

**Board of Finance Questions
February 23, 2017**

Dr. Erardi will speak to student enrollment, the shift to the high scenario from the medium scenario forecast, and our "internal" adjustments.

Transportation:

1.) Could you provide us with the transportation ridership totals/reporting from All Star for this school year, YTD?

- Ridership reports are attached.

2.) Also, could you confirm for us the number of student Parking Permits issued at the high school?

- 355 student parking permits were issued.

Grant Coordinator:

3.) Could you provide us with a list of grants awarded to the system by the efforts of the Grant Coordinator role and the types of grants you anticipate applying for in the future? Or, you can cover that in our 2/23 BoE session if you think that would make more sense.

Under the terms of the grant from the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation, I have been restricted to seeking public and private funding for mental health and social-emotional learning services to support our ongoing recovery from the 12/14 tragedy. The primary focus has been to find funding for former SERV-funded staff. I have:

- Met with key stakeholders in the recovery effort to discuss needs including: principals, school guidance counselors and psychologists, the Resiliency Center, the Newtown Center for Support and Wellness, Newtown Youth and Family Services, and Newtown Parent Connection.
- Developed partnerships with EdAdvance, Sandy Hook School Foundation, and Newtown Education Foundation to submit joint proposals when we need a 501c3 nonprofit partner to submit the proposal.
- Submitted over 25 letters of inquiry/letters of intent/and grant proposals.

Grants we have won so far:

1. \$53,000 grant to support the installation of a Project Adventure course at Newtown High School that will:

- Help High School students become more active, have healthy adventures and develop skills for a lifelong healthy lifestyle.
- Create a platform for a broader social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for students in grades 9-12.
- Facilitate collaboration and team-building among all Newtown Public Schools students, administrators, teachers and staff.
- Provide community-building opportunities for Newtown-based organizations and Newtown residents of all ages.

2. \$1,800 grant to support after school restorative yoga classes for Sandy Hook School staff.

Grant applications that are still in consideration:

- (2 potential funders) At least \$132,000 to support the school psychologist and school social worker at Reed Intermediate School that were formerly funded under the SERV grant.
- Another \$53,000 to support the installation of Project Adventure at the High School.
- (2 potential funders) \$5,000-\$10,000 to support the ARC (Academic Resource Center) at Newtown Middle School - that provides academic and social and emotional support to struggling 7th and 8th grade students during the school day.

Other projects/ideas/programs for 2016-17:

- Professional development for staff (e.g. PBIS positive behavior interventions, mental health first aid, mindfulness, trauma informed learning)
- Additional after school sports programming for NMS
- Wellness activities/programs for all staff
- Expanding TAP (alternative high school program) to accommodate students who have severe anxiety or depression- making traditional high school difficult

Some important points:

- With the state budget crisis and the change in administration at the federal level, there have been no state or federal funding to support our particular needs. There may be new government grant opportunities in 2017-18. The overall reduction in federal and state grant-making is also impacting private funders.
- Relationships with large private foundations take time to establish. I made the initial contact with the foundations that are currently considering proposals in September 2016.
- Private funders are less likely to support FTE salaries.
- The restriction is very limiting. There are many opportunities for public school districts that I cannot pursue because they do not address mental health or social and emotional learning specifically.

Without expanded grant-seeking responsibilities, I would remain focused on health and wellness and our recovery, but also seek opportunities that promote and celebrate positive student and parent engagement, academic and personal achievement, and innovation in the district.

- Additional professional development opportunities for staff
- Awards/recognition to celebrate the good work of teachers, staff, students
- Funding for pilot programs and innovative ideas (arts, humanities, STEM, special education)
- New afterschool and extracurricular programs and summer programming.
- Collaborative efforts with the town, other school districts and nonprofit organizations (e.g. TAP, health and wellness website, mentorship)

Social Workers:

4.) In our session on Thursday, could we review the rationale between two alternative scenarios: 1.) how we would meet the needs of students without maintaining the two Social Workers as originally proposed by the Superintendent's budget, and, 2.) how we could meet the needs of students by returning only one Social Worker between both schools.

- Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Petersen will be prepared to speak to this at the meeting.

P. 24 – Curriculum and Technology Line Items

Why were these line items broken out separately this year?

- The district functional categories were separated to add clarity.

P. 27 and 39 – Staffing

In the FY'16/17 budget book you had an Estimated staffing Number of 708.77 for FY'16/17 while your Current FY'16/17 for staffing in this year's budget book is 713.63. Please account for the 4.86 difference in staffing, the breakout between Certified and Non-Certified staff and the approximate cost attributable to that increase in staffing.

