



# WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D. – Superintendent

March 14, 2022

Members of the Board of Finance  
Town of Woodbridge  
11 Meetinghouse Lane  
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Dear Board Members:

As you continue your deliberations on the proposed FY23 operating and capital budgets for the Woodbridge Board of Education, please know that the students of the Woodbridge School District continue to benefit substantially from the Town's support over time. Among other things, our students at Beecher Road School:

- Develop socially and emotionally, as individuals and members of the community, via Responsive Classroom and staff members who care deeply about each child;
- Learn at and above the grade-level standards in all subject areas, including: the arts; library media; general and instrumental music; physical education and health; technology; and world language.

The most important outcomes of our efforts are hundreds of children, every day, who love learning and love school. That foundation sets the stage for successful lifelong learning and citizenship.

Our students also succeed strongly by comparative measures. Woodbridge's grades 3-6 Spring 2021 standardized assessment results were among the top of all Connecticut districts, with all results 10% or more higher than the average State results.

At the same time we have reason to be proud of our successes, additional budgetary support is needed. As key examples:

- The range of our students' academic needs has expanded over time, prompting the Board of Education's interest in restoring the number of teachers' assistants who provide first-tier intervention support, a number which has decreased substantially over the past decade due to legal mandates associated with special education.
- The range of our students' social and emotional needs has also expanded, prompting the Board's interest in increasing social work and school psychologist support.
- The funds dedicated to non-instructional areas such as professional development, repairs and maintenance, and supplies have been reduced over the past decade to a point where further investment is required for our teaching and learning, as well as our building.

In closing, it is essential to note that our budget is based on actual, known needs. Recognizing the Town's support when it has been needed, our budget does not build in a contingency, which has challenged the District in the past five years as specific special education needs have risen. I can assure you that each and every requested budget dollar will be used prudently and transparently on behalf of the children of Woodbridge and the needs that we see illustrated.

Thank you again for your thoughtful engagement.

Sincerely,

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

c: Members, Woodbridge Board of Education