

**Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education budget workshop on January 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at 3 Primrose Street.

M. Ku, Chair	L. Rodrigue
D. Delia, Vice Chair	A. Uberti
D. Cruson, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
D. Leidlein (absent)	15 Staff
J. Vouros	2 Public
R. Harriman-Stites (absent)	1 Press
D. Zukowski	

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Special Education Budget

Deborah Petersen, Director of Pupil Services, spoke about the special education budget. Per the special education self study her department has provided funding for six teachers to receive Level 1 certification in the Wilson Reading program. This brings the total to nine certified teachers in Level 1 and 2. Five teachers were also provided funding to complete the 30-hour Orton-Gillingham training. The preschool program will be using the preschool version of Foundations to prepare them for kindergarten. Special education numbers continue to rise and since October there have been 28 students who moved to Newtown and been identified as needing special education services.

Mr. Vouros asked if Kristin Larsen could assist her in applying for grants.

Mrs. Petersen said she works closely with her. We received \$26,000 in grants from the State for the preschool. We still have the age 18-21 program which includes students from other towns.

Mrs. Ku asked if the increase for that program was for more students.

Mrs. Petersen said that increase is offset by the revenue from students who pay tuition.

Mr. Bienkowski said we are expecting less revenue from this program next year.

Mrs. Petersen said we have approximately 14 students. We do have students graduating out and other districts are interested but we have not solidified enrollment yet.

Mrs. Zukowski asked where the money was accounted for in the budget.

Mr. Bienkowski stated that it goes back into the transition program.

Mrs. Ku referred to the excess cost grant of \$1.8M from the State and asked if the remainder goes to transportation.

Mr. Bienkowski said most does and some may go to the professional services line.

Item 3 – Pupil Personnel Budget

Mrs. Petersen said the only change is we have a similar number of students transitioning into Reed School and the middle school next year so we will reduce the .4 at the middle school and take the full time person at Reed and reduce it to .5 so there will be someone at both schools.

Mr. Delia asked how the loss of grants added to our budget.

Dr. Rodrigue said we had over \$600,000 in grants and we were only able to capture \$80,000 this year.

Item 4 – Health Budget

Mrs. Anne Dalton, Head Nurse, said the nursing offices remain very busy. There has been an influx of medically complex students including diabetics. The nurses will get the professional development they need.

Mr. Delia thanked Mrs. Dalton and her staff as they make a tremendous impact on the community and children.

Mrs. Zukowski asked if the nurses were aware of health issues like anaphylaxis and the like. Mrs. Dalton said they were and there is always ongoing training.

Item 5 – Newtown High School Budget

Dr. Kim Longobucco, thanked everyone for supporting the work being done at Newtown High School including the first year of SEL with the freshmen. She spoke about the various programs at the high school which included 66 clubs and activities as well as a mindfulness room used by students and staff. There are 385 juniors in first year of their Capstone journey. We also expect to provide one on one chromebooks for our freshmen next year. Sat scores improved and moved us to sixth in DRG B. AP exam participation is rising. We have few budget requests for next year. We are requesting a new tuba and lacrosse goals. The Assistant Athletic Director position was removed and we would like to add the position of site supervisor at the cost of a head coach which will be divided up over three seasons. We asked for an in-school suspension tutor who will provide a better structure for our students. With the decline in enrollment we proposed to reduce the 1.0 assistant principal position, a 1.0 world language teacher, and the .60 English teacher.

Mrs. Zukowski inquired about the span between sections per teacher.

Dr. Longobucco said that every full time teacher teaches five classes. A full schedule is 30 teaching periods in an eight day cycle.

Mr. Vouros asked if this will have any impact on increasing class size for the incoming eighth graders.

Dr. Longobucco said it would not because we are graduating more seniors than the number of incoming eighth graders.

Mrs. Zukowski said the high school is expected to drop to 1,200 students and asked if there was a plan when that happens.

Dr. Longobucco stated that we will be using a 1.4 FTE position to implement the Capstone Project. We are also looking at ways to make interdisciplinary courses between departments.

