Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval. Board of Education Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education budget workshop on January 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at 3 Primrose Street.

M. Ku, Chair
D. Delia, Vice Chair (absent)
D. Cruson, Secretary
D. Leidlein (7:06 p.m.)
J. Vouros
R. Harriman-Stites (absent)
L. Rodrigue
A. Uberti
R. Bienkowski
18 Staff
2 Public
2 Press

D. Zukowski

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<u>Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance</u>

Item 2 – Superintendent's Overview of Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

Mrs. Ku mentioned that two of our Board members were out due to illness and an accident and sent our well wishes to them.

Dr. Rodrigue began her presentation by stating that in developing the budget we were deliberate in our goal of sustaining quality educational programs and services while being mindful of the Newtown Community and economic landscape. She thanked the administrative team and the central office staff including Ron Bienkowski, Tim Hart and Tanya Vadas who helped coordinate the development of our budget. Special thanks go to Mrs. Vadas who worked with her to rethink the format of our book this year and to Joanne Morris who puts the budget books together and helps with our presentation.

Item 3 – Elementary School Budgets

Chris Geissler, Principal of Middle Gate School, stated that everything was collaborative in developing the budget. The Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Frank Purcaro, is an invaluable asset to the district. He also appreciated making the counselor positions full time in each elementary school.

Dr. Kathy Gombos, Principal of Sandy Hook School, said the elementary principals collaborated on our budgets. We work as a team and developed priorities for ourselves. We focus on SEL which includes more communication and delivery of programs. Also, a mindfulness room will be in each school next year.

Chris Moretti, Principal of Hawley School, thanked the Board for their support in staff training for SEL and responsive classroom which has been re-established. We've had walkthroughs in our buildings and look at instruction and areas where we can improve.

Tim Napolitano, Principal of Head O'Meadow School, praised the new Fundations program in kindergarten and grade one which provides the foundation to teach phonics. Next year we will have this in second grade and professional development has been provided.

Dr. Gombos stated that they have integrated technology into each subject area. They are excited about meeting technology standards and enhancing our learning.

Mr. Moretti said that the central office technology department has done a good job looking at the technology in our buildings. We have equal amounts of technology and are very grateful for the support we have received.

Mrs. Zukowski noted that at Middle Gate School grade three seems to stand out in terms of the number of students which is 25% more than other grade levels. She asked if this would impact the teachers.

Mr. Geisler said he was fully confident that the third grade staff will meet the needs of the children. We typically have a bubble in third grade and look at the students' needs and strengths. We did add a fourth section in grade three. We had a similar bubble in kindergarten and added an additional teacher also. If he felt there was a need he would speak to Dr. Rodrigue.

Dr. Gombos said in the past we have also gotten additional paraeducator support where needed.

Mr. Moretti said there is always a year we are closer than the rest but staff is trained to best support the needs of those classes.

Mr. Vouros asked him to monitor the 25 students because when you have 17 students compared to 25 in a room that is major.

Mrs. Zukowski asked how the reading teachers and specialists work in the classroom. Dr. Gombos explained that we all have a reading specialist who does tier three instruction for a child that needs one-on-one or one-on-two instruction. Specialists often take the most complex students who need the greatest intervention. Reading teachers work in the classrooms coteaching as an additional reading instructor in the classroom. Reading teachers also take children out of the classroom for instruction.

Item 4 – Reed Intermediate School

Dr. Matt Correia, Principal of Reed Intermediate School, spoke about enjoying his time at Reed and about the Project Adventure curriculum this year. This summer science curriculum work will be done. The goals and focus areas include math instruction, next steps, and being reflective on what the students can do. Concept-based instruction is being looked at in observations along with SEL instruction. Community meetings are held every day in homerooms. Regarding the budget, he shared his vision with Dr. Rodrigue and has no requests except for the Spanish position.

Mr. Cruson asked the plan for the Spanish curriculum in sixth grade since they didn't have it in grades K-4.

Dr. Correia said there will be a curriculum for fifth grade or some other world language piece that will expose them to different languages but that needs to be finalized.

Mr. Curson asked about next year's sixth grade curriculum.

Dr. Rodrigue said we have had a conversation about having it for sixth grade students too.

Mrs. Uberti said we have been meeting with Spanish teachers in the elementary schools and the middle school. There may be a way to combine both Spanish and French for sixth graders.

Mrs. Zukowski said fifth grade class size is at a historical high and asked if he was comfortable having 25 students in grade five classes.

Dr. Correia said it was always a concern with class size and it also depends on the needs and maturity level of the students. It can be a challenge but with the clusters at Reed he is quite comfortable and the teachers are doing a great job with the differentiation piece. We are always trying to challenge children and teachers are comfortable with this.

Mr. Vouros asked Dr. Correia to explain the contruct at Reed as opposed to how the elementary schools operate.

Dr. Correia explained that Reed has clusters. The culture is to do as much as possible to integrate the students and many times two classrooms combine for lessons. It's a different set up from the elementary schools but it is beneficial for the students.

Mrs. Zukowski referred to coaching and activity salaries and asked if we have to pay for student transportation and purchase equipment.

Dr. Correia said the request has been minimal. We had one request from a teacher who wanted to purchase something for a club but it was a small amount. The teachers are responsible for the materials they use but most are already in the school.

Mrs. Uberti said some clubs incur a larger expense like the ski club. Stipends for teachers who go on trips are paid from the activity accounts or the expense is passed on to the parents. The majority of clubs are inexpensive.

Dr. Correia said most activities take place in the morning so no transportation is needed. We will poll the students at the end of the year to see if there is a need.

