

ARRA Meeting 6/2/09
 Questions from the Public

Questions	Answers
Funding/Title I	
Please describe how you determined which elementary schools would be implemented. Does Title I really matter? Will the decision to spend the ARRA funds be subject to Public vote? BOE vote?	The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan. The proposal is still being considered by the administration and the Board based on public input from the June 2 nd hearing and is subject to change.
When will you decide if you're going ahead with full-day K?	By the end of the month of June.
Will the summer reading program be expanded to accommodate the now Title I students?	The summer reading program does include all Title 1 students. Non Title 1 students who meet certain criteria are also invited to attend.
What are the criteria for being classified as Title I? How often are the criteria evaluated, for example, every year, every ten years?	Title 1 status is determined by comparing the district poverty rate with the poverty rate of each school. This information is gathered each fall using the information provided on the free and reduced lunch applications.
Is there proof of an individual's income to show that they are income eligible?	There are criteria that must be completed and strict federal and state laws that regulate the verification process. We comply with all federal and state regulations.
Does Middletown have a long term capital plan to address the Elementary school issues: overcrowding; inadequate all purpose rooms; parking; Internet connectivity & technology needs?	The district has a Long Range Facilities Plan, which is required by the State to be done every 5 years. The next one will be done around late 2010. This plan does address elementary school issues.
Why the rush? Monies can be spent until 2011. Who is going to refund my registration fee for private K enrichment?	The availability of funding and the subsequent guidelines for complying with using the funds were just released. In order to implement any changes for the next school year, plans have to be developed and approved as soon as possible. Public funds cannot be used to reimburse individual families for private kindergarten pre-registration fees.
Is it legal to spend money designated for special ed on regular ed? Isn't that what you're doing?	The legalities of the issue are addressed in the state guidelines and in the Power Point. This proposal is a legal use of the funds as it creates more opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their non disabled peers.
This is for the "State Lady". Is this really what the State wants us to do?	The guidelines are designed so school districts can utilize the funds to best meet individual district needs. Offering a full day kindergarten program for Title 1 students does comply with the state guidelines.
When did you find out about the stimulus funds? Why was it never discussed at the meetings asking us to vote yes for the Budget?	We just recently received notification from the NJ Department of Education. The funding did not exist in April, so it could not be discussed during budget discussions.
Have you considered the influx of private and Catholic pre-school population in your numbers? And, have you been in contact with private institutions for facility rental?	Yes, we used our first grade enrollment numbers to give an approximation of our needs

When ARRA funds run out, how will the program be funded?	Through attrition in other areas.
What is your response to the specific criticism that the new funding for full-time Kindergarten is a convenient way to replace a previously failed effort that resulted in lost funds and cancelled contracts? What about the funding necessary to keep such programs viable after the "infusion" runs out?	Research shows that full day Kindergarten is important to a child's education. We can not help NJDOE changing the funding formula for preschool. After ARRA, the program will be funded through attrition in other areas.
How will the full day Kindergarten be funded once the stimulus money runs out?	After ARRA, the program will be funded through attrition in other areas.
Why aren't the ARRA funds being used to expand (add classrooms, more parking spaces, etc...) School Cafeterias in Elementary. Infrastructure?	Some of the funding will be used for infrastructure.
Since ARRA represents a one time infusion of funds, how do you propose to pay for full day Kindergarten beyond 2011? Be specific. Please describe how you determined which elementary schools would be implemented. To what extent does the Title I classification matter?	After ARRA, the program will be funded through attrition in other areas. The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan.
Why are funds for special ed being spent on integrated Kindergarten?	Only part of the funds were proposed to be use for full day K. Students with disabilities would be in the proposed classes.
What will be the impact on the 2012 budget once the full day Kindergarten is implemented and the ARRA funds are spent?	The plan is to reduce enough positions over the next two years so there will be no impact on the 2012 budget.
Why can't you begin with the Title 1 schools this year, and then do the other six schools in 2010? How will this affect our taxes in 2011 w/full day Kindergarten in all 12 schools?	The proposal for the phase-in of the full day kindergarten has been under reconsideration since the June 2 nd hearing based on the public response. As stated in the above response, the plan is to reduce enough positions over the next two years so there will be no budgetary impact in 2012.
The new full day Kindergarten program will undoubtedly have lots of reoccurring costs. Once the federal funds are spent, how will the district fund these expenses? ---in the future?	As staff retire or resign, some positions that will not be needed will not be replaced. The budgeted funds for those positions will be used to cover the kindergarten costs.
Have you considered the anti-bullying initiative (a substance abuse agency I Ocean provides it. I think it is Prevention First.)	Yes, part of the funding will be used to address social skill development and self esteem Programs. The Middletown District already partners with Prevention First for anti-bullying programs.
Full day Kindergarten is positive for the district. Are we achieving this by using the funding for Special Ed & Title I considering out of 18 spots, 2-4 are special ed and the paraprofessionals being allocated to integrated Kindergarten are coming from high support students. How is the 2.7 million benefiting the spec. ed?	Research has shown that appropriate inclusion programs benefits children with disabilities. <u>Early</u> inclusion is even more beneficial.

