

Fairfield Public Schools, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Superintendent Proposed Budget

QAll Questions Session, Round 1

Sheet Name	#	Date	BOE Member	Page	Question	Response	Attachment Link
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A1	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	1	Intro Letter: Critical Investments: Infrastructure: "HVAC expansions at Burr elementary and other schools" What is this in reference to and what budget item?	The reference to "HVAC expansions at Burr Elementary and other schools" highlights examples of infrastructure improvements within the district. At Burr Elementary, we installed new high-efficiency boilers as part of our efforts to modernize and improve HVAC systems. Additionally, other schools have new equipment coming online, reflecting ongoing investments in infrastructure to enhance energy efficiency and climate control.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A2	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	1	Resident and Intern Program: Lists estimated \$120,000 savings. Can you please breakdown the \$120,000 savings?	The savings are in addition to the per-retiree savings from hiring new employees at lower salaries. Historically, we saved approximately \$30,000 per backfill position, but last year that figure dropped to \$15,000. We're counting on an additional \$15,000 in savings per backfill, assuming eight residents at \$15,000 per resident.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A3	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	1	Resident and Intern Program: Lists estimated savings but not cost. Is this the \$416,600 in Contracted Services, that was moved from Part Time employment	Yes, this amount covers the total for eight residents and 14 interns. It replaces the intern lines in the part-time personnel budget.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A4	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	2	Powerschool: Where do you anticipate the \$209,558 in savings within 5 years to be coming from by switching from Infinite Campus to Powerschool?	This estimate compares the total cost of PowerSchool and Infinite Campus over a five-year period (through the 2029-30 school year), including the expense of running both systems during the 2025-26 transition year, to identify the source of the projected \$209,558 in savings.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A5	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	2	Powerschool: The approximately \$79K per year savings, is that a contractual comparison between the two systems?	Yes, this is a direct comparison of annual licensing and maintenance costs between PowerSchool and Infinite Campus, showing approximately \$79,000 in yearly savings. These figures are reflected in the five-year cost analysis, which projects \$209,558 in total savings through the 2029-30 school year. This includes the one-time expense of running both systems during the 2025-26 transition year. We currently have \$10k budgeted for custom development with Infinite Campus not included in these savings costs. The intention is that once we are fully implemented with PowerSchool that we'd review the need to contract out development vs complete it in-house.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A6		Jacobsen, Jennifer	4	PPE. I have different numbers for the following years: 2017-2018: 79, 2018-2019: 71, 2023-2024: 56 ( same as 22-23). I have the CSDE sheets for each year if needed. Do you have a link to where the 2024-2025 number came from?	Following past practice, regional school districts were historically excluded from our ranking summary. Moving forward, if it's necessary to incorporate them, we will provide two sets of rankings: one that excludes regional school districts and another that includes them.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A7	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	1	Curriculum Enhancements: the \$347,000 for Gifted. 1) Can you please breakdown the total between the teacher and the transportation. 2) What is the location(s) where elementary and middle school students are proposed to be transported to?	Teacher - \$117,000; Transportation - \$230,000; The locations have not yet been determined for elementary. Middle school students are proposed to remain in the home school.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A8	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	1	Certified Staff Salary Schedule/7th Year Certified Course Completion: Can we please have more info on this? What is the basis for this estimate? What assumptions are we making in determining the net increase reflected in this budget book?	We have estimated the cost if all teachers who submitted paperwork prior to October 1 who have completed the necessary paperwork for course advancement. We are making an assumption that all teachers will complete the coursework as they have indicated.	