Item 5 – Newtown Middle School

Tom Einhorn, Principal of Newtown Middle School, thanked the Board for their support. The Director of Teaching and Learning has made a big difference in the classrooms and he also appreciated the technology for the school with teachers and students having Chromebooks. More are using Google Classroom and students are looking for feedback from their teachers on their pieces of writing. Now they can go back and edit their work. They are learning about research tools also. The middle school budget supports our SEL learning. We have had to make adjustments to staffing because of declining enrollment.

Eighth grade next year will be similar to what we have in seventh grade this year. For seventh grade next year, we feel it's better to have additional staff at that level with two clusters with four teachers each and one cluster with six teachers. The two extra teachers will split subject areas. We allow students choices on what they want to take. We are also requesting our math interventionist position to increase from .4 to full time because we need to have someone to work with students who are struggling with mathematics. We looked at the numbers for physical education and recommend going from three to two teachers. World language numbers show some reductions also. Overall, we are losing four positions next year but we will continue to provide the programming and support we have had.

Mrs. Zukowski asked for clarification page 99 regarding the reduction of one physical education teacher.

Dr. Rodrigue said when we originally looked at reductions we looked at a team. We didn't make the changes because teachers can bump other teachers. Until we are firm about the cuts and deliberations, we often make changes to the areas teachers are coming from. The cut was in physical education but it really is a health teacher. It is a four teacher decrease offset by the addition of .6 interventionist.

Item 6 – Public Participation

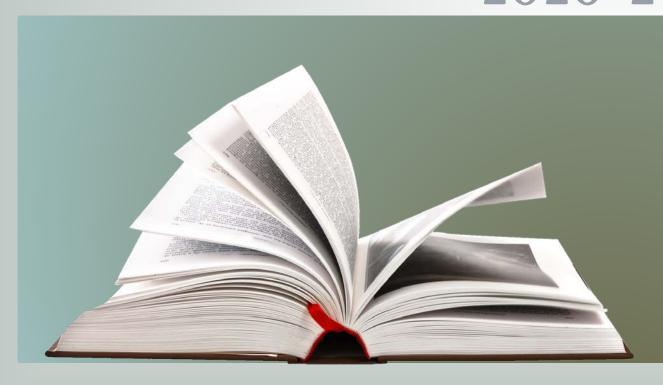
MOTION: Mr. Cruson moved to adjourn. Mrs. Leidlein seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7 – Adjounment

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

ŀ	Respectfully submitted:
_	Daniel J. Cruson, Jr. Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET PLAN 2020-2021



Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, SuperintendentJanuary 14, 2020

PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021

Newtown Middle School



Thomas Einhorn
Principal
Jim Ross
Assistant Principal

Newtown High School



Kim Longobucco Principal

Assistant Principals
Dana Manning
David Roach
Christopher Siano

Athletic Director

Matthew Memoli

Reed Intermediate School



Matthew Correia *Principal*

Jill Bontatibus Beaudry
Assistant Principal

Hawley Elem School



Christopher Moretti Principal

Jenna Connors

Jead Teacher

Sandy Hook Elem School



Dr. Kathy Gombos *Principal*

Kelly MacLaren
Lead Teacher

Middle Gate Elem School



Christopher Geissler Principal

John Sullivan
Lead Teacher

Head O'Meadow Elem School



Tim Napolitano Principal

Carol Danenberg
Lead Teacher

PROPOSED BUDGET

2020-2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Dr. Michelle Ku ~ Chair

Dan Delia ~ Vice-Chair

Dan Cruson ~ Secretary

Debbie Leidlein

John Vouros

Rebecca Harriman-Stites

Deborra Zukowski

CENTRAL OFFICE

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue ~ Superintendent of Schools Anne Uberti ~ Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ron Bienkowski
Director, Business & Finance

Deborah Mailloux-Petersen Director, Pupil Services

Frank Purcaro
Director, Teaching & Learning

Robert Gerbert Director, Facilities

Carmella Amodeo Director, Technology

Mark Pompano Director, Security

Suzanne D'Eramo Director, Human Resources Michelle Hiscavich
Director, Performing
and Fine Arts

Bret Nichols

Director, K-12 Counseling

NEWTOWN MISSION

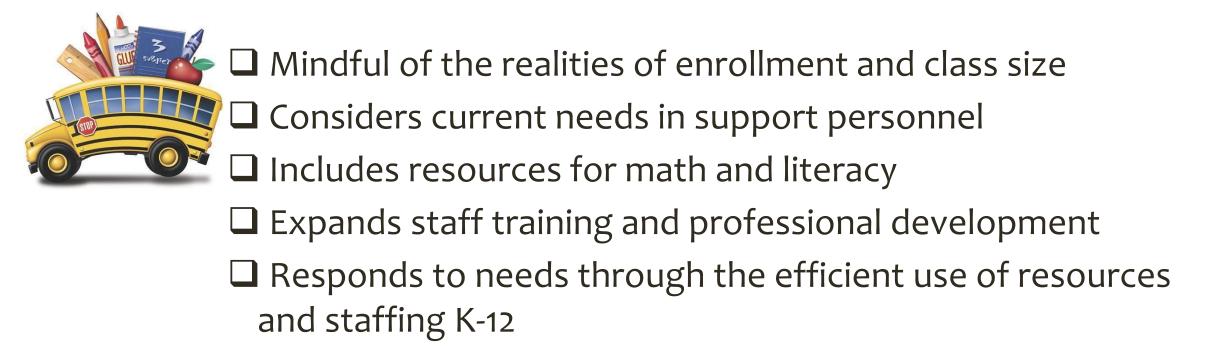
The mission of the Newtown Public Schools, a partnership of students, families, educators and community, is to INSPIRE EACH STUDENT TO EXCEL in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community.

