

Budget Questions & Answers

Question	Answer
<p>Can it be verified that 2 vans are from 2016, yet one has 115K miles and the other one has 213K? Why does one have twice the mileage?</p>	<p>Van #1 115K miles Van #2 213K miles</p> <p>Van # 1 was purchased in 2015, but it's a 2016. Van #2 was purchased later in 2016 (different school year budget)</p> <p>Van #1 was our first van purchased. It does not have a sliding door but rather a door that swings open for the students to enter in and out of. This proved to be challenging for many of our special ed students to close the door securely once they are in the vehicle. The driver is not supposed to leave his or her seat to assist. Therefore, when we bought Van #2 and all subsequent vans, we went with the sliding door option. Van #1 is has since been used as the spare or limited use vehicle, while the vans with the appropriate doors are getting more hours/travel distance, including out of district. We are currently experiencing maintenance issues with Van #2 and have had to use the spare. Also, to meet our legal obligation to transport students, we have to have a spare vehicle.</p>
<p>Is the NEASC accreditation charge meant to be a one-time fee, or will the district incur this annually or every X years? What is the benefit to SHS to be a part of this process?</p>	<p>The expenses associated with NEASC are higher next year because of the collaborative visit. In addition to the NEASC fees, we have to cover the expenses of the visiting team and compensate our teachers for the many hours that are needed to prepare for the process. The decennial is in March 2027, and expenses will be higher then too.</p>
<p>Is the CNA course fees/dues an annual expense that SPS will incur going forward?</p>	<p>Yes. It is a per student fee paid to Three Rivers for the courses required to obtain the CNA certificate. SHS needs to guarantee 10 students for the program to run and the expense pays for the dual enrollment tuition and instructor.</p>
<p>What does the significant increase in funding for "vocational programs for Annex" provide to SPS?</p>	<p>The annex is our alternative high school program that is housed at district office. This year we had a large number of students with special needs who required more vocational training opportunities and</p>

	<p>opportunities for paid employment. Those funds support the agency that provides job placement and on-site job coaching for those students, as part of their school day. We anticipate those needs continuing next year.</p>
<p>What does the "curriculum software" request entail?</p>	<p>This is all software used throughout the district. Though it looks new this year, it has really been shifted to a new account code. The last digit in the segment that starts with a 5 is the object code - all software expenses should have an object code that starts with 5735.</p>
<p>What does "added teaching" mean when referencing the sports cost center (ex: SHS Ath Boys Basketball Added Teach). Is this just additional funds paid to teachers/staff for their coaching roles?</p>	<p>These are the stipend positions for coaching. In Stonington, all expenses associated with any hours worked by a teacher outside of their regular position are classified as "added teaching."</p>
<p>What does "field trip" in the SHS sports line items mean? Travel to games?</p>	<p>Yes, travel to games. Another example of account names that need to be fixed.</p>
<p>Why are we paying \$114,677 for Hall Monitors and ISS at the HS?</p>	<p>This is a total of 5 positions.</p>
<p>How did the SMS Art Teacher Budget go from \$90,712 to \$189,188?</p>	<p>This is the last of the ESSER supplants (i.e. an expense that never should have been removed from the general fund) that needs to be reabsorbed by the budget.</p>
<p>What does the requested PR position entail?</p>	<p>Over the past several years there has been a steady increase in the need for a public relations specialist to enhance messaging and promote the district. Existing administrators are often too pressed for time in addressing emergency situations or other critical scenarios to effectively communicate to constituents and in the same timeframe problem solve and extend the calmness. For example, in emergency situations, specific leaders need to be attending to real time communication with various public safety officials while juggling the demand for timely messaging to families/staff. Public relations is a specialized area of expertise and although there has been an increase in outreach, presentations, and community engagement-there remains a need for a more formal public relations position within the district. Even a part-time position would be an enormous help in complementing the current efforts to positively promote</p>

	the district and communicate to stakeholders.
<p>Can I get a breakdown of ESSER related positions? I know there are some comments spread throughout the dashboards but it'd be useful to have them in one place. Which positions are to be funded, which will be lost and why?</p>	<p>All ESSER funded positions remaining, with the exception of 1 supplant, are supplemental. These positions were added when the ESSER funding became available, and they were always expected to be temporary.</p> <p>All ESSER Positions - WVSS: Interventionist (2 FTE), Classroom Teacher (1 FTE) DMS: Interventionist (1 FTE) SMS: Interventionist (1 FTE), Dean of Students (1 FTE), Classroom Teacher (Supplanted 1 FTE) SHS: HBI (.2 FTE), Classroom Teacher (.5 FTE) District: Substitute teachers</p> <p>Eliminated in Proposed Budget -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WVSS: 1 FTE Teacher and 1 FTE Interventionist 2. DMS: 1 FTE Interventionist 3. SMS: 1 FTE Interventionist <p>Please note - the supplanted classroom teacher at SMS was inadvertently omitted in the budget workshop presentation. An updated slide will be included in Thursday's presentation.</p>
<p>I saw a few descriptions related to staff reductions. Can I get a summary of those and how does the proposed budget vs. current budget look in terms of certified staff numbers, classified staff numbers, and admin?</p>	<p>This information is being prepared for Thursday's meeting, and you will receive the slides by Wednesday.</p>
<p>I think we fund every sport except crew and the sports like swimming and hockey where we field teams with students across multiple districts. Am I right? Why don't we fund those sports?</p>	<p>The Board does support crew through insuring their equipment, coach stipends, and transportation.</p> <p>From Bryan Morrone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew is funded with 3 coaches stipends and a transportation budget line. No supplies money, uniforms or dues/fees • Swimming - originally was a Coed winter season with Ledyard. Where SPS paid the Asst Coaches stipend. Once we switched our coop to Fitch (for CIAC reasons); the stipend amount was no longer needed as Fitch paid for both their coaches. We offer to use that money for

pool rental at Avery Point and Pool Repairs. Which they graciously accepted. That's where it stands now. Additionally, we coop with Fitch in the Fall for Girls Swim (6 SHS swimmers) and Winter Boys Swim Season (1 male SHS swimmer) SPS does not pay for uniforms, busing, officials nor meet fees. Fitch pays most of these, and our parents pay a portion as well (Friends of Stonington Swim). But I haven't seen many fundraising efforts in the past few years, so I assume the parents are paying out of pocket.

- Wrestling - We do not Coop, we are considered a cooperative team, meaning our boy(s) practices and competes alongside the Fitch program. He scores as an individual, but no points get tallied to the Fitch team. We have had as many as 2 wrestlers at any given time. The only item I've ever paid is the CIAC entry fee, otherwise our wrestling family (Lights) have been paying for any costs, i.e. uniform and individual private meet entry fees. He utilizes Fitch busing and Fitch pays for officials at the home meets. We currently have only 1 junior (Cooper Light, who's very good!)
- Ice Hockey - Originally we were a coop in Norwich called the Redhawks, it dissolved due to a lack of numbers and all schools with Hockey players joined forces to become the Eastern CT Eagles. This co-op includes 9 other ECC schools. Only 2 of which financially assist their players (That I am aware of). The Eastern CT Eagles fundraise and sell game day tickets to assist in the per player costs, but it is expensive. Between \$1600-\$1800 a season. Rink Fees are a major expense (RoseGarden Ice Rink in Norwich). They do incur busing, officials, supply and personnel fees (ie coaching stipends). We currently have 8 players, with 4 returning next year.