

**BOE Follow-up Questions and Administration Answers
To Previous Department Budget Presentations
January 15, 2018**

1. **Request for information: list of the number, types and cost of consultants in the district the year prior to the new administration arrival and then the same information for the last 2 1/2 years, along with estimated end dates on any current consultants.**

Consultants and outside partners are hired on the basis of changing needs. We are focused on partnering with outside agencies who build the capacity of our staff. The 2018 budget reflects what is currently needed. In 2014 the District spent approximately \$350,000 on consultants. Every year our specific partners are hired based on ongoing needs and results.

2. **Transportation**

- a. **For special education, how many students are being transported out of district and how does this compare to years' past?**

All outplaced students are transported. The BOE receives the number of outplaced students every month. On rare occasion a parent wants to drive the student.

- b. **Sped transportation numbers: Do these numbers include both district outplaced special education students and unilaterally outplaced students? (Numbers have gone up over \$100K in last 3 years).**

Yes, this includes all transportation for all special ed. including summer school transportation and pre-k transportation. The amounts have increased due to the number of students being transported.

- c. **What is the fee we are paying the RISE program for total service/program and what are the transportation costs?**

We are budgeting \$33,280 per student for 2018-19. We use our District van which is a minimal cost of the driver and fuel. We looked at this from a financial and educational perspective and decided that shared services with Windsor Locks were beneficial both financially and educationally for students.

- d. **Late bus usage: How many students are utilizing the late busses in district?**

We use three buses and transport an average of 40 total students per day.

- e. **What is the acceptable number of kids/seat on the busses to and from school (i.e.: 2 kids/seat, 3 kids/seat)?**

High School/Middle School - 2 per seat and Elementary – 3 per seat

3. **Coaches – how many coaching cycles were requested/completed last year and YTD this year? Any data kept regarding measured success after cycle complete or same teacher asking for additional coaching cycle?**

See data table below.

4. **How many SPED coaching cycles have been requested/completed?**

The goal of having coaches is to improve Tier I instruction for all students within the classrooms. Although coaches do not work directly with special education teachers,

special education students benefit from the work of coaches as they support classroom teachers who work with special education students. We know that when Tier I improves special education, students need less time in special education.

Coaching Data Table			
Year	2016-2017		Year to Date 2017-2018
Number of formal and informal coaching cycles completed	ELA Formal = 92 ELA Informal = 355 Math Formal = 61 Math Informal = 229		ELA Formal = 68 ELA Informal = 262 Math Formal = 29 Math Informal = 220
Number of individual teachers who received coaching cycles	ELA Formal = 29 ELA Informal = 41 Math Formal = 26 Math Informal = 27		ELA Formal = 24 ELA Informal = 35 Math Formal = 21 Math Informal = 24
Average STAR Student Growth Percentile of classrooms that had a coaching cycle	ELA Formal = 58 (29 Teachers) ELA Informal = 59 (41 Teachers) Math Formal = 40 (26 Teachers) Math Informal = 48 (27 Teachers)		TBD
Average STAR Student Growth Percentile of classrooms that did not have a coaching cycle	ELA Formal = 62 (16 Teachers) ELA Informal = 54 (4 Teachers) Math Formal = 53 (15 Teachers) Math Informal = 59 (9 Teachers)		TBD

5. **Pay-to-Play follow-up: What is the revenue estimate for pay-to-park?**

This was discussed with the entire Leadership Team. The SHS administration has estimated that there are slightly less than 200 student cars. If we charged a fee of \$100, we would have approximately \$19,000 to \$20,000 in revenue. This will require staff, likely hall monitors, to check the parking lot every day. The high school administration is not in favor of using staff resources in this manner.

6. **Has pay-to-ride been considered or instituted in any surrounding districts?**
Paying to ride is occurring in MA; however not in CT. State law requires school districts to provide transportation for all school-age children whenever it is "reasonable and desirable".
7. **Fees for activities that involve transportation?** We provide transportation for all school related activities including athletics. We currently contribute \$15 per student per year for K – 5 field trips with parents paying the remaining cost. This is a cost of approximately \$12,000 per year to the district.
8. **Enrollment reports show an increase in students leaving the district grades 3-8 over past years' data. Have surveys been done, or is information available to determine reasons why (private/CREC/Charter school, home school vs. moving)**
The numbers are not unusual as most districts in CT are currently losing students across the grades. We do not have reliable data prior to 2015.