We accomplish this by creating an unparalleled learning environment characterized by

· High expectations · Quality instruction · Continuous improvement · Civic responsibility



2020-21 OPERATIONAL BUDGET SUSTAINING OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THROUGH RESPONSIBLE DESIGN





K-12 Counseling

Director, Teaching and Learning

1-1 Technology

STEM Programs

Staff Training
In Reading Intervention

Reduced Class Size Kindergarten

Shared Services

Project Adventure

Support for extracurricular /athletics

Behavioral Interventionists

Additional Support Staff

2020-21 PRIORITIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Support funding for appropriate class sizes at all levels of instruction.
- Continue a level funding plan for expansion and sustainability of technology with access and equity for all students.
- Create a **plan for maintenance of facilities** and vehicles that includes a budget increase to provide air conditioning capacity in the schools.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to share services, where appropriate, between the Board of Education and all town department and participate in regional services when they are beneficial to the district.
- Ensure adequate funding for mental health resources to meet student needs.
- Ensure adequate **funding for special education** to meet anticipated enrollment and needs as well as maintain a contingency item in the budget for unanticipated changes in enrollment or needs.
- Ensure consistency in the support for all extracurricular activities in the district.
- Continue to **pursue curriculum improvement and innovation** in order to ensure that the educational needs of all students are supported.

NEWTOWN STRATEGIC PLAN

Each student will
consistently demonstrate
college, career, global
readiness skills in problem
solving, critical and creative
thinking, collaboration, and
written and verbal
communication

STRATEGIC PLAN

Each student will set and achieve personally challenging goals and demonstrate learning through multiple modes in addition to formative and summative assessments of learning

Each student
will develop and
demonstrate necessary
character attributes for
personal well being and to
become contributing
members of local and global
communities

Objective 1: College, Career, and Global Readiness

Strategy: Expand the multiple pathways that afford opportunities for personalized learning

- Strengthen and expand district science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) offerings.
- Continue to build a cohesive K-8 World Languages program that prepares students for success in language learning opportunities at the high school level.
- Expand opportunities for experiential learning, such as internships and community service.

WHERE WILL YOU FIND THIS IN THE 2020-21 BUDGET?

- ☐ NGSS (Next Generation Science) resources and professional development
- ☐ STEM programming RIS/MS/HS
- ☐ Expansion of world language to the 5th and 6th grade levels
- ☐ Addition of Khan Academy to support math
- ☐ Funding to support the alignment of math standards and district text/resource
- Sustain technology in support of learning

Objective II: Rigorous Social Curriculum

Strategy: We will develop and implement a rigorous social curriculum....promote and model social emotional wellness and positive behaviors

- Develop a consistent plan for implementation of existing social-emotional curriculum and resource to leverage effectiveness.
- Raise awareness and improve accountability for social emotional wellness practices at every level, including a structure to identify and support students.
- Utilize school-wide resources and staff to promote positive behaviors at every level.
- Use the Scientific Research-based Intervention (SRBI) model to monitor the effectiveness of socialemotional interventions and the improvement of student behaviors over time.

FOCUSED PROGRAMS





Student Gains

- Social-emotional skills
- Improved attitudes about self, others and school
- Positive classroom behavior
- Improved performance in academics

Reduced Risks for Failure

- Conduct problems
- Aggressive behavior
- **Emotional distress**



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WHERE WILL YOU FIND THIS IN THE 2020-21 BUDGET?

Behavioral Interventionist at SHS Professional development on SEL Ongoing use of Alpine for data regarding student performance and SRBI support plans (technology budget) Ongoing SEL curriculum – Second Step (Grant funded – 18 months implementation support grant) Climate and SEL surveys district-wide Social Worker moved to HS (following our SHS 1st graders) Assurances of ongoing safety

Objective III: Personally Challenging Goals

Strategy: We will provide students with the opportunity to be cocollaborators in their learning

- Continue to support school counselors in the implementation and development of Student Success Plans (SSP) in grades 5-12.
- Begin a process to identify specific elements of SSPs that are developmentally appropriate for students in grades K-4 (i.e., goal-setting) and create a model that reviews and celebrates student accomplishments.
- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate learning through multiple modes that encourage students to develop and capitalize on their talents and interests.

WHERE WILL YOU FIND THIS IN THE 2020-21 BUDGET?

□ Counselors previously funded in NOVO grant now moved into our budget
 □ K12 Director of Counseling
 □ Committee to develop Newtown's Vision of the Graduate
 □ Transitional Program (SPED) and partnership with Community Center
 □ K-12 community partnerships – connections to senior citizens and Newtown Community Center (PEAC goal)

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP GOALS

- □ Continue to develop and implement **social-emotional learning** strategies that include the use of a shared language with staff, students, parents and the community.
- ☐ Implement concept-based curriculum to promote a *culture of rigorous learning* in all classrooms.
- ☐ Analyze and utilize **common assessment data** to drive instructional practices.
- □ Continue to promote a *positive school climate* through the use of district core values.