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Bud Enhance & Comparison	A9	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	1	Curriculum Enhancements/Gifted Curriculum: What are the estimated cost savings in consolidating elementary students in 2 locations (vs. providing the proposed program in 11 elementary schools)? It's my understanding that the FTE required to replicate the proposed elementary program in every school would far surpass the transportation costs and that the program itself will be enhanced by bringing together students from various schools. Can you please confirm these assumptions?	Yes, to offer the program in each elementary school from September through June, grades 3-5, more gifted teachers would need to be hired. We currently have 2.0 for 11 schools. We anticipate that an additional 3.0 FTE would need to be hired. This would cost approximately \$351,000 for elementary. A model with the students remaining at their elementary school would not be effective given the number of students identified in each building by grade level.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A10	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	1	Curriculum Enhancements/Art: I have advocated for the restoration of our elementary art program for several years. Please provide the cost of bringing the elementary art program back to the service levels provided pre-Covid.	The FTE increase would be approximately 1.0.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A11	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	1	Resident and Intern Program: How is this proposed initiative different from what we are doing now and are the savings tied to a reduction of interns and residents? Looking for more details on this proposed change.	The FY24-25 budget was based on 23 interns at an average cost of \$15,650 each. The proposed FY 25-26 budget includes eight residents at \$25,300 each and 14 interns at the current rate. This total is reduced by \$120,000 in savings, calculated at \$15,000 per resident backfill for eight residents.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A12	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	2	Technology Improvements: If we eliminate 1:1 Chromebooks in elementary schools 3-5, what cost savings might we see in the reduced need to purchase Chromebooks and charging carts? Can we have more details on the proposed expenses related to charging carts (number of carts needed, cost breakdown, grades, etc.)? Can you please share more details on the number and placement of interactive boards? Are they upgrades or expansions? Can you please share more details on the Music Labs and how they support our students?	1:1 Chromebooks -  Interactive Boards - 60 boards, these are replacements to existing projection technology in classrooms  Charging Carts - Refer to response L9  Music Labs - Refer to response L6"	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A13	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	2	Operational Efficiencies: Can you please share more details on the "reduction to curriculum development"? What does this mean?	There are a few areas that we have streamlined. For example, the program assessment account is 30K below last year's request. This is due to a change in STAMP testing. The instructional improvement account has ~\$60K fewer requested dollars to PD. There is also an ebb and flow to curriculum writing. For example, Technology education is now beyond its review and therefore does not require substantial hours (~ 44K).	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A14	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer		(I don't see the PTA Brown Bag meeting listed on the budget calendar; will CO still be hosting that?	The brown bag meeting will be held January 15 at 7 P.M. in the central office board room as part of the PTAC meeting to ensure increased participation than previous years.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A15	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	1	For the residency/internship program, do we have any latitude for concentrating in shortage areas?	We do, however, there are not candidates currently outside of special education as a shortage area.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A16	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	1	Why do the G&T enhancements make no reference to MS?	This is an oversight. It should include 1.0 teacher FTE at the middle school to implement the new program if approved.	

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Bud Enhance & Comparison	A17	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	2	Can you tell us more about GOGuardian and MagicSchool, including cost and expected ROI?	<p>GoGuardian and MagicSchool are strategic investments in our digital learning infrastructure:</p> <p><b>GoGuardian (\$76,540.00)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replaces our current Gaggle system while providing enhanced classroom monitoring capabilities, the suite product is named "GoGuardian Beacon."</li> <li>- Enables teachers to temporarily restrict district-issued devices to specific applications and websites during assessments</li> <li>- Represents a \$38,040 increase from our current combined expenses of GoGuardian (\$1,000) and Gaggle (\$37,500) in 2024-25</li> <li>- Expected ROI: Strengthens academic integrity by preventing AI-assisted cheating, reduces time spent on manual monitoring, and provides better insights into student device usage</li> </ul> <p><b>MagicSchool (\$24,000.00)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serves as our standard AI platform for staff</li> <li>- Provides tools for both instructional delivery and administrative tasks</li> <li>- Expected ROI: Increases teacher productivity through automated administrative tasks, enhances lesson planning efficiency, and provides modern AI-powered teaching tools to improve student engagement and learning outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Total investment: \$100,540.00</b></p> <p>The combined ROI of these platforms is expected to manifest in improved test integrity, reduced administrative overhead, enhanced teaching effectiveness, and better alignment with modern educational technology standards. While the initial investment is significant, these tools should help future-proof our digital infrastructure while providing benefits to classroom management.</p>	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A18	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	2	I am putting the question here but hope to resolve it myself upon completing the budget book....but can we please have a comprehensive breakdown of all things related to tech in the schools (new investments) and the manner in which the district would prioritize them?	Charging carts for Grades 4 & 5, PowerSchool, Music Labs for the High Schools, GoGuardian and MagicSchool.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A19	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	2	Again, assuming I will get the answer to this question further in but what is this year's "expansion" of in-district SPED programming?	The in-district special education program expansions during the 24-25 school year include the addition of three new preschool classrooms, expansion to a third site at Holland Hill School and the addition of a full day four year-old preschool program option at each location. Additionally, our first cohort of students from The Literacy Academy entered sixth grade this year and are being programmed for in their home schools. Finally, this year a small cohort of CPP students are participating in a program two days per week at SCSU to focus on their specific post-secondary transition needs.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A20	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	2	Can we have more details in the reduction for curr. dev. and the program assessments?	Program Assessments reductions include a reduction to STAMP testing. Curriculum Development Account includes a reduction for kindergarten play-based materials (one time purchase).	