Mrs. Zukowski asked if her plan could be shared with the Board.

Dr. Longobucco would provide that.

Mrs. Ku said that information would fit into the overall plan of using space which is an ongoing conversation and not necessarily part of the budget talks.

Mr. Cruson said some information would be good to know

Mr. Delia asked if there was a plan to protect chromebooks.

Dr. Longobucco was looking at options.

Mr. Delia asked if teachers will be provided with a supervisory program to see how students are using them in class.

Dr. Longobucco said we are doing that now with Google Classroom. We can see where students have gone and we can put on parameters.

Mrs. Zukowski referred to the section on funding for extracurriculars. Page 125 lists stipends but no documentation for costs like revenue. The table on page 124 had no transportation allocated for activities.

Dr. Longobucco said the stipend positions are not all clubs and activities which do not have transportation needs and are funded by parents. The marching band is funded elsewhere. Many clubs are self-running and operate afterschool.

Mrs. Zukowski said the marching band is extracurricular and asked where it would be in the budget book.

Dr. Longobucco said there are pay to participate fees for band. We approved money to reduce the pay to participate fees which is in the music section of the budget. The band is on page 112 under contracted services.

Mr. Bienkowski said student transportation is hefty because of the trips they take.

Mrs. Zukowski said it makes more sense to put all extracurriculars in one section and also nice to see the quantification of pay to play for the district and parents.

Dr. Rodrigue said the marching band is run by the booster club so it is not truly extracurricular.

Dr. Longobucco has the pay to participate numbers.

Mrs. Zukowski requested to see them.

Mr. Delia agreed that if it's not extracurricular he wanted to understand it more clearly.

Dr. Longobucco said the band pays for instructors, music costs and is a similar structure to athletics.

Mrs. Zukowski felt that unified sports should have its own bonafide table.

Dr. Longobucco said it's on page 128 listed in girls and boys.

Mr. Delia asked Mr. Memoli about the site supervisor.

Mr. Memoli said one supervisor would take care of the fall, winter and spring sports. This is seen in many districts and would be beneficial.

Dr. Longobucco stated we were paying someone now game by game.

Mr. Cruson asked how the restructured pay to play fees were working out.

Mr. Memoli said it seems to be working well.

Dr. Longobucco said families appreciate the level cost with children in multiple sports.

Mrs. Ku asked how the declining enrollment will affect our sports program.

Mr. Memoli said we have a lot of programs in the seasons and we don't make cuts. He is hopeful the program will remain as it is.

#### Item 6 – Curriculum Budget

Mrs. Uberti presented her budget and explained that all of our work is derived from the strategic plan related to objective one which is "Each student will develop and consistently demonstrate college, career, and global readiness skills in problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and written and verbal communication." When starting in July she completed a number of action steps as part of her entry plan. One was hiring the Director of Teaching and

Learning and with Dr. Purcaro, we have moved forward with listening, learning and leading which helped develop her budget. Items presented were staff and curriculum development, staff training, contracted services, and textbooks.

Mr. Vouros said we need to be sure that all are able to take part in staff development.

Mrs. Zukowski asked how teachers manage teaching two different courses.

Mrs. Uberti said that is the importance of curriculum and also the teachers are certified to teach the courses.

Mrs. Zukowski asked about having sufficient prep time.

Mr. Vouros said teachers collaborate with other teachers in the same course. People are there to assist them.

Dr. Rodrigue said those teachers have done this before. They would access the same professional development as others in that discipline.