REVENUE



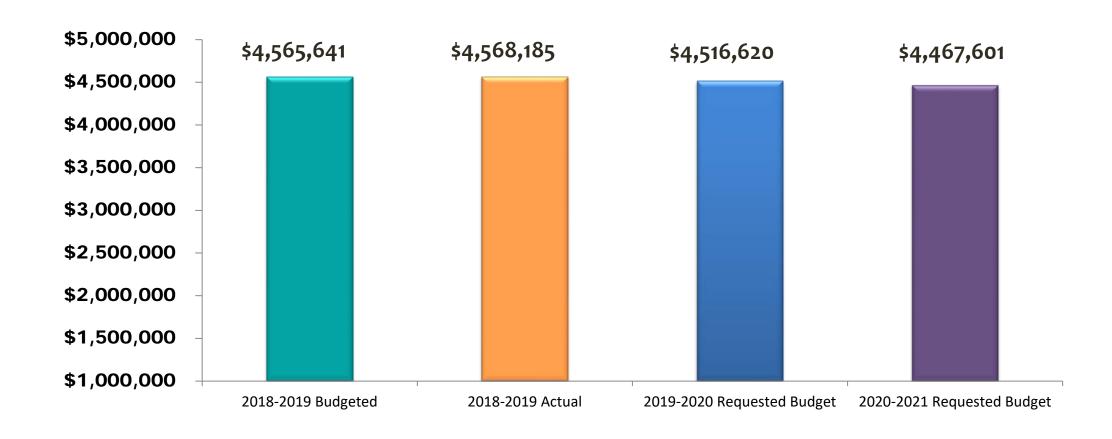
BUDGET REVENUE SOURCES

	2018		2019		2020	
	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget	Revenue \$	% of Total Budget
Tax Revenue	71,399,524	93.88%	73,500,840	94.10%	74,722,833	94.25%
Educational Cost Sharing	4,568,185	6.00%	4,516,620	5.78%	4,467,601	5.64%
Other Grants	22,777	0.03%	23,000	0.03%	23,000	0.03%
Local Tuition	38,745	0.05%	38,950	0.05%	32,340	0.04%
Parking Permits	20,000	0.03%	20,000	0.03%	30,000	0.04%
Miscellaneous Fees	5,000	0.01%	5,000	0.01%	6,000	0.01%
Total Funding Sources	76,054,231		78,104,410		79,281,774	

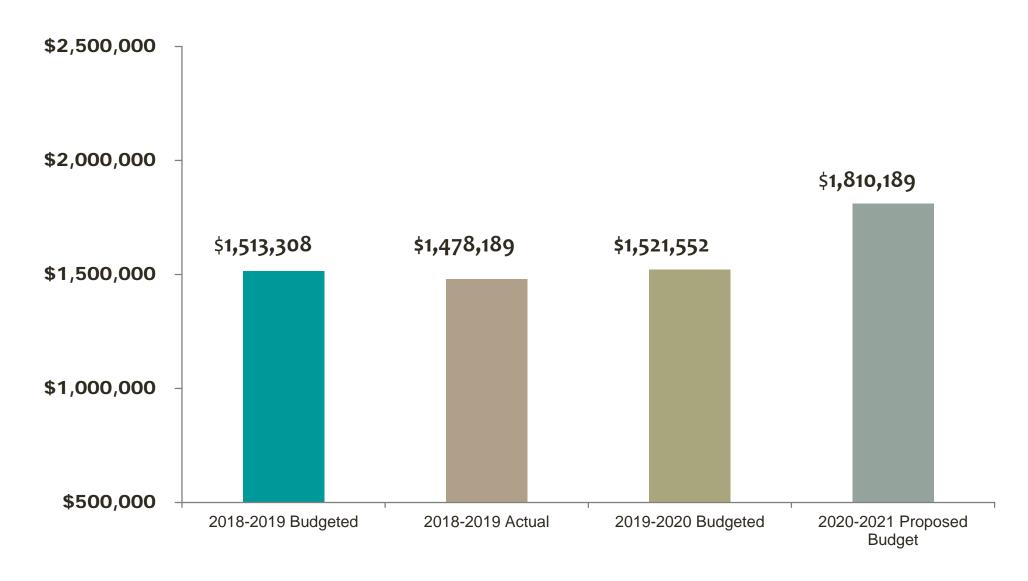
Grants and Support Impacting 2020–21 School Year

Funder	Need Addressed	Est. Value for 2020-2021
Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA)	 12/14 Recovery (Partial) NHS Student Support Clinician Family Support Coordinator 	\$123,000
NoVo Foundation (No Cost Ext.)	Mental Health Support Staff and SEL PD • (Partial) NHS Social Worker	\$42,000
SHS Foundation Grant	 12/14 Recovery (Partial) NHS Student Support Clinician (Partial) NHS Social Worker 	\$44,000
Committee for Children Board	 District-wide SEL Implementation Support for 2019-20 and 2020-21 SEL Curriculum, Materials, PD, Consulting 	\$21,000
Department of Justice	Security guard	\$27,149
CHDI CBITS Center	Trauma/Mental Health/Student Support • PD, Elementary Interventionist	\$10,000
CSDE Title IV	Support for SEL, Mindfulness at MGS for 2019-20 and 2020-21	\$10,346
Networks of Care	SOS Program, Hope Squad, Check In Program	\$7,500
Total Est. Impact	20	\$284,995

Educational Cost Sharing (ECS)



Excess Cost Grant



EXCESS COST GRANT - CALCULATION

Student Cost

Tuition	\$100,000
Transportation	\$40,000
Total (eligible cost)	\$140,000

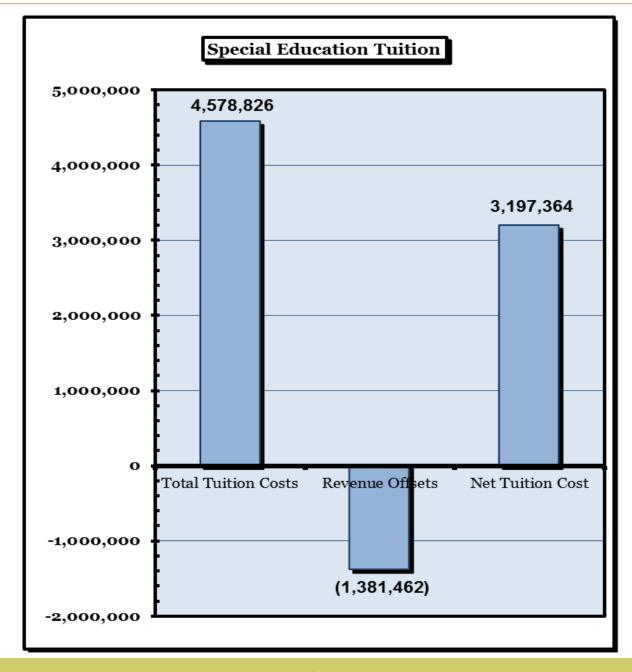
Basic Contribution

Prior Year Net Cost Pe	Year Net Cost Per Pupil		
	$$17,789 \times 4.5=$	\$80,051	
Eligible Cost	\$140,000 - \$80,051	\$59,949	

