

NEW CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

39 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, Connecticut

New Canaan Board of Education

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TO: The Boards of Selectmen and Finance and Town Council
FROM: Bryan D. Luizzi, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
on behalf of the New Canaan Board of Education
DATE: January 30, 2017

Presented for your review and consideration is the New Canaan Board of Education's proposed budget request of \$88,618,405 for fiscal year 2017-2018. This budget request represents a 2.76% increase from the current fiscal year operating budget.

Several key factors were considered when establishing this budget. These include 1) responding to enrollment and demographic shifts, 2) increasing support for our middle-school learners in the area of mathematics, 3) maintaining all facilities through appropriate staffing and identifying urgent priorities for repair, 4) cost containment strategies in labor and other contract negotiations, and 5) insurance experience and the correlated influence on projected claims costs for 2017-2018.

This Board of Education proposed budget was developed in alignment with the district's goals, budget assumptions, and related priorities. As a result, it provides the resources to accomplish the following:

- maintain and enhance our high quality educational programs for all students;
- support the continued implementation of 21st century skills in all curricular areas;
- leverage investments in technology across the organization;
- partner with parents and the community in the process of continuous improvement;
- respond to enrollment patterns and shifts in demographics;
- support high-quality curricular, instructional, and assessment practices district-wide;
- serve as responsible stewards of all district facilities;
- focus on the safety and security of all students and staff; and
- nurture our positive classroom and school environments district-wide.

The comprehensive budget documentation offers a detailed view of all cost centers, outlines drivers of the budget request, and provides a narrative of the goals of the district with respect to proposed changes in staff and services for 2017-2018. As district and building level administrators worked with staff throughout the school system to build this budget, every decision was guided by a cost

benefit analysis, seeking to leverage all resources in alignment with our district mission and for optimal student outcomes. After presentation of the Superintendent's Budget Proposal, the Board of Education carefully reviewed the requests, shared insight and feedback, and adopted this slightly modified version as its own.

This budget request preserves the high-quality attributes of the New Canaan Public Schools while also positioning us to remain a world-class school system in the years ahead. On behalf of the Board of Education, I am proud to share this 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget with each of you, and look forward to the thoughtful dialogue we will share in the months ahead.

Note: This letter of transmittal supports the proposed budget dated January 27, 2017. After several thoughtful conversations with various town officials and governing boards, and the realization of savings in the area of health benefits, the final Board of Education operating budget adopted by the Town Council is \$1MM less than proposed.