Why can we not use the 8 positions from the funds for this year and then next year the positions you can pay for the way you want to.	That concept is currently being considered.
At what time will I find out if my child was selected for full day?	Late June
Is there really going to be a full-time Kindergarten for Lincroft School in 2010?	Absolutely!
How do you decide which schools are title one and who will be going to have full time Kindergarten?	The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan.
Multi-Age Program	
Is it really fair for the multi-age children (6 in Sept) to have to be in classes with 'new' K students? It's supposed to be a 2 year program! Keep your promises! (Proposal – Condense next year's 2 nd year multi-age students to 2 classes & let them continue their prescribed education.)	The new full day program would utilize a developmentally appropriate curriculum ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, an appropriate education for all.
Why are the existing multi-age teachers being required to be dual certified? These teachers should be grandfathered in to the K program. They have years of experience.	The Multi-age teachers will be working in the Kindergarten program
In restructuring multi- age, how do you compensate for the developmental "Gift of time"?" (The "Affective" catching	There is little to no research that supports a program that systematically offers the "gift of time". Research shows that providing a full day, developmentally appropriate curriculum is what is effective, even for students who seemingly need more time.
As a parent I find the word "retention" program insulting as there is only a developmental reason for children to be in this program for 2 years.	The word retention is only meant to describe the practice of keeping students in the kindergarten level, when they otherwise would have moved on to 1 st grade It is in no way meant to be derogatory. The research shows the best way to intervene, even for students who may be developmentally at risk, is full day K, not 2 years of a modified curriculum.
Have you considered taking students from the current multi-age program and combining them into one class and finish the program? (As it was intended.) To completely start them over you may bore them & lose them.	This has been considered. However, at this stage in the proposal, the full day developmentally appropriate curriculum is believed to be the most effective thing for these students. The ability to utilized differentiated centers and child centered instruction will engage the students as much as ever before.
What will happen to the multi-age? If it is disbanned, What will happen to the children that are already in the multi-age and have one year completed? Hasn't the multi-age been a very successful program? What are you planning to do now with children that are not ready for Kindergarten?	The Kindergarten program will meet the needs of all students through differentiated instruction
How will it be presented to the current	This will be discussed at a meeting with teachers of the program. They know

