



Ellington Board of Education 2021-2022 Budget Guidelines

- 1) **COVID-19 Response and Long-Term Recovery** – The Board of Education instructs the administration to take into the macro-economic and local impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic response and long-term recovery plan as the budget for 2021-2022 is developed.
- 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 items found during the Facilities Study capital project. Authorization to submit the Five-Year Capital Plan to the town will be provided by the Board of Education no later than its November 2019 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 5% cost increase for 2021-2022. 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 locked in electricity rates through December 2022. 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.

- 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 2021-2022 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. A full analysis of the ideal staffing model, including teaching and administrative positions, shall be conducted as part of the budget process. The budget should clearly delineate any staffing related to the district improvement plans.
- 13) **Estimated State-Aid** – The administration’s proposed budget should reflect the nature of any projected changes in state-aid from the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including any modifications to Educational Cost Sharing formula enacted by the legislature in the previous biennium budget.
- 14) **Revenues** – The budget should take into account proposed changes to special education revenue accounting practices. Planning around such revenues should be clearly delineated in the budget. The total sum of such revenues and associated expenditures should be a conservative estimation based on the variable nature of the funding source.