



**Stamford Public Schools**  
EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT

## Mission Statement:

The Stamford Public Schools prepares each and every student for higher education and success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**EARL KIM**  
Superintendent of Schools



Anika Urizar  
Cloonan Middle School, Grade 8



Gyllian Rybnick  
Davenport Ridge School, Grade 3

### Board of Education Members:

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

***Board of Education Approved Operating Budget  
February 14, 2017***

## **STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

March 1, 2017

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

Dear Mayor Martin:

### **2016-17 Board Members**

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

Enclosed, please find the Board of Education's Operating Budget request of \$272,987,092 for the 2017-18 school year. It represents an increase of 2.8% over the adjusted (for changes in OPEB) 2016-17 budget. We also included a projected Board of Education Grants Budget for 2017-18 in the amount of \$29,136,164.

The budget was developed through a thorough and systematic process:

- Educational goals and priorities, in keeping with the Stamford Cradle-to-Career initiative, were established.
- 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.
- 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 2.8% can be explained by three primary factors:

- Contractual salary increases
- Special Education enrollment and program increases
- Transportation and other contracted services increases

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, it represents the second lowest submission in the past 16 years (as far back as we had data available). Second, the percentage increase for the base program (before adding program changes) is only 1.7%. Third, while still not where we need it, the special education cost growth rate is only 4.2%—almost half of what it was two years ago—and this despite growing special education enrollments. These achievements are a reflection of concerted effort on the part of all district staff and worthy of note.

This budget assumes no change in State funding. Should that occur or the flow of the funds from the State be altered, in collaboration with city officials, we have been assured that our community will work together to fund the budget proposal as approved by City Boards.



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,

Geoff Alswanger  
President  
Stamford Board of Education

Earl Kim  
Superintendent of Schools  
Stamford Public Schools