- The estimated staffing figure of 708.77 (listed above) is from the BOE approved budget, not the final approved budget. The 2016-17 budgeted staffing figures shown in the 2017-18 budget book is 708.96; this is a difference of .19. We used the final approved budget book (after BOE adjustments) staffing figures to respond to the question. Therefore the difference in staffing was actually 4.67 for which we have prepared a reconciliation for your review. Please note that the changes in salary are all estimates based on 2016-17 contractual rates.

Cost Centers	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Current	Change	Approximate Change in Cost
Elementary Education	45.81	46.99	1.17	\$33,971
Reed Intermediate	6.70	6.75	0.05	\$59
Middle School	55.83	55.94	0.11	\$6,223
High School	126.57	126.22	-0.35	-\$32,059
Special Ed	132.48	137.55	5.07	\$79,217
Pupil Personnel	6.35	4.57	-1.78	-\$58,507
General Services	5.00	5.40	0.40	\$17,196
Total Changes	378.74	383.42	4.67	\$46,100

As a follow on question to the one above, on P. 39 of this year's budget book your regular instruction staff difference between last year's estimated and this year's current is 1.2 higher. Related to the question above, are we to infer that non-instructional staffing went up by 3.66 staff members?

- As stated above, the beginning figure of 401.47 (regular instructional staffing) was taken from the BOE approved budget book. The staffing figures that we used to answer your questions are from the approved 2016-17 budget book totaling 400.69 (pg. 42). The difference between 400.69 and the current staffing as published in the 2017-18 budget book is 1.98, not 1.2 (pg. 39). Looking at the table above, one would think that the school based instructional costs centers incurred an increase of .98 FTE. This is not the case as there was a small clerical change (non-instructional) that took place within the schools. Also, it's important to note that the Special Ed department includes an instructional element that must be considered. Almost all positions within this department, with exception of the director/supervisor and clerical, should be considered instructional. The gross instructional changes that occurred totaled 5.27, combined with a gross reduction of non-instructional positions of -.60 resulting in the net change of 4.67 FTE.

P. 174 – Special Education

In comparing last year's and this year's budget book, I saw a Budgeted and Current Tuition (15/16) - Out of District - of \$2,265,317 yet the Actual Expended in this year's budget book for 15/16 is \$3,136,813. How could we be off by \$871K

between a February Current Estimate and the end of the FY'15/16? Are we at risk of this happening again in FY'17/18? Or, was the large increase funded by additional revenue offsets from the State? You could also cover this question during the conversation on Special Ed on Thursday.

- The current 2015-2016 special education tuition in last year's budget book reflected the amount budgeted and was not adjusted for what were the expected expenditures. The \$724,685 as the dollar change for 2016-2017 in that same book was a result of the known need which had triggered a total budget freeze for the entire year. There wasn't any significant revenue offset from the state, only the funds from the budget freeze. Are we at risk again in FY 2017-2018? It all depends on the number of special education placements which is continuously monitored with the financial impact reported monthly to the Board of Education.

Transportation

During budget discussions with the Legislative Council last year it was confirmed that the Board of Ed is not obligated by Statute to provide a seat for every student in the system. The Board of Ed, however, is required to provide a seat for every student that needs transportation to school. Is this understanding of the state requirements correct?

- Yes, that is correct. In addition, the Board surveyed parents last year offering an "opt out" but less than 10 were interested.

Contingency Fund

Unlike the BoS budget, the BoE does not have a designated, budgeted "Contingency Fund". Is there any State Statute that precludes you from establishing a Contingency Fund?

- No, there is not.