multi-age children so that they do not feel as if they are being retained? “This year you are in multi-age, next year Kindergarten.”	the students and their input is very valuable.
Since when is multi-age retention? It is 1 curriculum divided into 2 years. Not the same curriculum repeated twice.	The word retention is only meant to describe the practice of keeping students in the kindergarten level, when they otherwise would have moved on to 1 st grade It is in no way meant to be derogatory. The research shows the best way to intervene, even for students who may be developmentally at risk, is full day K, not 2 years of a modified curriculum.
As a parent I find the word “retention” program insulting as there is only a developmental reason for children to be in this program for 2 years.	The word retention is only meant to describe the practice of keeping students in the kindergarten level, when they otherwise would have moved on to 1 st grade It is in no way meant to be derogatory. The research shows the best way to intervene, even for students who may be developmentally at risk, is full day K, not 2 years of a modified curriculum.
The benefit of the multi-age program was in the development of social skills. How can this happen in a class of 18!! Students of such heterogeneous skill levels and needs address the development of social skills?	Social skills can be developed in a group of 18.
What is the plan to finish the current multi-age program? Please outline the options.	This will be integrated into the Kindergarten curriculum through differentiated instruction
I disagree that Multi-Age is a retention program. It is a transitional program. Under your system, younger students would be “punished” for a failure to keep up by being sent to summer school. This is not fair, just because they were born in the wrong months. Multi-age is being sacrificed. True improvement means adding not shifting. Integrated K: My son has experienced it and I continue to hear the stories. There must be a clear and firm discipline plan and behavior expectations. Any incident of violence should mean removal to self-contained. Can parents opt their child out of Integrated K? Could they opt out even if their child fits the multi-age criteria?	The word retention is only meant to describe the practice of keeping students in the kindergarten level, when they otherwise would have moved on to 1 st grade It is in no way meant to be derogatory. The research shows the best way to intervene, even for students who may be developmentally at risk, is full day K, not 2 years of a modified curriculum. Yes, you may opt out.
Will you still do a developmental screening to find kids eligible for multi-age/extra help?	That is not proposed at this time.
You forgot to mention that some children that left the PSD went to the multi-age K.	None were recommended for the 2009/10 school year.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can you just throw away this 1st year of instruction? This was supposed to be a 2 yr program!! Keep your promises to the children and their parents! Is it really fair for the multi-age children (who will be 6 in Sept) to have to be in classes with ‘new’ Kindergarten students? 2. If multi-age is eliminated, where does that leave the 1st year students who would not get the 2nd year of the program? 3. Children who have finished first year of multi-age have to go back to beginning of Kindergarten? 4. How am I going to keep my 2nd year multi-age student on the right educational and developmental path? Opt. 1 – 1st grade – He will have lost a ½ year of curriculum and be emotionally and socially way behind his peers. Read: discipline problem. Opt. 2 – He will be sooo bored from repeating the same math book, science kit, etc., and be held back by the disabled students that he will be uncontrollable. Thanks for wasting a year of my child’s life...and the exponential damage... 	<p>The needs of all students will be met in the Kindergarten program through differentiation of instruction.</p> <p>The current design of the Multi-Age program already does call for students who are “new” kindergarten students to combine with the second-year students.</p>
<p>Proposal: Condense next years 2nd year multi-age students to 2 classes and let them continue their prescribed education.</p>	<p>This has been considered. However, at this stage in the proposal, the full day developmentally appropriate curriculum is believed to be the most effective solution for these students. The ability to utilized differentiated centers and child centered instruction will engage the students as much as ever before.</p>
<p>What are the options for current multi-age students who are now in their first year?</p>	<p>They may enter a full day Kindergarten class or go to 1st grade.</p>
<p>It is not fair that certain schools will not have full day Kindergarten. My daughter is in multi-age. What happens to her? Multi-age is not only for retention it is for developmentally immature children.</p>	<p>She may enter a full day Kindergarten class or go to 1st grade, whichever is appropriate</p>
<p>Multi-age is designed for immature students – summer birthdays – to give them an extra year to mature. Why do you think a few extra hours of schooling each day will help children mature quicker?</p>	<p>A developmentally appropriate curriculum is beneficial. Differentiation of instruction will meet the needs of all students</p>
<p>Will the excellent education our children receive now be the same if we do get full day K?</p>	<p>Absolutely!</p>
<p>Why can’t each of the K classes at 6 schools be slated for full day ALL be integrated K classrooms? Why just 1?</p>	<p>That proposal is being considered since the June 2nd presentation.</p>

Is the Phase in strategy up for debate or has this been decided?	Public input is always welcome! The phase in strategy was a proposal and public input was intended to be considered.
Will there be a self-contained K option for Sp. Ed. Students?	Yes, we will still have self-contained options
When will we know if all schools will have full day K by 2010? How do you sign up?	Late June. Sign up would be through your local school
If the district goes forward with full day K, will class size increase at Fairview School or will you redistrict our students?	No, we will work to keep class sizes much as they are now
What has possibly changed in this district over the years making us all ready to implement Kindergarten in September?	ARRA funding, combined with the reconfiguration of staff, has enabled the strategic plan to move forward more quickly.
Full Day Kindergarten	
Will the excellent education our children receive now be the same if we do get full day K?	Research has shown that the education will be even more effective.
Why can't each of the K classes at 6 schools be slated for full day ALL be integrated K classrooms? Why just 1?	Administration is still considering many options. The idea of the integrated kindergarten is one of them.
Is the Phase in strategy up for debate or has this been decided?	It is still a proposal at this point.
Will there be a self-contained K option for Sp. Ed. Students?	There are still self-contained options for kindergarten students. These include MD and autism classes. LLD class options are also available.
When will we know if all schools will have full day K by 2010? How do you sign up?	Follow the district website for updates.
If the district goes forward with full day K, will class size increase at Fairview School or will you redistrict our students? Full day K should be a public vote.	While there may be adjustments in class sizes all will remain in the low twenties. Redistricting is not being discussed at this time. With some reconfiguration of current spaces all students should be able to remain in their home schools.
What has possibly changed in this district over the years making us all ready to implement Kindergarten in September?	While full day kindergarten has always been ideal but too expensive for us to consider, the ARRA stimulus funding provides us with a one time funding opportunity to try and implement it. However, the primary reason we can implement the full day kindergarten has been due to the reconfiguration of teaching positions that has been occurring over the past three years. The Superintendent's Updates have been outlining these changes. The Updates are still archived on the District Website.
How definite are the plans for full day K by 2010? Can it change?	It is still a proposal at this point.
Will there be classes in trailers? Where will you put the full day K? Will regular ed classes be lost?	The proposal does not call for any trailers. Existing spaces would be converted under this proposal. The district has a responsibility to have as many regular education classes as necessary by code.
Why have K and this plan and its roll out for 09-10 never been discussed at a Board Workshop or Voting Meeting?	We just recently received notification from the NJ Department of Education. The funding did not exist in April, so it could not be discussed during budget discussions. The staffing efficiencies that the district has been realizing was discussed during budget time. It is these efficiencies that are bringing the district the opportunity to staff the full day kindergarten.
How will this be funded after the 1 st year? How does ARRA provide tax relief to the Middletown residents?	We anticipate gaining 7 positions during the 2010-11 school year through attrition, enrollment changes and transfers. The major implementation costs would be covered by the district efficiencies that have been in progress over the past 3 years. Combining the efficiencies with the ARRA funds will make not only the full day kindergarten possible, but also other enhancements to the district's ability to maximize opportunities for inclusion of students with

