



1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

Tel: (860) 622-5107

Fax: (860) 622-5119

www.easthartford.org

December 19, 2017

Honorable Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc
Town Hall
740 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Mayor Leclerc,

Please accept the following transmittal as an overview of the Board of Education's Proposed Budget for FY 2018-19. In alignment with our EH2020 vision, this budget was crafted to both promote *Schools that are the Pride of our Community* as well as strategically deliver a high quality learning experience for *Every Child, Every Day*. Developed in response to the current economic constraints facing our state and town, this proposed budget nets out at **\$90,436,419** (0.0% over the current year adopted budget). In submitting this budget, we would also like to recognize the town's and board's financial management teams who have worked collaboratively to negotiate the significant fiscal challenges that both bodies currently face. We sincerely appreciate the partnership and commitment to working together to find solutions that are shared between the Town and the Board of Education here in East Hartford.

In an effort to achieve this 0.0% budget increase, we have been forced to make challenging decisions regarding program reductions and staff layoffs. In a time where we continue to seek to do more for kids and families, these choices have been agonizing. As such, this proposal includes the reduction of 48.5 positions (19 currently frozen vacant positions and 29.5 additional reductions for the upcoming year) that span all levels, schools and district programs (see attached). In addition, this budget represents over \$100,000 of cuts to general and instructional supply accounts as well as library and textbook accounts. While these cuts have been extraordinarily difficult to make, we believe that they provide us the best roadmap possible to responding to current economic realities. Finally, it should be noted that this budget was developed based on the projections issued by the state of Connecticut in terms of current grant amounts. If these funding projections do not prove reliable, the current budget will again need to be further reduced.

Despite these challenges, we look forward to working with you and the Town Council to help our town, neighborhoods and schools continue to grow. We sincerely hope that as the town continues to move through its budget process, East Hartford will receive improved financial news and have the ability to appropriate additional funding to the Board of Education that would allow us to eliminate many of the painful cuts that are included in this budget proposal.

We look forward to working with you and the Town Council in the budget process as we continue to work hard on behalf of our children and families in East Hartford.

Sincerely,

Bryan R. Hall

Chairman, East Hartford Board of Education

Enc.

cc: Town Council Members

Board of Education Members

Michael Walsh, Town Finance Director