

A Special Meeting - Budget Workshop of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

**The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Jennifer Dzen.**

**PRESENT** Chair Jennifer Dzen, Vice-Chair Kerry Socha, Secretary Jennifer Mullin, Gary Blanchette, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angela Moser, Miriam Underwood, Steve Viens, Dr. Lenora Williams, Mike Young (virtual, 9:20 a.m.)

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Jennifer Brown, Coordinator of Human Resources  
Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations  
Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Information Technology  
Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services  
Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Stephanie Veturis, Coordinator of Accounting  
Ellington Public Schools Administration

**TOWN OFFICIALS** Ms. Mary Cardin, Board of Selectmen, Liaison to the Board of Education  
Mr. Doug Harding, Chair Board of Finance  
Mr. Logan Johnson, Board of Finance  
Mr. Dan Keune, Board of Finance, Liaison to the Board of Education

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **2024-2025 Saturday Budget Workshop**

##### **Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Nicol opened the meeting with a welcome to the Board, Elected Officials, and EPS Administration for their attendance at these important workshop discussions. Dr. Nicol thanked those involved in preparing for this special session. Dr. Nicol noted that presentations from Dr. Kristy Laporte, Director of Special Services, and Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations, will be shared with the Board for their consideration while reviewing the budget and line items associated with each and other areas of focus for the 2024-2025 budget year.

##### **The "Sixth School" Presentation**

##### **Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services**

Dr. LaPorte presented the needs for the Special Services Department with an emphasis on our off-site programs: Elementary and Secondary BASES, TEPSEP (The EPS Expulsion Program), ECLIPSE (Ellington Continuing Life Independence Post Secondary Education) which serve approximately 60 students, including tuition students. Current staff is being shared or pulled from the other five schools. Dr. LaPorte shared that to be fully operational and to build future capacity, immediate needs include a teacher for E-BASES in the future, a BCBA, a full-time Secretary, and an Administrator dedicated to the program.

##### **Budget Presentation**

##### **Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations**

Ms. Carpino shared the 2024-2025 proposed budget with the Board of Education. Ms. Carpino reviewed the major drivers of the budget. The budget is comprised of many categories. The major budget drivers include accounts for instruction, operations and technology, benefits, and salaries. Special education, athletics, facilities, and medical and dental are the areas of particular focus for 2024-2025. Right-sizing of facilities accounts, among others, was also an important topic of discussion. The proposed budget for 2024-2025 is \$46,442,068. This equates to a net spending increase of 3.01%.

A special recognition to Ms. Lindsay Stellar, Director of Food Service, and staff for providing a sampling of menu items offered to Ellington Students from our food service company, Whitsons. Also, a thank you to the Ellington High School custodial and maintenance team for their efforts with the efficient setup and breakdown of the space for the Board to hold these important meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

First: M. Underwood

Second: A. Moser

To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (11:03 p.m.)

Motion unanimously carried.

DRAFT