P.M. STUDENT COUNT SHEET

BUS CAP	SCHOOL	REG	SEP	DEC	FEB	MAY	TIME	SCHOOL	REG	SEP	DEC	FEB	MAY	TIME	SCHOOL	REG	SEP	DEC	FEB	MAY	TIME
1	77	HS/MS	76	34	31		33"	REED	22	15	14			38"	SANDY HOOK	43	30	29			37"
2	77	HS/MS	68	29	30		24"	REED	21	18	17			38"	SANDY HOOK	47	29	28			32"
3	77	HS/MS	69	45	38		34"	REED	33	33	32			32"	SANDY HOOK	35	32	30			32"
4	77	HS/MS	70	33	38		30"	REED	19	17	18			24"	SANDY HOOK	56	39	38			32"
5	77	HS/MS	35	16	20		44"	REED	23	21	20			32"	SANDY HOOK	48	37	34			33"
6	77	HS/MS	70	34	39		30"	REED	21	29	20			28"	MIDDLE GATE	50	34	37			32"
7	77	HS/MS	68	29	39		32"	ST ROSE	24	17	14			31"	MIDDLE GATE	31	21	26			25"
8	77	HS/MS	68	39	38		23"	REED/ST R	51	30	31			29"	HAWLEY	53	25	27			30"
9	77	HS/MS	55	26	27		40"	REED/ST R	47	38	34			38"	HAWLEY	54	32	32			32"
10	77	HS/MS	67	48	46		19"	REED	19	16	13			30"	HAWLEY	43	36	34			28"
11	77	HS/MS	69	30	26		24"	REED	26	23	21			37"	HAWLEY	33	28	29			35"
12	77	HS/MS	62	28	27		42"	REED	27	20	19			43"	HOM	28	15	15			30"
13	77	HS/MS	67	32	49		28"	REED	16	14	16			28"	HOM	35	24	30			27"
14	77	HS/MS	53	21	24		31"	REED	22	15	14			27"	HOM	32	28	27			41"
15	77	HS/MS	52	19	24		25"	REED	13	10	7			27"	HOM	38	26	24			33"
16	77	HS/MS	59	29	31		23"	REED	21	19	20			27"	HOM	36	30	29			34"
17	7	HS/MS	44	26	24		23"	REED	26	25	18			28"	HOM	31	18	18			23"
18	77	HS/MS	46	25	23		28"	REED	25	28	24			31"	MIDDLE GATE	35	31	28			34"
19	77	HS/MS	44	28	28		22"	REED	29	24	23			25"	MIDDLE GATE	36	28	29			27"
20	77	HS/MS	57	21	24		40"	REED/ST R	31	25	26			23"	MIDDLE GATE	38	23	22			25"
21	77	HS/MS	62	32	36		31"	REED	18	13	13			37"	SANDY HOOK	43	31	32			23"
22	77	HS/MS	67	32	34		28"														
23	77	HS/MS	65	26	36		21"	REED	9	9	7			22"	MIDDLE GATE	40	31	29			24"
24	77	HS/MS	62	34	31		35"	REED	33	24	19			42"	MIDDLE GATE	45	37	32			31"
25	77	HS/MS	65	30	32		34"	REED	15	14	12			25"	HOM	38	27	30			25"
26	77	HS/MS	68	28	34		37"								DNBY MAG	21	16	14			30"
27	77	HS/MS	67	25	39		30"	NVA	N/A	17	19				MIDDLE GATE	36	26	25			22"
28	77	HS/MS	60	25	27		36"	REACH	N/A	N/A	3				MIDDLE GATE	34	32	29			35"
29	77	HS/MS	63	36	28		42"								HOM	35	34	28			33"
30	77	HS/MS	65	45	50		44"								HS/MS LATE	N/A	N/A	N/A			n/a
31	77	HS/MS	58	21	24		27"								HS/MS LATE	N/A	N/A	N/A			n/a
33	47	HS/MS	36	26	25		32"	REED	19	15	13			34"	SANDY HOOK	27	24	31			31"
34	47	HS/MS	39	17	19		27"	REED/ST R	24	20	19			31"	SANDY HOOK	41	41	37			24"
35	47	HS/MS	38	21	20		38"	REED	28	24	22			28"	HAWLEY	26	22	21			25"
36	47	HS/MS	33	22	21		30"	REED	24	24	23			24"	HAWLEY	17	13	12			30"
37	47	HS/MS	40	21	17		24"	REED	17	14	17			35"	HAWLEY	27	24	22			29"
38	47	HS/MS	39	24	27		31"	REED	14	14	13			34"	HAWLEY	20	20	24			27"
39	47	HS/MS	40	24	27		32"	REED	11	9	9			37"	SANDY HOOK	24	24	30			37"
40	47	HS/MS	22	7	8		30"														
41	47	HS/MS	40	30	29		26"	ST ROSE	23	11	11			35"							
42	47	HS/MS	38	22	33		30"	ST ROSE	25	18	18			37"	HOM	13	13	11			31"
43	47	HS/MS	38	11	11		27"	ST ROSE	16	9	8			34"							
44	47	HS/MS	38	15	14		28"	ST ROSE	20	12	12			31"							