for the past 6 months. She was at our meeting last week and when we went into recess it was she and the superintendent that pulled the new budget numbers together. She did not address the board or public only because there were not questions that needed her expertise.](#)

Provision II: How was that amount calculated for the estimate? [The current usage and cost per meal were used to calculate the estimated cost. Taking into account the free and reduced meals qualifications.](#)

New Building: What is the additional \$52,500 listed under the move cost on the line item budget for OESU? Also, is there a CPI adjustment for each year? What happens after year three? Why a \$90,000 investment for a building we only have a three year lease for?. What are you anticipating the cost for a new lease following that three year lease? [The old lease had some of the utilities built into the lease. We have anticipated the cost and are currently working to verify them. The lease is for 5 years.](#)

I see Oxbow had substantial increases in budgets for Math Equipment and Math materials \$40,000 and Technology Services increased by \$75,000. What program changes do those represent? [There was a Math position that was added into the budget as well as a Technology position.](#)

Superintendents Office increase of \$90,000 and Facilities increase of \$70,000. What was the cause of these large increases? [I am not sure where you are seeing those numbers but if you go to the OESU website \(oesu.org\) and select the OESU school board in the attachments for meetings on January 7th 2020, December 3rd 2019 and Nov. 5th 2019 you will be able to see the budget reports for the OESU with the explanation of changes. The one in the January meeting has the most detailed information and is very helpful.](#)

What was the final increase per thousand for Bradford and Newbury after the budget discussions this week? [assuming you mean 'per 100,000' of property value.](#)

[Here's the numbers for Bradford:](#)

Last year: \$1,576

This year (1st vote): \$1,715

This year (2nd vote): \$1,690

Upcoming vote: \$1,666

Here's the numbers for Newbury:

Last year: \$1,557

This year (1st vote): \$1,652

This year (2nd vote): \$1,628

Upcoming vote: \$1,603

Example: So say you have a home in Bradford that is valued at \$200,000. Last year your school tax would have been \$3,152. If the 2nd vote had passed, the school tax would have been \$3,380.

*****Of course, that is BEFORE any income sensitivity reduction gets applied by Vermont's Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim.