

**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

A Special Budget Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held virtually on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, via Zoom.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairman Tyron V. Harris.**

**PRESENT** Chairman Tyron V. Harris, Secretary Vanessa Jenkins, Harry Amadasun, Jr, Dr. Annabelle Diaz-Santiago, Marilyn Pet, John Pereira, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Stephanie Watkins

**ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT** Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools  
Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum  
Elsie Torres, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum  
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Ben Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer  
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Roberta J. Pratt, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Rachel Botts**, 131 Jessica Drive, E.H.  
**Joelle Murchison**, 230 Timber Trail, E.H.

**Business Needing Board Action**

Superintendent Quesnel stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to review and discuss the program details and decisions included within the Superintendent's proposed FY23 budget.

**Operations and Finance – Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Whittaker presented the division overview and budget drivers within the Operations and Finance division. The program overview includes financial management, purchasing/contracts, communications and marketing, benefits, transportation, facilities, building improvements and debt service. Budget drivers include student transportation, health insurance and OPEB pre-payments. Operations and Finance represents 33% of the districts FY23 proposed budget.

**Pupil Personnel – Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

Dr. Bremner presented the department overview and budget drivers within Pupil Personnel Services which consists of Pre-K-12 Special Education staffing, residency, resources and programming, Woodland School, and related services such as psychology/social work, speech therapy, occupational/physical therapy, and nursing services. The budget drivers for PPS Department include external placements, SPED costs paid to Magnet schools and (8) new positions to support Mayberry and Norris schools. Pupil Personnel represents 22% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**Elementary Education – Elsie Torres, Assistant Superintendent**

Assistant Superintendent Torres presented the department overview and budget drivers within Elementary Education. The department overview includes the district's elementary schools, Pre-K program, K-12 world language/EL/bi-lingual programs, K-12 art and music programs and K-12 health and PE programs. Budget drivers for this program include the transition of (21) FTE

grades K-3 to the Alliance Grant (projection). Elementary Education represents 15% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**Secondary Education – Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent**

Deputy Superintendent Mancini presented the department overview within Secondary Education. Ms. Mancini oversees the district’s secondary schools and programs, Synergy (alternative education), and Adult Education. Secondary Education represents 16% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**General Administration – Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent**

Superintendent Quesnel presented the program overview and budget drivers for General Administration. This program includes BOE services, community services, central administration, principal administration and public information services. Budget drivers include a new district initiative, Program 56, for communications and marketing. General Administration represents 6% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**Magnet Schools - Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Whittaker presented the program overview and budget drivers for the Magnet Schools. The program overview includes tuition paid for (394) EH students to attend magnet schools and the transportation of EH students to magnet schools located in East Hartford. Magnet schools include (17) CREC schools, (2) LEARN/Goodwin College schools and (1) Hartford Public-Great Path Academy. Budget drivers are tuition rate increases, increasing enrollment, 7% magnet cap grant and the reduction of (1) bus. The Magnet schools represents 4.1% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**Information Systems - Roberta J. Pratt, Chief Information Officer**

Ms. Pratt presented the program overview and budget drivers for the district’s Information Systems. The program overview includes network server administration, hardware management/software applications, classroom technology support, voice/data, email, service and repair of laptops/PC/printers, maintenance/upgrade of software and licensing. Budget drivers include leveraging grants and support for electronic platforms and services. Information Systems represents 2.2% of the FY23 proposed budget.

**Human Resources - Christopher Wethje, Director**

Mr. Wethje presented the program overview and budget implications within the Human Resources Department. The program overview includes hiring/recruitment, labor relations/negotiations, substitute services and employee management/discipline. Budget implications were an increase to contract services (substitutes) based on statutory revisions to minimum wage. Human Resources represents 1.8% of the districts FY23 proposed budget.

Chairman Harris thanked Superintendent Quesnel and Cabinet team, on behalf of the Board, for the detailed program overview of the Superintendent’s proposed FY23 budget for East Hartford Public Schools. Chairman Harris thanked all of the meeting attendees and participants.

**MOTION**

By John Pereira  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (8:57 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.