Item 7 – Public Participation

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

Item 8 - Adjournment

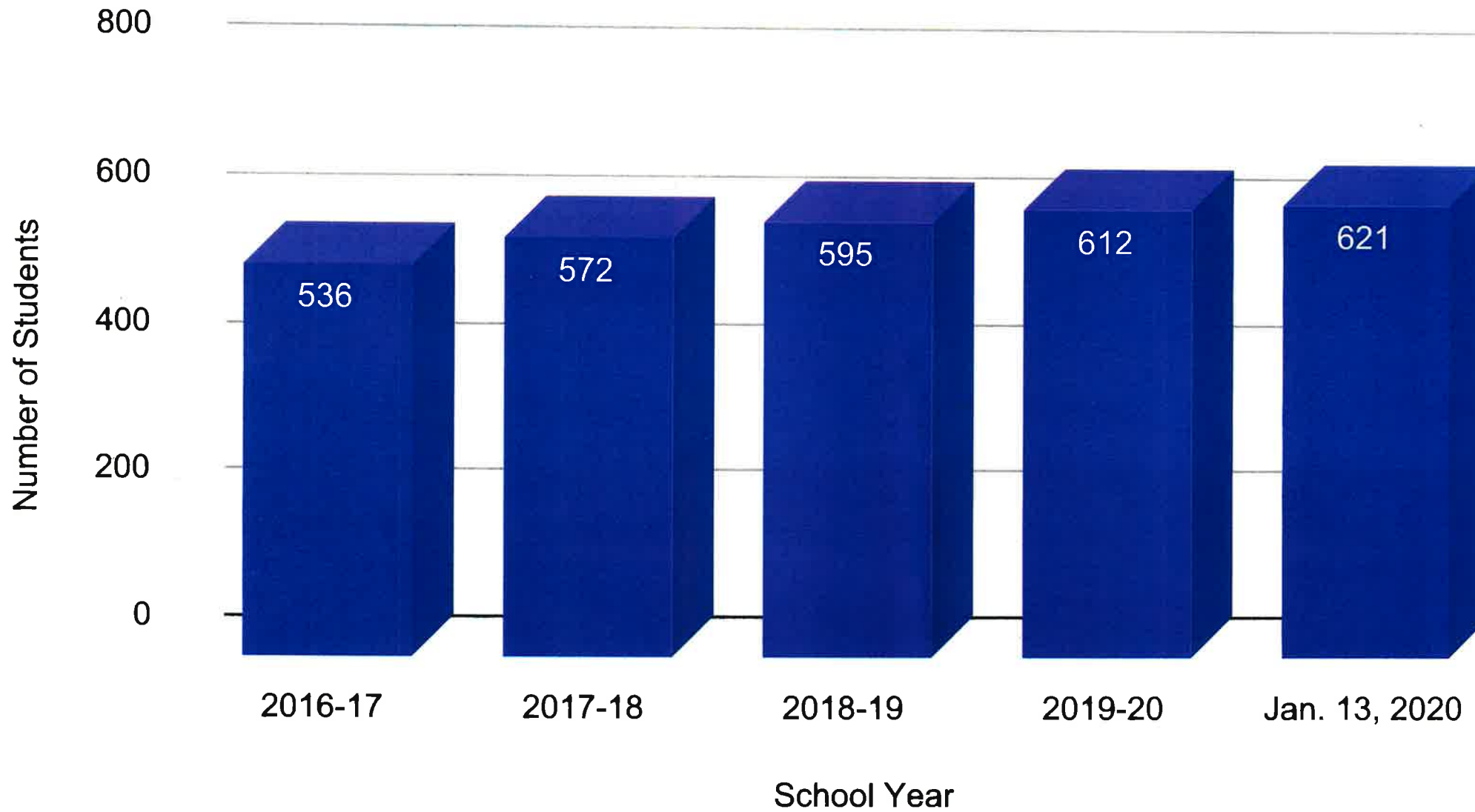
The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