	disabilities.
How can you provide full day K for 2/3 of the students? Wouldn't that put the remaining 1/3 at an educational disadvantage? How does this "improve learning for ALL students?" This is unfair.	While we understand the argument, we are trying to implement change and reach as many students as possible. The proposal would give many students opportunities they do not currently have and would be available to all by 2011. Remember that the June 2 nd presentation was a "proposal". The district is still considering changes to that proposal.
What is your response to the specific criticism that the new funding for full-time K is a convenient way to replace a previously failed effort that resulted in lost funds and cancelled contracts?	This is not the case. The district is not sure what is being referenced here. The Preschool proposal was successfully submitted to the state. The state decided to only fund districts with existing universal programs. Middletown did not meet this criteria.
How many K classrooms are you going to have in each school?	As many as necessary. Projections have been made by looking at 1 st grade enrollments
Why can't we have a developmental K? How is eligibility for existing preschoolers be determined? Progress monitoring?	Full day kindergarten has been shown to be developmentally appropriate for all types of students.
What would a full day K student learn that a ½ day student would not?	The expanded time would allow greater depth in the learning centers and allow an expansion of the curriculum in core areas of literacy and mathematics.
Will the excellent education our children receive now be the same if we do get full day K?	Yes, and even more so.
Why can't each of the K classes at 6 schools be slated for full day ALL be integrated K classrooms? Why just 1?	That was the original proposal. Now, all will be integrated if needed
Is the Phase in strategy up for debate or has this been decided?	Public input is always welcome
Will there be a self-contained K option for Sp. Ed. Students?	Yes, that is still an option
When will we know if all schools will have full day K by 2010? How do you sign up?	Late June. You may register at your local school
What has possibly changed in this district over the last years that makes us able and ready to implement Kindergarten in September?	Staffing efficiencies have provided the opportunity to shift positions that will become available for the full day kindergarten. ARRA funds have helped move the District's Strategic Plan ahead.
How do you possibly think that it is fair to say it is OK to make ½ of the schools full day across the board and then say the other half will not be? Do you really think people will be OK with that since we all pay high taxes as it is? I don't feel it right that my child may only have ½ day Kindergarten while his friends at the Title I schools have full day. How do you think this will make the ½ kids feel?	The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan. Remember that the June 2 nd Presentation was a proposal. The district administration is considering changes to that proposal based on the public input.
If statistics show that our children benefit from all day Kindergarten then all children should be given this opportunity in the entire district.	Agreed. We are planning to afford all children this opportunity as soon as possible
What about full day Kindergarten for all regular ed students?	The proposal presented at the June 2 nd hearing is subject to reconsideration based on public input.
Since your research clearly shows the	The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools

