



Stamford Public Schools
EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Stamford Public Schools is to provide an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body and heart in every student.

EARL KIM Superintendent of Schools



Danielle Crevecoeur

Westhill High School, Grade 11

Art Teacher: Robin Konrad

Board of Education Members:

David Mannis – President
Betsy Allyn – Vice President
Mike Altamura – Secretary
Nicola Tarzia – Assistant Secretary
Jennienne Burke
Andy George
Jackie Heftman
Antoine Savage
Mayor David R. Martin (non-voting)

Board of Education 2018-19 Approved Budget
February 28, 2018



Ria Bordia

Toquam Magnet School, Grade 2

Art Teacher: Susan D'Agostino



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Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 28, 2018

Mayor David Martin
City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Dear Mayor Martin:

2017-18 Board Members

David Mannis, President

Betsy Allyn, Vice President

Mike Altamura, Secretary

Nicola Tarzia, Assistant Secretary

Jennienne Burke

Frank Cerasoli

Andy George

Jackie Heftman

Antoine Savage

Mayor David R. Martin (non-voting)

Enclosed, please find the Board of Education's Operating Budget request of \$274,616,679 for the 2018-19 school year. It represents an increase of 1.81% over the 2017-18 budget. We also included a projected Board of Education Grants Budget for 2018-19 in the amount of \$29,053,744.

The budget was developed through a thorough and systematic process:

1. Recently completed education Mission, Vision and District Strategic Plan were used to guide program and budget priorities.
2. Budget guidance was issued to budget managers with an emphasis on managing staffing levels, special education, program and budget sustainability, and resource reallocation before resource addition.
3. Budget was reviewed by the Superintendent's Cabinet, Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, Board of Education Fiscal Committee, Board of Education and the public at large.

The budget increase of 1.81% can be explained by several factors:

- Contractual salary increases and reductions to Health Insurance cost due to migration to the State Partnership Plan
- Program increases to areas which serve Special Populations (Special Education, English Learner)
- Transportation and other contracted services increases
- Investments in Curriculum & Instruction and Facilities upkeep

In order to mitigate these factors, the schools:

- Managed headcount, reallocating personnel as enrollment needs shifted
- Piloted alternative cost-effective models to address the needs of struggling learners and students with disabilities
- Negotiated more cost-effective health insurance plans
- Invested in energy-saving technologies

Consequently, this budget reflects many notable achievements. First, this budget submission ties for the lowest request we can find in the past 15 years (as far back as we had data available). Second, the percentage increase for the base program (before adding program changes) was a reduction of 0.1% from the current year. Third, while still not where we need it, the special education cost growth rate is only 3.5%—almost half of what it was two years ago—and this despite growing special education enrollments.

We have had requests for many more needs across the district—enrichment programs, enhanced performing and visual arts programming, summer school programming, curriculum support, special education programming...The list is long; however, we felt that given the times, this budget is rightly focused on priority work of the district. This budget will support continuing necessary programs for all of our students in a fiscally responsible fashion, and it will lay the foundation for future strategic efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to the dialogue and continued support of our community.

Very truly yours,

David Mannis
President
Stamford Board of Education

Earl Kim
Superintendent of Schools
Stamford Public Schools