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Bud Enhance & Comparison	A21		Flynn, Kathryn	2	1:1 Chromebook Program - Can you provide the cost breakdown to reduce the funding to accommodate only for in school use for 3/4/5 Grade students and 1:1 devices for each student	By keeping devices on campus, we anticipate significantly lower damage rates. Based on historical data from similar programs, we project approximately a 50% reduction in breakage incidents for these grade levels. This reduction stems from several factors:  Devices stay in controlled classroom environments Less frequent transport means fewer drops and accidents School-based storage solutions provide better protection Teachers can maintain closer oversight of device handling  We've already incorporated these projected savings into the revised budget. The new figures account for both the modified usage model and the anticipated decrease in repair and replacement costs. This adjustment maintains appropriate device access for students while optimizing our resource allocation.	
Bud Enhance & Comparison	A22		Flynn, Kathryn	2	How long with Infinite Campus need to be run within the district while transitioning to Power School, is there a cost break down of this?	One year	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B1	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	7	You provide the relevant state mandates, but no dollar amounts to declare their budgetary impact for Fairfield. I would think several of these would have 0 dollars attached.	The relevant special education mandate includes the increase in the eligible age for special education services, Public Act No. 23-137, effective July 1, 2023. and the reduction in excess cost reimbursement and not actually a mandate, rather a decrease in the Excess Cost grant appropriation leading to radical underfunding.	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B2	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	203	Which staff members are most impacted by the creation of the Student Success Plans?	This did not impact us from previous years. We will delete from the Board budget book.	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B3	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	203	What is FPS's approach with the School Climate Surveys? Anything different from what we have been using? Do they include space for open-ended questions/responses?	There is no budget impact. We are awaiting the release of the model state school climate survey from CAFE, which CAFE reported to us should be released sometime in February 2025. Once released the school climate committee will review the survey and determine if this will be the survey that will be utilized by the district.	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B4	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	206	What is the reasoning behind, and impact of, discontinuing the school bus monitoring?	The reasoning behind the state's decision to discontinue school bus monitoring systems is unclear. However, in Fairfield, we do not currently utilize these systems and do not have any plans to implement them in the future.	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B5	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	7	Is there anything new about the "investment in a residency program to mentor entry-level, highly qualified teachers?	No, there is nothing new.	
Exec. Summary, Drivers & Mandates	B6		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer		Blank - question deleted or not entered		
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C1	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	15-17	Is there a reason Gifted was removed from teachers for each school v leaving them in and showing 0 for 25-26? It appears as though they were not living there up until now and then also adjusts the budget over budget by school as a result by not leaving them in but shown as a 0 for next year.	Yes, the gifted was centralized into a single account. The gifted FTE increases by +1.0.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C2	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	15-17	Teachers Classroom: What do all of the +/- .10 adjustments in the column 24-25 Mod FTE represent?	Those account for enrollment adjustments in the special areas.	