benefits of the all day Kindergarten, how do you plan on “catching up” the children who do not get a full day program in Sept '09? How can you justify giving full day Kindergarten to some and not others within the same school?	would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan. Again, the June 2 nd proposal is subject to reconsideration based on public input.
When will you decide if you're going ahead with full day Kindergarten?	Late June
Can people still register for K now? (in Title I schools)	Yes
With only 1 integrated Kindergarten at each school, are you not essentially cheating a self-contained class? Why are they not ALL integrated.	The new proposal allows for all K classes to be integrated if needed.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My son will be in River Plaza next year. He is ahead academically and will not be considered as special needs. So...if he does not win the lottery for full-time Kindergarten, he will be penalized for working harder to be smarter. 2. Students in the half day program will obviously receive less instruction than full day class leaving ½ kids at a disadvantage – How do you justify? 	The Power Point delineated three criteria used to determine which schools would be serviced. Title 1 funds must be spent according to strict guidelines. The inherent philosophy is to service those most in need first through supplemental funding. Title 1 is based upon the poverty rate of the district as compared to the poverty rate of each school. The decision on how to spend ARRA funds will be made by the BOE and the administrative team based upon input from the public and maintaining the integrity of the BOE approved strategic plan. The administration is working on a revised plan based on the public input received from the June 2 nd hearing.
We would much rather see the implementation of a developmental Kindergarten – a step between pre K and Kindergarten. A full year between is much more beneficial than jamming instruction at the Kindergarten level for a longer day. That doesn't make a child mature more quickly. I have plenty of kids who would thrive in such a model.	Students' needs will be met through differentiation and social skill development
Integration	
Will all K's be integrated in 2010?	The current proposal called for 1 integrated k in each building. That proposal is subject to change based on consideration of public input.
What percentage of physical, emotional and mental disability does the integrated student have?	This question is unanswerable. Students with disabilities are students first. It is every district's federally legislated responsibility to educate all students' disabilities in the least restrictive environment possible. In most cases, this means the general education setting.
Why can't each of the Kindergarten classes at 6 schools slated for full day Kindergarten <u>ALL</u> be integrated Kindergarten classrooms? Why just 1?	The concept of the integrated kindergarten is being reconsidered.
Will the K integrated students enter self-contained 1 st grade or is the plan to integrate into 1 st grade classes in regular education?	Educational placements for students with disabilities are IEP decisions. As required by law should an IEP require a specific placement, the student will receive that placement.
To what level of students of 'disabilities'	The breakdown will follow IEP guidelines and state law. Students with

be included in the Integrated Classroom?	disabilities will receive the appropriate educational placement.
In Lincroft, for example, during the 2010-2011 School Year, how will the 1 st grade students (some who went to ½ day K and some who went to full day K) be placed in classes? Will there be a mix of students, some from ½ day and some from full day, or will those students who attended full day K be kept separate from those who attended ½ day K?	This decision will be made by the building principals in consultation with their staff in order to ensure the appropriate educational placement for the enrolled students.
How will the classes be proportioned? What percentage of students with disabilities, Title I and general Ed. Why are they not ALL integrated, including self-contained?	The proportion under this proposal shows very low (1-4) students classified with a disability in any of the integrated classes. Title 1 only applies to Title 1 schools.
What will the integrated K class limited to 18 do to the class size of remaining classes?	All kindergarten class sizes will be within code.
Is there a correlation between high population and lower levels of integration? You mentioned NJ is 48/49 in integration.	As a district we have to improve our inclusion opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their non-disabled peers,
In the inclusion classrooms what is the percentage of “General Ed” Special Ed” and “Gifted” within each classroom? Will these classes have extra Special Ed teachers and/or paraprofessionals?	The number of classified children will remain within special education code requirements (6A:14). There will be a natural heterogeneous grouping.
Why can't there just be one integrated full day Kindergarten in each elementary school, and only integrated? Why are some schools getting full day for students who are not in the integrated program? Why not just start full day for all schools in the 2010-2011 School Year in order to be fair to all students?	The decision to begin a two year “roll out” was made because of funding. The proposal is still under consideration based on public input.
Where are all integrated Kindergarten classes being housed and are any classrooms being taken away from the schools that already exist?	Integrated classrooms will be in every school.
In 2010, will there then be integrated 1 st grade classrooms?	Some classrooms will be integrated.
If the #1 priority is inclusion – what are the plans for funding above the K level?	Funding will be used for in servicing teachers to create more opportunities for inclusion.
In the schools that have 2 full day K classes, how do you decide which children become integrated with the disabled children?	In those schools all classes will be integrated.
What happens to the children with non-disabilities if you integrate disabled and non-disabled? Do the children with non-disabilities fall behind in education? Also what happens if things don't go as planned and the children are not able to learn to their highest ability and begin to fall	Social skills programs and differentiation will address all students' needs.

