



Ellington Board of Education 2018-2019 Budget Guidelines

- 1) **Estimated State-Aid** – When the state passes a biennial budget, the administration’s proposed budget should reflect the nature of any projected changes in state-aid from the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- 2) **Five Year Capital Improvement Plan** – The Operations Committee of the Board of Education will make its annual recommendation for the Capital Improvement needs of the district. The plan should contain the cyclical update of technology throughout the district. Authorization to submit the Five-Year Capital Plan to the town will be provided by the Board of Education no later than its November 2017 meeting.
- 3) **Salaries** – All salary accounts must reflect the implementation of negotiated contracts. Appropriate funds for contracts to be negotiated will be included. The Finance Committee must review non-represented personnel whose salary agreements may expire at the end of the current fiscal year. All adjustments for known or anticipated retirements and vacancies are to be included. Costs associated with any requests for additional time or new positions must be clearly delineated as to their impact upon the budget. The impact of enrollment projections upon staffing must be clearly delineated.
- 4) **Health Insurance** – These accounts must reflect the impact of all negotiated contracts. They must also include appropriate funds for any contracts yet to be negotiated. Data related to trend and plan usage will be provided by the Board’s insurance representative.
- 5) **Transportation** – The contract contains a 7.5% cost increase for 2018-2019. The administration’s budget should account for this increase, but also find ways to optimize the bus routes to limit the impact of this increase.
- 6) **Utilities** – With the advantageous price of natural gas and propane gas, all schools will be using gas as their primary heating source. The district has entered into a consortium and has locked in electricity rates through December 2019. Additionally, pricing of completed solar and lighting projects should be included in the budget proposal.

- 7) **District Improvement Plans** – The administration is directed to include appropriate funding for curriculum and professional development to support the areas of focus and the strategies contained in the district improvement plans. Additionally, the administration is directed to continue funding to support efforts to foster innovation across the district.
- 8) **Technology** – The administration is directed to include funding to reflect the Board’s support of the district’s 1:1 initiative. The phased in purchasing of Chromebooks for grades 1 through 12 should continue in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. All other technology purchases should be tied to the District Technology Plan.
- 9) **Equipment & Supplies** – The operating budget should contain continued funding for equipment and supplies, across all disciplines, to appropriately support curricular and instructional needs.
- 10) **Special Services** – The administration will continue to meet the district’s legal obligations and is encouraged to continue to provide quality services and programs for our students.
- 11) **Magnet Schools** – The Board of Education has no budgetary control over this issue due to state legislation. This account is currently underfunded and the administration is directed address this shortfall.
- 12) **Staffing** – The administration is directed to closely monitor student enrollment and to provide staffing recommendations that ensure appropriate class size as well as to meet the various program needs of all students at all levels within the constraints of resources provided. The budget should clearly delineate any staffing related to the district improvement plans.