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Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C3				Blank - question deleted or not entered		
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C4	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	18	#62: Pupil Personnel Services: Teachers- Classroom 4.20 FTE. What teachers are these and where are they located?	This is a combination of BCBA's, Assistive Technology teachers, and transition specialists that support district wide programming.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C5	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	22	#60 Instructional Services. What is this position?	This is the data/assessment coordinator.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C6	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	22	Pupil Personnel Services: Teachers - Psychologist 1.2 FTE. Psychologists are listed in each school. Where does this 1.2 serve?	The FTE for the psychologists are for district wide support that covers based on need.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C7	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	25	#60 Instructional Services: Program Directors: 24-25 budgeted FTE 4.0. 24-25 Modified FTE 5.0. What unbudgeted Program Director was added this year? Why is the salary amount listed the same for 4.0 as 5.0? What Program Director is the reduction back down to 4.0 for 25-26 Proposed?	This adjustment corrects an error in the current modified budget and has been addressed in the proposed budget. It pertains to the Music Director position that was approved by the board.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C8	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	25-26	Central Admin Staff, Director/Supervisor/Manager Salary % increases: For 24-25 all of the positions had a 3.5% increase except Super and IT. This year there are 3 different percentages for different people ranging from a high of 3.5% for Super down to 2.5% (understood there is a change to IT on that one) . What is the rationale of moving away from the same percentage to 3 different ones?	Different market trends by position.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C9	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	25-26	Central Admin Staff, Director/Supervisor/Manager Salary % increases: What is the cost to have all positions here have a 3% increase as the other building administrators have for next year?	It would be \$7,773 to go from 2.5 to 3% for Director and Exec. Director positions currently at 2.5%	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C10	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	30-31	Paraeducators: Recently were told that each Kindergarten classroom has a para. Is that a dedicated para for each K classroom, that remains with that class or does that para float and cover other classrooms/duties?	Each kindergarten class is allocated a dedicated .6 paraeducator.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C11	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	30	#16: Jennings Para-SPED. What is the reason for the reduction of 5 paras here from the 15 FTE budgeted this year to 10 modified FTE this year and 10 next year? Where did the 5 we budgeted for Jennings go this year?	Staffing is done annually based on need and enrollment.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C12	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	32	#52 ECC PARA-Sped. The 8 additional paras this year and next year, are these 1:1 this year and for next year?	6 of the additional ECC paras this year were reallocated to three additional ECC classroom added during the 24-25 school year (2 classroom paras per additional class) and the 2 additional paras were added based on student needs	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C13	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	39-42	Part time Employment: The defunding of Teacher Subs-SPED, Para Subs- Regular and Para Subs -SPED across schools, while increasing Teacher subs: Can you shed a little more color please on this proposal? We are not going to have these positions covered any longer? If yes, who then would cover these roles?	The subs are budgeted based on building need. There is an increase to the substitute budget. We do not provide daily substitute coverage for paraprofessionals.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C14	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	39-44	Part time Employment: Interns at all schools being defunded under Part time employment and moved to Contracted services. Can you share what the difference in the mechanics of hiring and paying these roles by making this change? (My other questions on this proposal will come under contracted services)	The interns are contracted staff. The budget has been corrected to show them as contracted, rather than part time staff.	

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Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C15	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	39-44	Part Time Employment: Why were the interns at Dwight, Jennings, McKinley, Riverfield, Stratfield, Woods, RLMS, Tomlinson, FLHS and Warde significantly decreased this year than budgeted? Does this relate to the 174,396K in contracted services for this year that was unbudgeted on pg.61?	Refer to the explanation above — these costs have been shifted from personnel to contracted services. There has been a decrease in the number of interns provided by colleges and universities. The current year’s contract budget includes funding for the resident program, while interns are still funded through the previous account. The proposed FY 25-26 budget includes funding for both the intern and resident programs.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C16	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	44	#60: Instructional Services Teacher Subs. New Line item for next year for \$107,547. Since teacher subs are in the school budgets what is this for and where?	This is accounting for teaching overages in circumstances where need a certified teacher to cover a long-term absence.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C17	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	43	Para subs regular and para subs sped at the high schools are increasing while not funding them in the elementary and middle school budgets. Can we get a little more color on why at the high schools this is not the case?	This reflects the elimination of the "para-subs" from the budget, reducing the original allocation from \$212K to \$25K. Our year-to-date (YTD) actuals are approximately \$4K, as we still require a small number of para-subs to cover one-to-one absences. These funds are held in secondary accounts, as it is difficult to predict where the needs will arise next year.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C18	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	45	#67: Personnel Services: Teacher Subs EXT Absence: This year's budget is the same as approved, but there is a \$245K increase for next year proposed? If we are flat this year in this item what is the reasoning for this amount of increase?	The data indicate that we are seeing more teacher absences. We did not have this information at the time the budget was developed last year. As you can see reviewing prior year actuals, the funds account for the anticipated increases next year.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C19	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	46	The two Extra Curricular Salaries HS, \$68,565 (no increases at MS level) Is this due to new activities that are launching next year or what is the reasoning on these?	