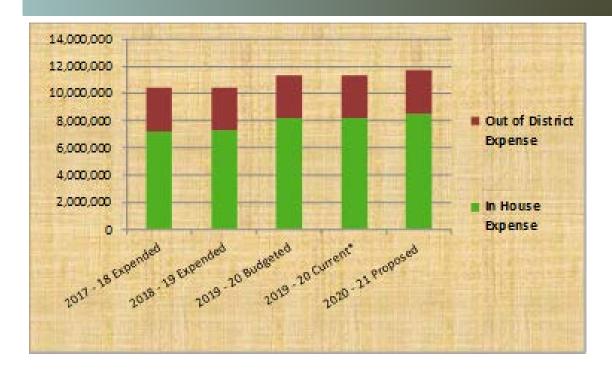
Actual Reimbursement: \$59,949 x 75% \$44,962

Newtown Education Budget's Responsibility: \$140,000 - \$44,962 = \$95,038

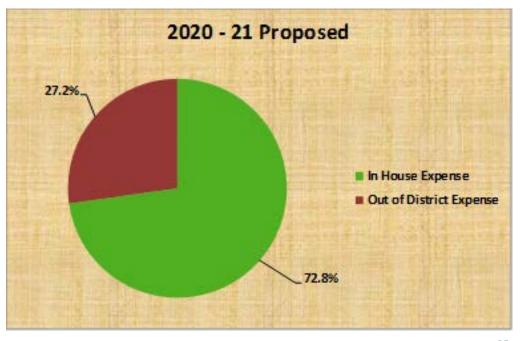
Threshold



SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



These charts depict the out of district tuition costs as compared to the in-house Special Education expenditures. *2019-20 Current reflects budget transfer through 11/30/2019



BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Administrator's Initial Budget Request	\$80,368,829	2.9%
Superintendent's Total Budget Reduction	(\$1,087,055)	(1.39%)
Superintendent's Budget Proposed Spending Plan	\$79,281,774	1.51%

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET 2020-2021

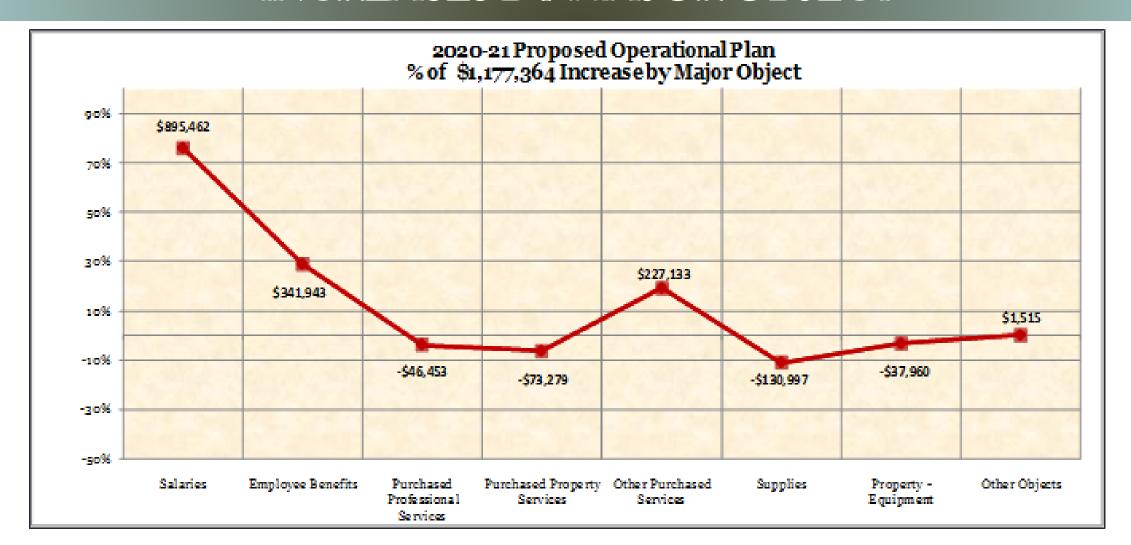
Salaries	\$51,100,777
Employee Benefits	\$11,435,283
Purchased Professional Services	\$751,382
Purchased Property Services	\$2,219,463
Other Purchased Services	\$9,339,012
Supplies	\$3,540,335
Property & Equipment	\$719,612
Other Objects	\$75,910
Special Education Contingency	\$100,000
Total Operating Budget	\$79,281,774



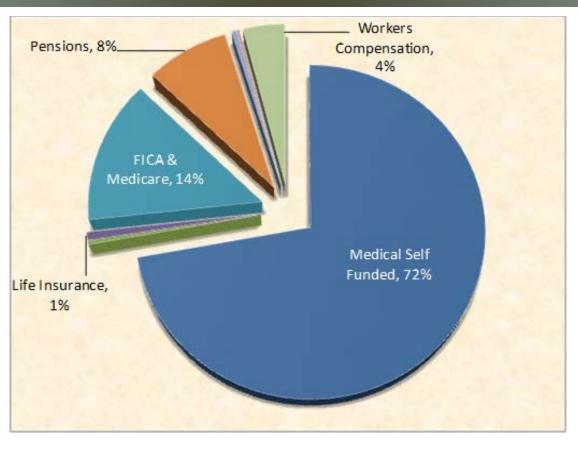
DRIVING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET

