

**Hudson City School District Board of Education**  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

*November 14, 2012*

This meeting of the Budget Committee focused on Special Education (SpEd) expenses.

The challenges of obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for prescribed SpEd services (e.g. PT, OT, etc.) were discussed. In order for the district to be reimbursed by Medicaid where eligible, parents are required to sign an annual authorization form. These forms are often difficult for the district to obtain. There was discussion of creating one simple form that would act as both a Medicaid authorization and an authorization for the school to discuss relevant issues with the student's physician. The possibility of using an outside vendor to manage Medicaid billing and STAC was discussed. There will be an RFP process to evaluate potential vendors.

There was clarification regarding the non-resident tuition paid by the district:

- The district is responsible for paying non-resident tuition for any student who is originally a resident of the district and is moved to foster care in another district.
- The district pays tuition to BOCES or to private school for SpEd students who have needs that cannot be met by the district. The rate at which the district is reimbursed the tuition varies (49% of expenses over \$35K for BOCES and 89% for private schools). There was discussion of applying those funds to instead bring the services in district, but the cost of retrofitting an entire building to meet the needs of children who require significant services far outweighs the cost of the tuition the district currently pays.

There was discussion regarding rules regarding the requirement of SpEd students to take Regents exams, and how instruction could potentially be modified to better prepare SpEd students for Regents-level classes. SpEd students have the option of remaining in school until age 21. Within that timeframe, they are expected to obtain the necessary credits to graduate. The goals of SpEd students are focused on content and curriculum, rather than on student skills (the ability to work independently, etc.) SpEd students are also counted as 4-year cohorts, which has an effect on the graduate as calculated by the state.

Contracted expenses were discussed:

- Education management services (Fenady, STAC)
- Nursing services
- CDB Connections

It was clarified that the same expenses are not being reflected in multiple budget line items (i.e. they are not being double-counted).