Yes, the increase is for additional activities planned at the high schools next school year.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C20	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	127	#52 ECC Last year we added 3 classrooms to ECC for the 2024-2025 school year: 2 at HH and 1 at Stratfield for a total of 13 ECC/ECC CLC classrooms in operation. Understood we did not know how the new Kindergarten cut off date would shake out with enrollment. As of the January enrollment Warde and Stratfield have the same enrollment it had the year prior ( 205 students January 2024, 204 students January 2025) but with an additional classroom being operated at Stratfield. Now that we do know how enrollment has shaken out, what is the justification for keeping the 5th ECC classroom at Stratfield for the 2025-2026 school year?	Not only did we add ECC classrooms this year, but we changed our model. Instead of every classroom offering (2) half day sessions, we now have 6 classrooms across three ECC sites that offer full-day programming. This impacts how enrollment is considered. At Stratfield we now have two full-day classrooms, two half-day classrooms and a CLC classroom, resulting in the same net number of “seats” at Stratfield ECC as we had last year with 3 half day classrooms. If a classroom were to be cut, we would not be able to meet the needs of students.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C21	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer		8 CLC's at Elementary Schools. Per the budget presentation there are 57 students in the 8 elementary CLC's. The 8th was added last year outside of the budget at Jennings. Knowing that the cap is 10 for CLC's and we have 57 students currently that can fit into 6 per the cap, what is the justification for running 8 this year and keeping 8 for the 2025-2026 school year?	Students enrolled in CLC classrooms have a wide range of learning needs. Having two CLCs at each elementary school allows for flexibility in grouping students from year to year based on students needs as well as allows students with disabilities to be educated among their nondisabled peers within their neighborhood feeder patterns. CLC enrollments can fluctuate from year to year.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C22	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	159	Are the 30 CPP students counted as grade 12 being re-located to WFC?	yes	

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Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C23	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	159	The 256 classroom-based ECC students is the same projection as this year. How is that being broken down by the 13 classrooms?	The 13 ECC classrooms includes 2 full day four-year classrooms at Holland Hill, 2 full day four-year old classroom at Stratfield, 2 half-day classrooms at Stratfield and 1 CLC classroom at Stratfield , 2 full day four-year old classrooms at Warde, 3 half day classrooms at Warde and 1 CLC classroom at Warde. Each ECC section is considered "full" utilizing a guideline of 16 students. There are 11 instructional classrooms and 2 CLC classrooms in total across ECC sites	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C24	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	159	The 256 classroom based ECC students: Is that Oct. 1 count or end of year?	No - see answer above	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C25	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	161	Historical Enrollment: These are Oct. 1 Counts- not capturing in migration during the year correct?	Yes	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C26	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	161	The notation on 2023-2024 Pre-K enrollment of 180. Where did we capture that we ended that year with 243?	We capture Pre-K data in the monthly enrollment and Infinite Campus. The figures are updated for the October enrollment, which is not at full capacity. The projected amount takes into account the previous year's enrollment for the number of seats needed.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C27	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	161	Where do we capture on this page students not in buildings such as CPP, Outplacements, full time magnet, service only ECC, others? How many students are projected in total in these categories not counted in "enrollment" but are included in our budget?	We currently do not capture this data in the budget book.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C28	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	172	The new Humanities Coach and MTSS positions, which two high school positions were restructured into these two positions?	Both positions were created as a combination of reductions in FTE due to course enrollments.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C29	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	172	On what page are the Humanities Coach and MTSS positions located?	They are in the teacher line for FTE at the respective high schools.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C30	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	172	the 4.83 High School Enrollment Adjustments- what positions make up the 4.83?	Reductions in Art - 1.0 FTE, Tech Ed -1.0 FTE, Health -0.1FTE, Science -1.0 FTE, Social Studies - 0.4FTE, World Language -1.2FTE, and English 1.5FTE. Increases in Business Ed +1 FTE.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C31	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	172	The reduction of 2.0 Psych/Counselor and SW. We were asked to add these for this year and were a part of the extra hiring last year, why are they being reduced?	The current year budget increases psych/SW by 1.7 based on need. The next year budget is adjusted so the year over impact is +0.3.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C32	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	172	Correction for Prog. Director- what position is this and what is the correction?	Music Director, it is corrected for next year's budget. He was being counted twice in the budget line in the current modified budget.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C33	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	178	Assessments: Kindergarten Screener- DIAL. Is this the Kindergarten inventory?	This is the assessment currently given to the families requesting a waiver to enter kindergarten as a four year old.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C34	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	183	Technology Instructional Software: How many underutilized products were removed roughly? Increased IXL licenses are due to?	Three(3) programs were removed (Turnitin, Make Math Moments and Noteflight(music), and four(4) were added (Dorico Pro, ASB Classroom, MagicSchool and Lexile).  IXL - Additional licenses were added to align with the current District usage both in and out of school.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C35	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	39-44	Can you please clarify whether or not we are regularly hiring Para Subs (Regular and SPED) during the current budget year? I know it's budgeted, but are we actively hiring for these positions as needed? Can you please give a rationale for not needing to fill these positions next year?	We do not hire for daily subs for paraprofessionals. We hire for daily teacher subs.	

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Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C36	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	39-44	Can you please explain why we would remove the "Interns" line for each school? Does the new budget propose that each intern would be dedicated to a specific school, as they are in the current budget? It looks like there may be an overall reduction in the number of interns proposed. If so, can you please explain where the reductions will be made (what schools) and the rationale?	We budget for them centrally now, based on school need. Yes, there is an overall reduction in interns based on the lack of candidates provided by colleges and universities.	
Staff Salaries & Enrollment	C37	1/13/2025	Krasnoff, David		Is there a reason G+T needs to add a full FTE if they are going to be at central locations? Could we possibly hire a teacher's assistant instead?	The additional FTE is for the middle school which are remaining in their home building.	
Instructional Svcs	E1	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	53	Program Assessment: What is the source of the \$31,400 reduction?	This is a reduction to STAMP testing.	
Instructional Svcs	E2	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	54	#62: PROF EXP Other. Can you please breakdown the \$1.2 million overall ask into what that is covering and the \$409K increase?	This line item includes our contract with CREC for our Teacher of the Deaf, contracted Behavior Techs to support students within district who otherwise would likely require out placement, various academic and specialized support services through the PPT process, and specialized evaluations that are recommended through the PPT process. The large majority of this increase is primarily due to the cost of the behavior techs to maintaining student programming within district as well as the cost of the teacher of the deaf to address the increased needs in the number of students requiring this support.	
Instructional Svcs	E3	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	54	The @2million for PT/OT. We have broached this subject before, but have we revisited in-house staff for these positions?	Several years ago prior to changing vendors we considered the possibility of hiring our own OT and PT staff vs continuing to contract for these services, It was determined at that time to continue to contract for OT and PT services.	
Instructional Svcs	E4	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	54	#00 All District NEW line item Sports Costs -Secondary \$180,057 is the Rental funding being moved from Contracted Services?	This is a new budget line for co-op programs. We added a new line for co-op and removed the budget from the respective schools. It includes 160,057 for coop rentals and 20,000 for coop equipment. A small amount of school-based rental funds remains within the buildings for school-based rentals.	
Instructional Svcs	E5	1/10/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	54	#00 All District NEW line item Sports Costs -Secondary \$176,153 for this current year, looks like the change from contracted services to the instructional services was made this year. Can we get a breakdown of this years \$176,153 in the rental costs please. Is there a reason that some of the rentals are staying in contracted services v being moved here as well?	See page 180-182 for breakdown.	
Instructional Svcs	E6	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	52	Will we be looking to put our OT services out to bid any time? How is our current service evaluated?	We are currently not going out to bid for OT services, Special education administration meets monthly with our OT /PT provider to discuss services in our schools.	
Instructional Svcs	E7		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	52	Another reference to our expansion of services in-district...what is the expansion?	see response to question 20	
Instructional Svcs	E8		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	54	At this point in time, why is the cost continuing to rise for Consultation Services? I know this was a huge pressure point coming out of Covid, but why is it continuing to increase?	The primary driver of this increase is the increase in consultation services from Literacy How to support programming at the middle school Literacy Academy as well as with the rising cost of outside evaluations that are recommended through the PPT process.	



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Instructional Svcs	E9		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	124	line 301 - with declining enrollment, why do both HSs go up for this line? Also, please remind me of the current rate for all school levels for PPE?	The total budget given to each high school did decrease based on enrollment and the high school head principals provide allocations based on the needs for each school. The per pupil allocation was \$136, \$162, and \$477 per pupil for elementary, middle, and high school, respectively.	
Instructional Svcs	E10		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	128	62.303 What aspect of this line is in any way discretionary? As in choices were made...and therefore choices could be discussed?	Decisions on expenditures in this area are primarily PPT driven. This area includes OT, PT, contracted speech and nursing services based on mandated IEP requirements, as well as mandated audiological services. This area also includes all our consultation services to support in-district specialized programs such as CLC programs, The Literacy Academy and IMPACT. Consultation / contracted services may periodically go out to bid in an effort to maintain high quality in-district services at competitive costs.	
