

Responses/additional comments from Mr. Simon:

-The options developed by the Study Group are designed to maintain the current average class sizes in the elementary schools. All of our elementary classes fall within the ranges that are part of the teacher's contract: kindergarten 18-24; grades 1-3 20-26; and grades 4-6 24-29. Most of our classes fall in the middle to low end of the ranges. A mock exercise for operating with four elementary schools next year shows average class sizes would be as follows: kindergarten=20; grades 1-3=22; and grades 4-6= 25. Budget issues may require the Board to revisit the class size question regardless of the decision concerning school and grade configuration.

-While the district does have more administrators per student than it did in the early 1980s, the requirements and mandates from New York State have increased dramatically. Specifically, special education requirements, the new principal and teacher evaluation system, changing the curriculum to the Common Core, etc., all require additional administrative work and responsibilities.

-The Board of Education did not cut the JV9 program for this year; rather the administration removed the program because the Suffolk County Athletic Association reported that they not have enough teams to create schedules or a program. This was modified in June when four schools restored JV9 football and six schools restored JV9 soccer. WI did not rejoin, given the budget for this year had already been voted on, and we did not want to pick and choose sports to restore rather than the entire program.

-The teachers "gave back" to help with this year's budget. Specifically, the teachers agreed to no raise or step for the first half of this year, thus saving the district approximately \$1 million dollars. In addition, the teachers agreed to increase their share of medical premiums from 15% to 17% effective immediately. In return, the Board agreed to extend the current teachers contract for two additional years (2013-14 and 2014-15) with a 2% raise each of those years.

-District office administrators and District Office support staff received no increase in salary for this year.

-Building principals, assistant principals, and curriculum directors (all members of WIASA) have been working without a new contract this year and have received no salary increases. They do not receive step increases.

-Closing two elementary schools would save approximately \$2.4-\$3.2 million dollars, but this still leaves a \$3 million dollar gap to construct a budget that is within the tax cap limitation for next year. This means that there may have to be additional staff and program cuts beyond those created from closing schools.