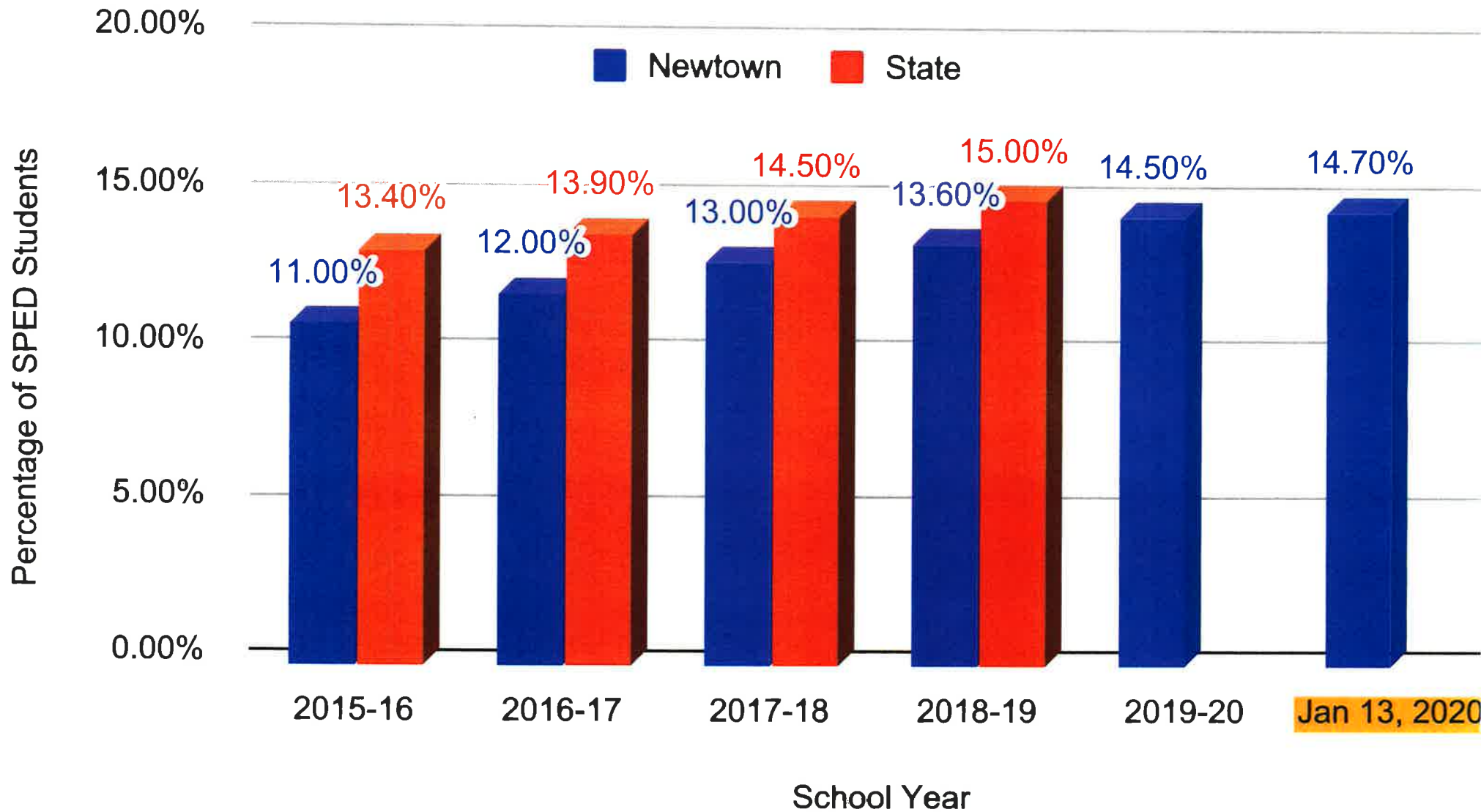
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Daniel J. Cruson, Jr.  
Secretary

# District SPED Numbers



# October 1st Reporting of District SPED vs. State



# Newtown High School



2020-2021 Budget Presentation



# Celebrations!





# Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

## Additions

### ❖ Athletics

- ✓ Site Supervisor
- ✓ Lacrosse Goals

### ❖ Music

- ✓ Concert Tuba

### ❖ Tutor

- ✓ In School Suspension

## Reductions

### ❖ Certified Positions

- ✓ 1.0 FTE- Assistant Principal
- ✓ 1.0 FTE - World Language
- ✓ .60 FTE- English

## Class sizes and enrollment

Department	<u>2019-2020 Actual ( 1516 Students)</u>			<u>2020-2021 Projected ( 1443 Students)</u>		
	Students (FTE)	Sections (FTE)	Average	Students (FTE)	Sections (FTE)	Average
<b>English</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>
<b>World Language</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>20.7</b>

# Curriculum & Staff Development Budget Proposal 2020-2021

Anne Uberti  
Assistant Superintendent  
Presentation to the Board of Education  
January 16, 2020

# Newtown Public Schools Strategic Plan

## Objective I:

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

**Strategy 1:** We will develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to improve academic standing and inspire students to excel.