Instructional Svcs	E11		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	177	Just wondering: why we need to rent space for art shows, with all the buildings to which we have access....why can't curriculum implementation guide writing be done during department time this entire spring? This would also enlarge the pool of participating teachers...\$23,000 MTSS K-5 ELA work -- again, why can't this be done or worked on this spring?.....I'll stop picking out each dept., but I would like an explanation for why (with exceptions for social studies, LMC, and World language) why this curr. development cannot be done during spring dept. time?	The district uses the Pequot library, which is a space large enough to set-up, display, and break-down, without affecting any school space. Curriculum work does occur during department time after school, but this time is insufficient to complete full curriculum reviews and implementation among other competing initiatives. Funding for MTSS K-5 was listed in error and is no longer being requested. That work will take place during school hours.	
Instructional Svcs	E12		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	177	Similar to final question in above box....with a budget such as nice, I am questioning all the travel to the various conferences. Having been to one, I am not sold on their value to the district. (also, I cannot recall: why is there also a separate section on "Conf./Travel" in addition to what we have here for Instructional Services?	Conf/Travel is a school based account and therefore is separate and instructional conferences is department requested PD.	
Instructional Svcs	E13		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	178	The \$124K for social studies texts/materials -- what is meant by "gap year" and why are we spending so much for a cure. we are just about to review?	A gap year is the lapse in account access before the curriculum review is complete. Many textbook companies only allow a six year account access whereas the district updates curriculum every 10 years.	
Instructional Svcs	E14		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	178	What could we save by reducing non-PSAT/SAT assessments in high school? difference between NWEA and Acadience?	The difference is approximately \$7,000.	
Instructional Svcs	E15		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	177	Just signaling early an interest in seeing reductions for these two pages; I do not see the benefit entirely to the district, and I think this represents under-utilized department time all spring.	Okay	
Instructional Svcs	E16		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	177	Why such a sizable increase for LA 6-12 for texts/materials?	These funds are for trade books. In last year's budget cycle new titles were purchased that were needed immediately to support new 6-12 ELA curriculum. Purchases of the text titles that were no longer in usable condition were also prioritized. This includes the second core text grade levels agreed upon in the fall. This year, we are focusing on replacing the texts that are in poor condition for other titles that continue to be used. To offset this cost, budget requests were not made in other areas for secondary ELA.	

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Instructional Svcs	E17		Flynn, Kathryn	53	There is a large gap between funding for Freshman Orientation between Warde and Ludlowe, do those programs look different at each school?	These are school based allocations at the discretion of the building principals.	
Instructional Svcs	E18		Flynn, Kathryn	54	Line 62 - Prof Exp Other - Can you breakdown the cost for this line item?	This line item includes our contract with CREC for our Teacher of the Deaf, contracted Behavior Techs to support students within district who otherwise would likely require out placement, various academic and specialized support services through the PPT process, and specialized evaluations that are recommended through the PPT process.	
Contracted Services	F1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	57/61	Page 57 and 61 discusses the Intern/Residency Shift from part time employment to contracted services. On page 57 the increase to Personnel Services describes 22 individuals under this initiative ( 8 residents and 14 interns). Currently, we have 24 individuals budgeted in part time employment (23 interns: 1 at each elementary school, 2 at each middle school, 3 at warde and Ludlowe each, plus 1 resident) for a decrease of 2 under the proposal. 2024-2025 budgeted amount for 24 individuals is \$391,057. Proposed is \$416,600 for 22 individuals. The proposal for next year describes a \$120,000 cost savings. How is the \$120,000 cost savings calculated?	This is all correct, the savings is based on hiring for entry level positions, the net with the current attrition assumption. The interns were shifted into the districtwide account with the resident program.	
Contracted Svcs	F2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	57/61	Resident/Intern: Can you please describe the difference in roles for a Resident versus an Intern.	The residency model is similar to that of the medical field - where theory and previous learning from education courses is enacted and practiced in a real classroom setting. Upon completing the residency year, residents will be certified to teach in Connecticut and will be ready for employment at the Fairfield Public Schools. Interns are limited to a semester and work in a variety of classroom settings.	