Cost Increases/Decreases	% of Budget Increases/Decreases
\$895,462	78.88%
\$341,943	29.04%
\$227,133	19.29%
-\$287,174	(27.21%)
	\$895,462 \$341,943 \$227,133

BUDGET DRIVERS INCREASES BY MAJOR OBJECT

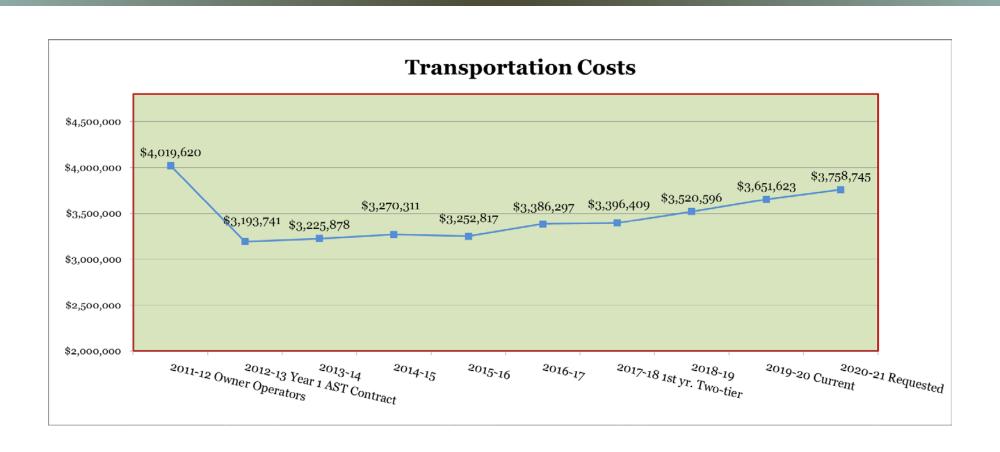


BENEFITS



Other areas of employee fringe benefits include: premiums & fees, tuition reimbursement, unemployment and employee assistance program

OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES



Benefits - due to the restructuring of our plan, a decision we made years ago, we've been able to self-sustain a reasonable balance in our benefit account after moving to a self-insured administrator.

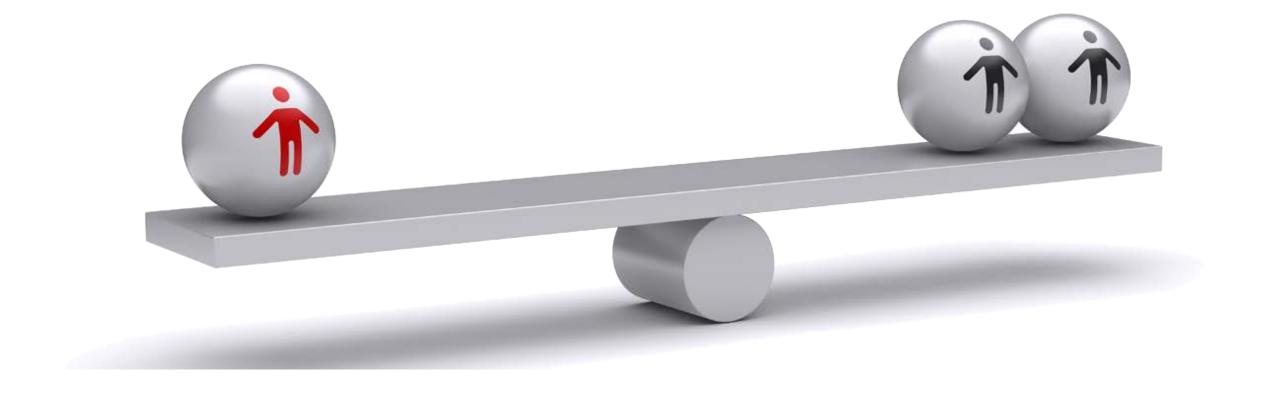
SMART DECISIONS

Energy - although energy costs are always on the rise, through diligence and collaborative efforts, we have maintained a level of certainty & stability for our District with competitive third party pricing for electricity.

Facilities - our facilities consistently undergo evaluation and ultimately replacement of lighting fixtures, boilers, switches and other mechanicals that helps us control and reduce the cost of energy.

Professional Services - collaborative efforts with our Special Ed Department and parents have resulted in students having appropriate access to services by utilizing our own staff.

Teaching and Learning– our new Director works with staff and leaders to advance the quality of teaching and learning at the classroom level, as well as ensuring teachers are using data to make instructional improvements.



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING.....

ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW

District Enrollment

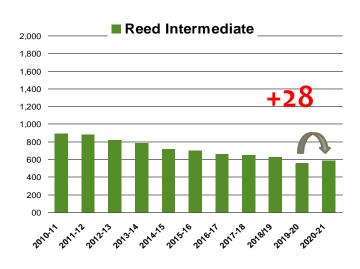
2018-19 projected: **4,317**

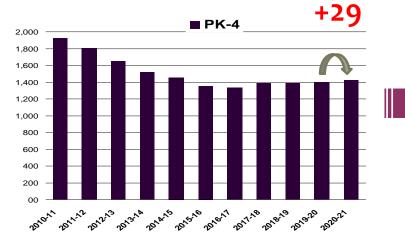
2018-19 actual: 4,324

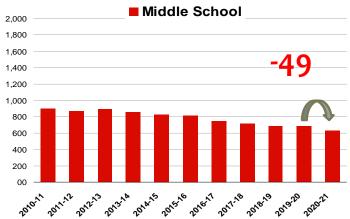
2019-20 projected: **4,235**

2019-20 actual: **4,207**

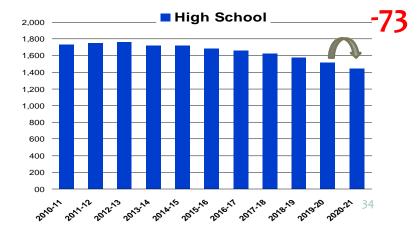
2020-21 projected: **4,142 -6**



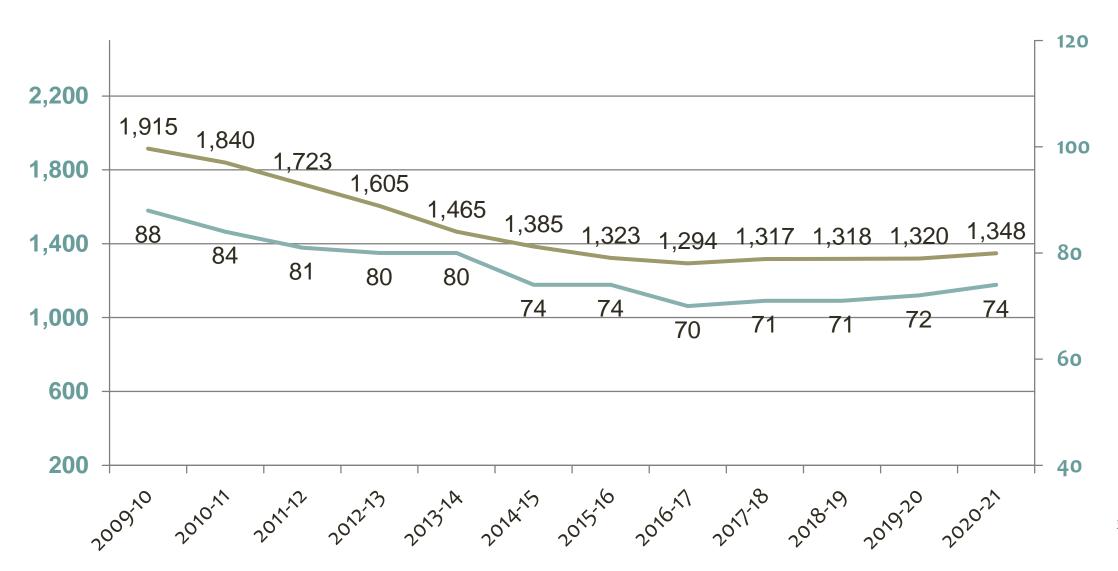




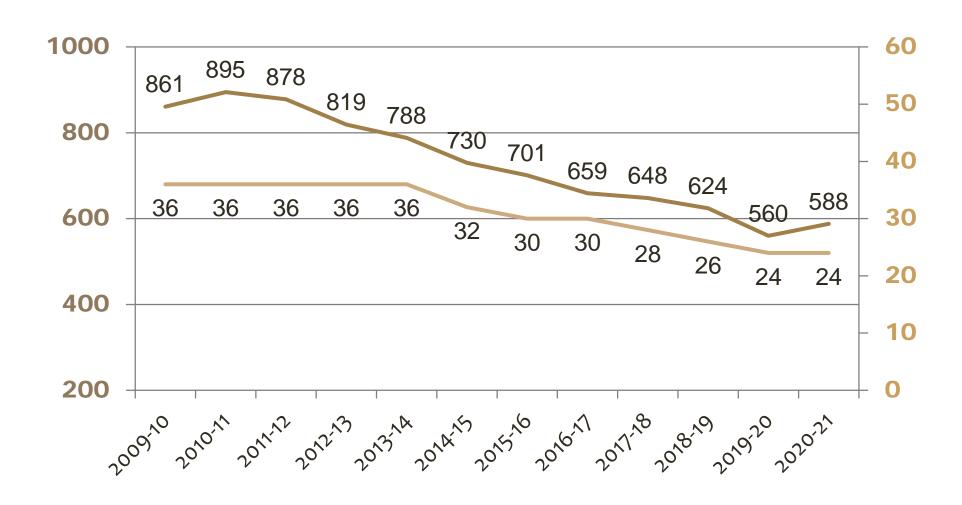
Hawley	302
Sandy Hook	385
Middle Gate	372
Head O'Meadow	289
PreK	76