behind because of the integration? Also what about children with behavior disabilities. We all know children bring home what they see and learn from other children.	
Textbooks, Library, Curriculum	
With the textbook database, will the library inventories be included?	We are investigating different companies and packages to find one that best fits the districts needs. We anticipate using a system that tracks all textbooks and books used by the students.
Are the parents going to be able to view text books online?	We have been gradually been increasing the access to online textbooks. We anticipate continuing to do so.
What training will be provided for special area teachers? Will K students be provided with music, art, computers, phys. ed., etc? Will teachers be given an opportunity to write the curriculum? I object to them traveling.	Professional development will be given to support the transition process. Curriculum redesign will follow BOE procedures. We anticipate continuing to offer appropriate “specials” to kindergarten students.
I do NOT agree with taking away rooms for Specials (Art, Computers, etc). We must value these as well. How could you possibly outweigh these rooms for NOT needed full day K?	We value all components of a child’s education and will continue to make sure adequate space is provided for instruction in every content area.
Isn’t it true that fewer students have been referred for special education because the BOE has lowered the referral bar to those children who are at least 2 years behind in reading?	The research has clearly demonstrated that a large number of children are referred for classification because of reading difficulties, not because they have a learning disability. In Middletown we are trying to provide additional support and expand students’ opportunities to learn to read so as to provide every student with the educational tools they need to be successful.
What is the plan for students without disabilities who fall behind or even pick up poor behavior that they may see? Is there research about how this affects typically developing students?	We have been working to address this population through the progress monitoring process, summer reading programs and implementing the IDEAL and LEADS models of instruction.
Sometimes a child NEEDS an extra year. How is the district providing for this? Describe the differences between integrated all day K and all day K – the expectations/completion of curriculum?	Retaining a student is still an individual decision. In other circumstances parents may opt to hold their child back a year before beginning kindergarten. Again, these should be individual decisions, and not done systematically through a program.
Staying in 1 classroom for the entire day is not conducive to learning. How will this be addressed both at K and beyond?	Through the design of the curriculum, developmentally appropriate activities will included and addressed. There is a lot of movement in the classrooms through center-based instruction.
Will we get a copy of our child’s DRA?	A copy of your child’s DRA is available from their teacher.
Does the instruction differ between ½ day and the schools granted full day?	A course of study appropriate for each will be developed and approved by the BOE.
Why not use some of this money to create a sensory room to help with sensory problems?	Many different ideas are still being considered.
Will the students in need of communication devices finally get them?	Technology, including augmentative communication devices, is being examined and will be included in the ARRA funds.
Will Kindergarten students be provided with “special” area classes – music, art, computers, phys ed, etc...what kind of training will be provided for special area teachers? What curriculum will these areas follow? Will teachers be given the	Kindergarten classes will have “specials”. The program needs to be explored to decide which are best suited to benefit Kindergarten students. We have a strong Kindergarten curriculum in place already.

opportunity to write the curriculum?	
Are the teachers of the full-day Kindergarten going to be instituting a different lesson plan for the multi-age since they already been through a portion of Kindergarten?	Differentiation will be an integral part of the program
Why is there no differentiated instruction for math (level ed math groups) at the elementary level?	Differentiated activities are currently used in our classes during math lessons.
Why can't you use the same model of instruction that you are using for the Integrated Kindergarten for all self-contained classrooms? Why not use your self-contained special ed teacher as a full day in-class support teacher in the general ed classroom for full inclusion?	We do use this model now. We are working to create more inclusionary opportunities for all students. We do need to maintain some self-contained settings to provide the full continuum of instructional settings.
Classified Students	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe Special Needs. 2. What is the District's definition of a "special needs" student? And please define more clearly the word "disabilities". To what level of disabilities will be included in the Integrated Classroom? 3. What is considered "Special Needs"? 	A special need refers to any needs or disability that makes a student eligible for special education under one of the 13 disability categories as described in NJAC 6A:14. These children found eligible under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) have Individual Education Programs (IEP's). At the IEP team meeting it is determined the most appropriate placement for the child with a disability. The first option to be considered at all times is the general education classroom.
Is there going to be a self contained Kindergarten class option for sp. ed. kids?	Yes there will be self contained options.
Teacher Certification	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the dually certified teacher eliminate the situation of a regular ed teacher and special ed teacher? 2. Why not use your self-contained special ed teacher as a full day in-class support teacher in the general ed classroom for FULL inclusion? 3. How does retraining 1st grade teachers to accept students not ready for 1st grade improve the abilities of those students? Doesn't it just lower the bar? 4. What happens to the fantastic multi-age and current Kindergarten teachers who are not dually certified? These teachers have years of experience and the students will lose out without these teachers. Taking dual certified teachers from high school does not mean they have 	Current Kindergarten and Multi-age teachers will be teaching in the Kindergarten program. All newly hired teachers must be dually certified. Inclusion will be occurring throughout the Kindergarten program. Various options for staffing are being discussed with building principals. Each building has specific needs that are being addressed. Teachers will differentiate lessons to meet all student needs.

