



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
PRESS CONTACT:

January 24, 2024
Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools
(860) 896-2300

Ellington Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Nicol Proposes a Net Spending Increase of 3.01% for the 2024-2025 Budget

ELLINGTON, CT – On Wednesday, January 17th, and Saturday, January 20th, the Ellington Board of Education attended Special Board meetings regarding Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Nicol's proposed net spending increase of 3.01% for the 2024-2025 budget. The spending increase of the proposed budget falls at \$1,907,726 or 4.23% and is significantly offset by \$549,005 in revenue bringing the total proposed budget to \$46,442,068 which includes the 3.01% increase.

For close to two decades the Ellington Public Schools has been underfunded by the State's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant. The \$549,005 revenue increase is part of a tiered adjustment that will be fully realized by the 2025 fiscal year.

Board of Finance Member and current liaison to the Board of Education Dan Kuene remarked, *"As the former Board of Education Chair, for many years we lobbied the State with our Ellington delegation to increase the funding to accurately reflect demographic changes in the Town. These efforts fell short and I am pleased to learn the State has finally made this long overdue adjustment."*



As the Ellington Public Schools will never recoup the total underfunded amount, it is important to note that school districts across the state, that were overfunded for close to two decades, will be held harmless by the Connecticut Legislature receiving flat funding as opposed to less monies.

Dr. Nicol and Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations, outlined four areas of focus for the proposed 2024-2025 budget: 1) \$91k for a special education Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), 2) \$128k for athletic transportation, boys' swimming, girls' gymnastics and ice hockey, 3) \$132k to right-size under-budgeted facilities accounts, and 4) \$622k to fund an increase in health insurance.



“Our athletic and facilities budgets have been under-budgeted for many years, special education needs coming out of the State’s response to COVID have been gaslit, and staff health insurance claims are on the rise. This modest net spending increase of 3.01%—all things considered including challenging economic conditions—is the result of fiscally responsible management of the taxpayers’ dollars this past decade.”

-Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education members are in the process of deliberating Dr. Nicol’s proposed budget with Finance Committee meetings today, January 24th, and other scheduled public meetings. It is anticipated the budget may be adopted by the Board of Education at its January 31st monthly meeting.

Upcoming Board of Education Deliberations

- January 24th, 5:45 p.m. — Finance Committee, Central Office
- January 29th, 5:45 p.m. — Finance Committee, Central Office
- January 31st, 6:00 p.m. — Monthly Board of Education Meeting, EHS Library

Updates to the budget process including all presentations may be found on the [Ellington Public Schools 2024-2025 Budget Information](#) webpage.