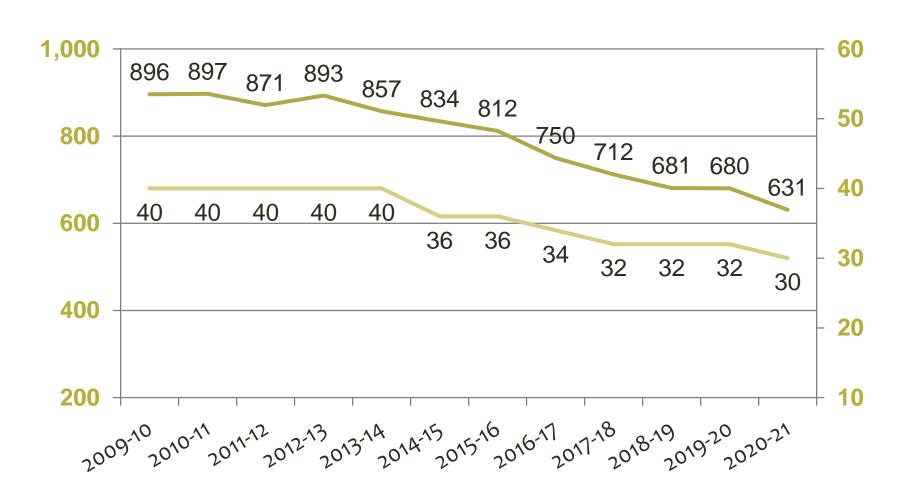
K-4 ENROLLMENT & CLASSROOM TEACHERS



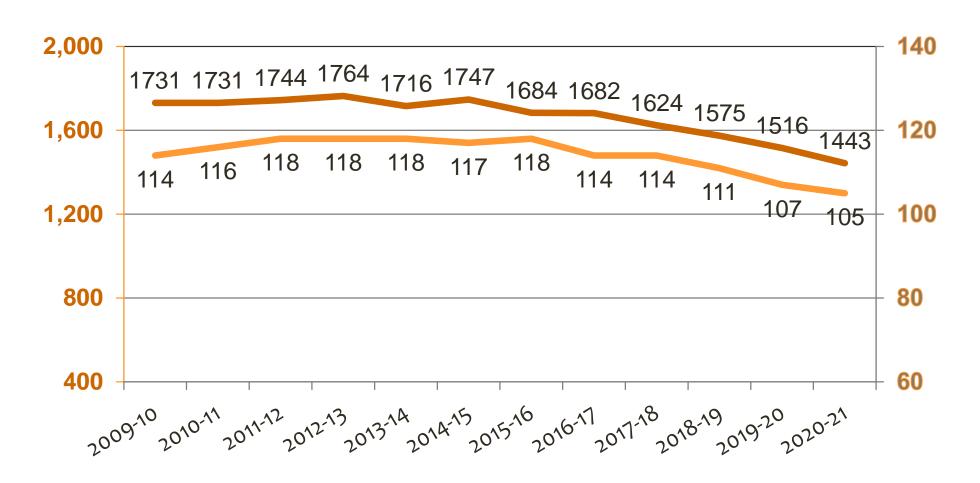
5-6 ENROLLMENT & CLUSTER TEACHERS



7-8 ENROLLMENT & CLUSTER TEACHERS



9-12 ENROLLMENT & CERTIFIED TEACHERS



REQUESTED STAFFING

Certified Staffing Requests	FTE	AMOUNT
Certified Additions		
Kindergarten Teacher – SHS	1.00	\$ 61,961
Classroom Teacher – HOM	1.00	\$ 61,961
Spanish Teacher – RIS (5 th /6 th W.L.)	1.00	\$ 61,961
Math Intervention – NMS	.60	\$ 37,177
Math Teacher – extra class – NMS	0.14	\$ 12,278
Total Additions	3.74	\$ 235,338
Certified Reductions		
Music – Shared Elementary	-1.00	-\$ 53,670
Physical Education – Shared Elementary	-0.60	-\$ 29,512
Spanish Teacher – Elementary	-0.50	-\$ 30,981
Classroom Teachers- MS (2 classroom, 1 PE, .5 French/.5 Spanish)	-4.00	-\$ 247,844
Assistant Principal – HS	-1.00	-\$ 157,940
English Teacher – HS (existing .6)	-0.60	-\$ 37,177
World Language – HS (.8 Spanish/.2 French)	-1.00	-\$ 61,961
School Psych – RIS (Pupil Personnel)	-0.40	-\$ 26,024
Total Reductions	-9.10	-\$ 645,109
Net Total	-5.36	-\$409,771

2020-21 MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SIZE

Class	# of Teachers	Projected Class Size
Grade 7	14	20.6
Grade 8	16	21.5
Music	3	18.1
Art	2	21.1
PE	2	21.1
World Lang. (Spanish & French)	3	21.1
Rotation Classes	4	16

2020-21 HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZE

# of Sections	Average Class Size
74.5	19.5
73	19.4
79	18.6
77	20.3
50	20.5
	74.5 73 79 77

REQUESTED STAFFING

Non-Certified Staffing Requests	FTE	AMOUNT
Non-Certified Additions	0.00	* * * * * * * * * *
Behavior Interventionist – SHS	0.93	\$ 20,020 \$ 2,257
Increase Math Para Hours - Howley (grant funded)	0.17	\$ 3,357
Increase Math Para Hours - Hawley (grant funded) Site Coordinator for Athletics – HS (stipend)		\$ -0- \$ 6,235
In School Suspension Proctor		\$ 0,233 \$ 23,100
Total Additions	1.10	\$52,712
Non-Certified Reductions Clerical – RIS	-0.86	-\$27,564
Net Total	0.24	\$25,148

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Budget increase request is 1.51%



Regular Education, Curriculum and Technology

\$530,829



Special Education, Pupil Personnel

\$609,572

General Services, Benefits, Transportation, Plant

\$36,963

NET CURRENT EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL DRG-B

2018-2019 Data by Town

GREENWICH	\$22,221
MADISON	\$20,403
NEW FAIRFIELD	\$18,628
BETHANY	\$18,588
FAIRFIELD	\$18,524
MIDDLEBURY	\$18,372
SOUTHBURY	\$18,372
ORANGE	\$17,984
GUILFORD	\$17,960
WOODBRIDGE	\$17,793
NEWTOWN	\$17,789
AVON	\$17,678
MONROE	\$17,635
SIMSBURY	\$17,451
GLASTONBURY	\$17,244
FARMINGTON	\$17,185
WEST HARTFORD	\$17,001
TRUMBULL	\$16,660
CHESHIRE	\$16,514
SOUTH WINDSOR	\$16,499
GRANBY	\$16,172
BROOKFIELD	\$15,635

A Budget Commitment

A deliberate effort to sustain the quality of our education system through responsible design