<p>Kindergarten experience.</p> <p>5. In the proposed integrated K, is the dually certified (TOH & reg ed teacher) eliminating a situation of a reg ed teacher AND special ed teacher? From a 2 teacher model w/sp ed students to 1 teacher w/spe ed -</p> <p>6. Where are the dually certified teachers coming from? How is 1 teacher going to teach a classroom of Kindergarten children with varying aptitudes and age ranges?</p>	
<p>Class Sizes</p>	
<p>1. Will Mrs. Bilbao commit to keeping elementary class sizes at their current low levels for the next several years?</p> <p>2. What will the integrated K class limited to 18 do to the class size of remaining classes?</p>	<p>We are committed to maintaining class sizes as low as possible. All newly hired teachers must be dually certified.</p>
<p>Paraprofessionals</p>	
<p>1. Will existing multi-age paraprofessionals move to the new K program keeping their current hours to keep continuity for the children?</p> <p>2. Currently there are 2 paraprofessionals in the preschool program and less than 15 students. How do you justify 18 students with 1 para?</p> <p>3. If need for an additional para, will you add??</p> <p>4. Eliminating paraprofessionals in inclusive settings has led to behavior problems where even the general education population is having difficulty learning. Training paraprofessionals to be more effective should be a priority instead of clumping and chatting during recess they could initiate socialization if they were trained to do so. Other districts have trained and effective paraprofessionals. Middletown is underutilizing staff.</p> <p>5. Harmony currently has integrated Kindergarten. It has 2 teachers and 4 paraprofessionals. How will this work wit just 1 teacher and 1 para?</p>	<p>All kindergarten classes will have a classroom paraprofessional. Professional development of paraprofessionals is a priority under the current proposal. Teacher training and differentiating instruction will make the program work. The needs of high support students will be met.</p>

<p>6. As a parent I would like to know if the current existing paraprofessionals will move with the children to the new Kindergarten classroom to keep the classroom consistent for the child?</p> <p>7. Where are the paraprofessionals coming from for the integration, which we are cutting paraprofessionals from high support students?</p>	
<p>Vocational Program</p>	
<p>The Vocational Program has been denied to my child 2 years because they don't have one at Thorne. Why aren't we looking to spend some money in that area for these students who are in the process of transitioning into the job market?</p>	<p>All options are being considered.</p>
<p>Lottery</p>	
<p>1. My daughter is enrolled for Kindergarten @ Fairview – this Sept 09 she begins. Will she have a full day of Kindergarten? How do I get her in lottery for full day Kindergarten?</p> <p>2. My son has done beautifully in the full day inclusive Kindergarten but I see how much work they cover before 1st grade. We have a typically developing daughter entering K in Sept. at Fairview and want to know how exactly the lottery will work.</p> <p>3. Is lottery going to be determined for the schools or are they pre-selected - who decides?</p> <p>4. How is the lottery performed? - names in a bucket etc? – is this performed publicly?</p> <p>5. My daughter is enrolled for Kindergarten @ Fairview – this Sept 09 she begins. Will she have a full day of Kindergarten? How do I get her in lottery for full day Kindergarten?</p> <p>6. My son has done beautifully in the full day inclusive Kindergarten but I see how much work they cover before 1st grade. We have a typically developing daughter entering K in Sept. at Fairview and want to know how</p>	<p>The lottery at this time is under discussion. Registration is still open. Just go to your home school and register.</p>