# Listening, Learning, Leading

*Establishing priorities related to curriculum and instruction*

- Thorough review of student outcome data (both in-house and state-wide testing)
- First-hand observations of K-12 classroom practice (over 90 learning walks to date)
- Conversations with principals, assistant principals and curriculum leaders regarding instructional strengths and areas in need of improvement
- Conversations with classroom teachers on what they need to further their level of expertise
- Discussions with Board members in C&I
- Input from parents

# Staff & Curriculum Development

Provides support for :

- **Continued revision and development of curriculum in the District model (CBCI)**
  - Continued training to build internal capacity for CBCI
  - Summer curriculum work
  
- **In-house staff development opportunities**
  - Two professional development coordinators
  - Staff-delivered professional development on selected topics
  - New Teacher Training and Support (TEAM)
  - Collaborative Planning Summer Meetings for K-4 Leadership Teams
  
- **District Steering Committees that provide leadership and direction in the following areas:**
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Digital Literacy & Technology
  - Curriculum Development
  - Professional Development
  - Special Project (Vision of the Graduate)



# Staff Training

Professional development opportunities provided by outside consultants:

- **Embedded staff development focusing on mathematics, science and language arts**
  - Specific training for teachers of math in the Common Core Mathematical Practices
  - Continued training for teachers of science related to implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
  - Professional development on use of Depth of Knowledge (DOK) to increase rigor in reading and writing
- **Professional Development Day Speakers and Presenters**
  - 2 Full District PD Days and 6 District Professional Learning Community (DPLC) days
- **TEAM Mentor Training**
  - State-mandated training of mentors and scorers of New Teacher Reviews of Practice
- **Attendance at Regional and National Conferences**
  - Connecticut Reading Association
  - Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England
  - National Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
  - National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

# Contracted Services

## ➤ Panorama

- Annual parent, staff and student climate surveys
- Bi-annual student social-emotional learning surveys

## ➤ Rubicon Atlas

- Curriculum management platform

## ➤ NWEA Map w/Map Accelerator

- Measures of Academic Progress - district-wide computer adaptive assessments of academic progress
- Partnership with Khan Academy will provide personalized learning plans that will help teachers quickly and easily deliver a personalized learning path for every student based on their MAP Growth results

## ➤ Dibels

- The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills® (DIBELS) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills
- Used a universal screening tool for early detection of possible reading disabilities

## ➤ Virtual High School

- Online learning opportunities for those who have not had success in the traditional school setting

# Textbooks

## ➤ Middle School Science Resource

- Currently piloting Discovery Tech Book while exploring other resources

## ➤ Math Resource Review/Renewal or Replacement

- Stepping Stones (K-4), adopted in 2013, original 5-year contract expired in 2018; 1-year renewals in 18-19 and 19-20; 1-year renewal planned for 20-21
- Envision (5-6) adopted in 2014, original 6-year contract will expire in 2020; 1-year renewal planned for 20-21
- Big Ideas (7-8) will not expire until 2023
- Currently, reviewing K-6 math resources for potential adoption of a new resource in 2021
- Contract would begin in the spring of 2021 for rollout and training prior to implementation in fall of 2021

# Other notable changes to Curriculum & Instruction Budget

- **Director Salaries**
  - Full year with Director of Teaching and Learning
  - Director of Visual & Performing Arts
  - K-12 Director of Guidance
- **Specialist Salaries**
  - 2 Spanish teachers at the elementary level
  - ELL teacher
- **Para-educators**
  - 2 training days/year (Contractual)
- **Substitutes**
  - To allow for embedded professional development opportunities through a combination of release time and coaching
- **Staff Travel**
  - Includes mileage for traveling staff and other travel-related expenses incurred to attend conferences

QUESTIONS