Transfer Reason	2015 -16 # of Students	2016 -17 # of Students	2017 -18 # of Students
Move to Public School	83	63	35
Transfer to Private	23	20	15
Transfer to Charter	0	0	1
Transfer to Magnet	1	1	4
Transfer to Homeschooling	2	1	3

9. **Technology**
 - a. **What is the inventory of textbooks and their date of expiration?**
A full inventory of textbooks will be completed by the end of January.
 - b. **What if any online subscriptions are being used by SPS and potential costs for additional subscription?**
Subscriptions are based on use and requests from teachers. We are sensitive to buying products that are only used by a few teachers as we want to be as efficient and effective as possible. An inventory of online subscriptions with cost is attached.
 - c. **What are the district's plans on how to proceed with digital subscriptions to enhance/progress in the area of 1:1 technology?**
This is dependent on innovations to changing technology while at the same time tracking use and efficiencies. We also have a process to ensure that digital subscriptions support the curriculum and are compatible with current infrastructure and privacy guidelines.
 - d. **What are the objectives/goals for the district and teachers within technology curriculum?**
Technology is being embedded through the curriculum. Our Library Media Specialists are playing a larger role in supporting teachers and curriculum leaders

as we work towards articulating technology expectations throughout core content curriculum based on ISTE standards (International Society for Technology in Education). We are working towards familiarizing all K-5 teachers with these standards by the end of the year.

10. **Paraprofessionals: Number of paraprofessionals within the district by school and the total number of children with extensive needs (or a total of the number of sped children per year/school for the past 5 years).**

Prior to 2015 the district did not track para support to students. Starting in 2015, only students with significant needs requiring paraprofessional support are provided support. We have decreased the number of paras supporting secondary students as we work to build student self-confidence and independence. Page 64 of the 2017 Class Size Report reports how many paras are at each school. At this time there are a total of 43.6FTE special ed. paraprofessionals and approximately 40 students needing paraprofessional support. We have requested an additional two paras for the 2018 school year.

**Digital Memberships – Curriculum Resources
2018-19 Budget**

Vendor Name	COMMENTS	AMOUNT
Type to Learn	Typing School License 3-5	\$999
Cengage	'GALE US HISTORY IN CONTEXT SHS	\$1,489
Cengage	World Issues in Context SMS	\$699
'CEV	CEV License renewal-Online curriculum Database for AGSCI	\$850
'TURNITIN	'TURNITIN FBS	\$2,728
HAPARA ****	SHS	\$4,334
'EDGENUITY INC.	High School Comprehensive Dig (Credit Recovery)	\$3,500
Cengage	Gale Opposing Viewpoints SHS	\$1,321
Cengage	GALE WORLD HISTORY IN CONTEXT SHS	\$699
Enriching Students	SHS	\$5,440
STAR	K-8	\$12,000
Questar (DRP)	grades 3-8	\$4,400
Lexia (K-5)	80 Licenses - Concurrent	\$1,950
Conjuguemos (WL SMS)	Spanish SMS 6-8	\$70
Textivate	SMS WL 6-8	\$174
SRI	3.75 per license per student	\$850
Pebble GO	AWS License	\$1,095
LiveStream SHS	Used for morning announcements - Premium	\$2,388
Britanica Online	DW License	\$1,650
iReady	Diagnostic Math License (6.00 per student SHS)	\$600
Smart Music	6-8 Music	\$399
flat	6-8 Music (51 users)	\$84
MobyMax	6-7 Math	\$400
WeVideo	SMS	\$2,300
Gizmo	grades 3-12	\$13,500
TrueFlix/FreedmomFlix	grades 3-5	\$3,000
Read Naturally Live	K-2	\$680
One More Story	K-2 (425 students)	\$744
Total		\$68,342