<p>exactly the lottery will work.</p> <p>7. Is lottery going to be determined for the schools or are they pre-selected - who decides?</p>	
<p><u>Services</u></p>	
<p>Will my daughter who currently receives OT/PT and Speech therapy in an integrated pre-school get these same services in the integrated K?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><u>Enrichment Programs</u></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we are one of the 13 schools who do not offer all day K, then why can't we have an enrichment program after the ½ day? Other districts offer this option. 2. Why not have an after school program to encompass the other half day of Kindergarten for parents who need it or want it? (For a fee, obviously.) 3. For schools that will have ½ day Kindergarten. Sept 2009 (Nut Swamp) Can the YMCA have ½ day enrichment program in that school? 4. Why not have an after school program to encompass the other half day of Kindergarten for parents who need it or want it? (For a fee, obviously.) 	<p>The enrichment program option has been investigated. All options are being discussed, including a proposal from our community partner the YMCA for a ½ day enrichment program. There would be a tuition cost to parents for this option.</p>
<p><u>Preschool</u></p>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the hours of the pre-school and how many days a week? 2. Will there be a 5 day pre-school disabled integrated program (1/2 day) or will it stay 4 – ½ day? 3. Have you considered the influx of private pre-school population in your numbers? Have you been in contact with private institutions for facility rental? 4. Why did you deliberately wait until the last Pre-K orientation meeting was done to announce this meeting? 5. How would eligibility for existing preschoolers be determined? 	<p>Half Day Program: M-F 8:45-11:15 (AM) M-F 12:15-2:45 (PM)</p> <p>Self Contained: M-F 8:45-1:15</p> <p>We just recently received notification from the NJ Department of Education. The funding did not exist in April, so it could not be discussed during budget discussions.</p> <p>Through IEP's or Title 1 decisions</p>
<p>LLD Classes</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will happen to the LLD class at Village? 2. I was told my daughter was unable to attend her home school LD program because she could not write her name and was not ready for K . How can she suddenly be able to handle an integrated class with one aide? 	<p>The LLD Kindergarten at Village is a half day program. It will be absorbed into the full day program. The pace of the half day kindergarten is the most commonly reported reason a student is placed in a self contained kindergarten setting. The full day curriculum will allow for a natural and individually-based pace for all students.</p>
<p>Summer Program- Extended School Year</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will you test an incoming 1st grade student to determine eligibility for the summer program? 2. Is summer program recommended by the teacher mandatory or voluntary? 3. If we are receiving these funds, why has ESY been decreased from 6 weeks to 5 weeks and also related services being reduced for our neediest students? 4. If the child does the summer program, do they go forward to 1st grade or do they have to do the grade over? 5. Will the summer reading program be expanded to accommodate the non-Title I students? 	<p>All students who meet the criteria will be offered the summer reading program. This is an optional program. A student's grade level is not determined by this program. All district students are considered.</p> <p>ESY-district statistics show that most students do not attend the full six weeks.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	
<p>Will busing be paid for by the district if it is needed?</p>	<p>If it is necessary to transport students from their home school , busing will be at district expense.</p>

Will Village students be bused to another school?	The plan is for Village students to remain in their home school.
Facilities	.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can I get a “flashing” safety light near my school? 2. School Improvement Title I Part 6 – Replace playgrounds that have failed inspections before a child gets hurt – Port Monmouth, Ocean Ave, Navesink, The board knows of critical failures and dangers at playgrounds but have not done anything to protect our kids. Can this funding be used to repair play fields and playgrounds? 3. Where will you put the additional Kindergarten classrooms after the computer rooms are utilized? Will there be classes in trailers? 4. How many Kindergarten class rooms are you going to have in each school? 5. Since most elementary schools have no extra classrooms, where would the full day K be put? 6. What is wrong with adding trailers or relocatables to the school properties that have the space and not compromise existing rooms that currently serve as a resource to the children? 7. Where will relocated Spanish, Art, elective classrooms then be in the elementary facilities? 8. How will converted classrooms be replaced? 	<p>Call your building principal and the Middletown Police department. The BOE is not aware of any critical failures and dangers at the playgrounds. If anyone were to notice any potential dangers on our playgrounds they should notify the building principal immediately. Middletown’s playgrounds were reviewed. Our facilities department inspects our playgrounds on a monthly basis to ensure safety. All principals have proposed rooms in the schools to house the Kindergarten classes. There is no proposal to use trailers/modulars at this time. Specials will be held in the classrooms or “specials’ teacher may use a designated room on alternating days.</p>
Format	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who decided on this type of meeting format – questions on cards – instead on questions at the mike – it’s insulting to the public. We have a voice! 2. Full day K should be a public vote. 3. Shouldn’t full day Kindergarten be put to a public vote? Given the short term nature of stimulus \$, the additional on-going expenses for a full day program could alienate voters – causing 	<p>This format was chosen by members of the BOE to afford every person a chance to get his questions heard and answered. The decision will be made by the BOE after much input from the public All public input is welcome</p>

the rejection of future budgets.

4. Please explain how the decision to spend the ARRA funds will be made ie, public vote? Board vote?
5. Is the Phase in strategy up for debate or has this been decided?