



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT

Winifred Hamilton, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education Members:

Jackie Heftman, President
Lorraine Olson, Vice President
Dolores Burgess, Secretary
John Leydon, Jr., Assistant Secretary
Betsy Allyn
Geoff Alswanger
Mayor David R. Martin (non-voting)
Jerry Pia
Dr. Polly Rauh
Julia Wade



Preet Kumar
Davenport Ridge School
Grade 4

Mission Statement:

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

2015-16 Board of Education Operating Budget
February 10, 2015



STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 1, 2015

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

Dear Mayor Martin:

2014-15 Board Members

Jackie Heftman, President
Lorraine Olson, Vice President
Dolores Burgess, Secretary
John Leydon, Jr., Assistant Secretary
Betsy Allyn
Geoff Alswanger
Mayor David R. Martin (non-voting)
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Enclosed, please find the Board of Education's Operating Budget request of \$258,418,153 (3.96%) for the 2015-16 school year which was approved on February 10, 2015. Additionally, the Board of Education approved a grants budget for 2015-16 in the amount of \$27,148,176.

The budget was developed by the Superintendent of Schools using a systematic, thorough process beginning in October 2014 designed to advance key district instructional goals while remaining fiscally prudent. The budget also incorporates feedback from the Board of Education, Superintendent's Cabinet, and the "Citizens Budget Advisory Committee" (CBAC) which consisted of teachers, administrators, parents, elected officials, and Stamford citizens. The Superintendent's budget was submitted to the Board of Education on January 12, 2015, reviewed by the Board of Education's Fiscal Committee during several meetings in January and February, and was made available for public comment at a hearing on February 5, 2015. The Board of Education approved the attached budget on February 10, 2015.

Additions to the 2015-16 operating budget reflect the major drivers:

- A predicted enrollment increase of **195** students; **1.2%**
- Contractual increases of **\$12,373,333 (4.98%)** to fund increases in accounts such as: collective bargaining contracts (wages and benefits), Out-of-District Tuition, OPEB, Transportation, Pension, Worker's Compensation.
- The addition of **\$2,302,000 (.93%)** to fund the addition of **21.4** teachers (including 2 contingency positions) and **17** paraeducators (including 2 contingency positions) for services in elementary school, middle school, and service to English Language Learner populations and the upgrade of a position for Assistant Director of Mental Health.
- The addition of **\$573,002 (.23%)** to fund increased program needs such as: Professional Development and supplies previously supported by the GE Grant, High School AP Physics and AP Biology textbooks which are greater than 10 years old and other needs.
- An increase of **\$416,034 (.17%)** based on 2013-14 actual results and most recent budgetary trends
- A **reduction** of **-\$4,588,432 (-1.85%)** for items such as: Vacancy Savings from 30 retirements and 30 resignations, payoff of June 2010 Early Retirement Plan, cross charge to Medicaid Grant, reduction in the price of bus fuel and a reduction in city cross charge for Property/Casualty/General Liability Insurance.
- A **reduction** of **24** positions **-\$1,232,000 (-.50%)**: 8 teachers and 16 para-educators

During the budget review process, the Board of Education was forced to prioritize its spending plan and address parent and community feedback on several items and only include items that were essential to run the district. In light of current economic conditions, many items of considerable merit were not included in the 2015-16 budget.

Please contact me or Dr. Winifred Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools if you have any questions on the Board of Education budget.

Very truly yours,


Jackie Heftman
President, Board of Education