

To: Newtown Board of Education Members
From: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.
Date: December 23, 2014
Re: Superintendent's Proposed Education Operational Plan 2015-2016

The Superintendent's Proposed Operational Budget for 2015-2016 is \$72,399,186, which reflects a 1.48% increase over the 2014-2015 school year spending plan. This proposed plan maintains the core of all existing programs and also includes initiatives that will move the Newtown Public Schools toward a district of distinction.

It is important to note that this budget is built on meeting the needs of all state and federal legislation; however, this budget does not reflect support for P.A. 10-111 (high school reform) as the upcoming legislature will, once again, examine the present bill that will impact local districts with both daily cost and capital needs as early as July 2015.

More specifically:

Restoration of Lost Staffing and Programming:

- An additional 1.0 FTE has been proposed at an expense of \$56,594 to support the return of an enrichment teacher for K-4 learning;

Proposed New Support Staff for Teaching, Learning, Activities and Athletics, Operations, and Safety:

- An additional 1.0 FTE special education supervisor to replace the vacant 1.0 FTE special education department chair position at Newtown High School at a cost of \$21,770
- An additional .4 FTE Academic Officer at Newtown High School to assist with the increasing demands being placed on administration from both state and federal legislation at a cost of \$22,638
- An additional .5 FTE to support the acquisition of world language at the primary grade level costing \$28,297
- The movement of a 1.0 FTE operations and maintenance staff member to the role of Assistant Facilities Director at a net cost of \$37,840
- An additional .2 FTE in the Newtown High School Performing Arts department to continue the grant funded Unified Theater class at a cost of \$11,319
- An additional \$14,370 to move the following coaching stipends into the operational plan: indoor track, gymnastics, and girls' golf
- An increase of .16 staffing for the special education clerk pertaining to summer programming at a cost of \$4,421
- An additional five stipends totaling \$10,000 to support global awareness and international travel (N.I.C.E)
- A Special Education Supervisor to cover the summer programming at a cost of \$18,501

The enhancements mentioned above represent \$225,750 of new staff spending which is reflected in the proposed operational plan.

Reduction of Workforce Proposed for the 2015-2016 Operational Plan

A detailed analysis of all programming and staffing was completed by administration and the following reductions are proposed within the new school year spending plan:

- The elimination of 8.3 FTE certified staff members at a savings of \$473,092
- The elimination of 9.13 non-certified staff members at a savings of \$160,492

Thus, the proposed operational plan with requested new staff and with the reduction in workforce nets a cost savings of \$407,834.

The historical budget request over the past 10 years.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Approved Board of Ed Budget</u>	<u>Budget Increase</u>
2006-2007	\$60,387,154	6.06%
2007-2008	\$62,885,158	4.14%
2008-2009	\$66,031,044	5.00%
2009-2010	\$66,314,928	0.43%
2010-2011	\$67,194,734	1.33%
2011-2012	\$67,971,427	1.16%
2012-2013	\$68,555,794	0.57%
2013-2014	\$71,045,304	3.63%
2014-2015	\$71,345,304	0.42%
2015-2016	\$72,399,186	1.48% (Present Proposed Superintendent's Operational Plan)

Health insurance costs, which were funded at a 7.1% increase during the 2014-2015 school year, are proposed to increase 0.8% in 2015-2016 representing an increased cost of \$67,120 over the present funding level. In addition to the percentage increase for insurance the operational plan includes \$100,963 reflecting the demands put on local districts with the Affordable Health Care Act.

Finally, this proposal includes the following assumptions and projections:

1. Bargaining unit contracted salary increases for the Newtown Administrators Association (union administrators), and Newtown Federation of Teachers (teachers union) are 2% and 1.5% respectively.
2. Transportation unit increase with contractual obligations to All-Star Transportation, Inc. This will result in a \$76,128 increase in the 2015-2016 regular education budget and \$156,801 in special education transportation (in and out-of-district).
3. Out of District school tuition was budgeted based on the current year enrollment and cost which has increased \$224,691.
4. Technology equipment has been increased by \$169,033 to keep pace with critical current requirements.

It is also important to understand that the starting point for my office was a requested \$75,028,183 which represented a 5.16% increase over current spending. After meeting with all stakeholders \$2,628,997 net of requests were reduced; thus, the superintendent's plan moving forward for your review.

District administrators, cabinet members, and, in particular, Mr. Ron Bienkowski and his staff worked diligently to prepare this plan. Mr. Bienkowski, Director of Business, along with my office, would be happy to answer any and all questions that you may have during the budget review examination period.

Finally, it is my belief that this proposed budget represents the program priorities and the long term vision set forth by this Board of Education and also represents a plan that continues to maintain and enhance the needed resources for all children.