Contracted Svcs	F3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	60	Resident/Intern: In part time employment we can see where each intern is ( Burr, Dwight, Woods etc. ) and the amount of money for each is listed under each school. This shift has one sum of money that is not broken down by position, location, or amount. Can you please break down the \$416,600 by: location, number of individuals at each location, and cost per individual.	The budget for the resident/intern program was shifted to a districtwide account to reflect the planning each year. As noted, we budgeted for 23 interns, but have only 14 this year.	
Contracted Svcs	F4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	57	Resident/Intern. The description on page 57 states "expansion of the Sacred Heart Teacher Residency Program" Does this mean that we will solely be taking residents/interns from Sacred Heart?	No, we have residents from Sacred Heart and various interns from other institutions.	
Contracted Svcs	F5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	57	Why would the district want to expand the Sacred Heart residency program while reducing interns in part time employment, when there are other schools that offer the same teacher certification areas as Sacred Heart, plus additional certification areas that Sacred Heart does not offer?	No other colleges or universities offer a resident program. We take interns from other colleges and universities.	
Contracted Svcs	F6	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	60	Recruitment. There is a 10.64% proposed reduction to the recruitment line budget to budget. This year shows a flat use of the budgeted funds. What recruitment strategy/activities are being reduced from what we currently have budgeted?	As part of our revised recruitment strategy, we will be reducing the duration of our billboard marketing campaign for the 2025-2026 school year.	

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Contracted Svcs	F7	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	57	On our HR website there is information for student teaching, internships and practicums that is open to anyone interested. Does this shift to contracted services from part time employment alter that in any way? Would a contract not be enabling/limiting to what is in the contract?	This shift does not impact the availability or accessibility of student teaching, internship, or practicum. These educational opportunities remain open to all interested candidates.	
Contracted Svcs	F8	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	60	what is the reason interns/residents can't stay in part time employment v contracted services?	Because they are not part time staff. Part time staff indicates that they are paid through our payroll. They are actually paid through a contract and should not be in the salary line.	
Contracted Svcs	F9	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	60	#67 Resident/Intern: The \$174,396 in the 24-25 Rev Budget: From what line(s) did those funds come from, broken down by line please.	From the various intern accounts (11-2210-205-100, 300, 520, 560, 580, 630, 710, 730, 750, 770, 850, 910, 940, 960)	
Contracted Svcs	F10	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	60	#67: Resident/Intern: the \$174,396 in the 24-25 REV Budget: To what are these funds allocated, broken down by position, dollar amounts, and location(s)?	See link	<a href="#">Intern Resident allocation.xlsx</a>
Contracted Svcs	F11	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	57	We have to pay exam proctors; do we receive any payment from College Board? Or do we support this as a convenience for our students? (not that we can guarantee them access)	This is not for exam proctors, to be corrected. This is for internal suspension proctors - paying 192 hours for proctors at \$45/hour on Saturdays.	
Contracted Svcs	F12	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	57	p. 56 indicates 307 increases by \$11K, but p. 57 indicates \$8K...	That will be corrected. It should read 11,090, not 8,090.	
Contracted Svcs	F13		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	57	How did we not fully fund WFC security in last year's budget? where is this FTE indicated in the support pages, for 309?	The security guard position can be found on page 36, department 50. This role was removed as we now have a Restorative Practice Interventionist in place, which has proven to be a much more effective approach.	
Contracted Svcs	F14	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	57	p. 57 indicates \$120K in savings. First, that seems like a bit of a ghost figure, in that it requires a significant assumption. Second, I understand there's a transfer from a personnel line, but the budget book still needs to reflect this budget increase of \$107K; currently, it indicates there is 0% increase.	The savings won't be reflected in this specific line, as it represents a new combined line for the intern/resident program. The total net change compares this year's intern program budget to next year's combined intern/resident program budget. The savings come from hiring last year's residents at a rate of \$15,000 per resident.	
Contracted Svcs	F15	1/13/2025	Krasnoff, David	58	Being that most of the large contracts were negotiated last year why do we have a large increase in Legal Fees	We account for a 2.5% need in legal services based on historical trends.	
Transport	G1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	62	What is the 5.02% increase in transportation based on?	The 5.02% increase in transportation costs was based on the most accurate and reliable information available at the time of budget preparation. While we recognized there were some risks associated with this percentage, it reflected the data and projections we had at that point.  We continue to receive updated information daily and are actively monitoring the situation.	
Transport	G2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	62	From the evening of the presentation, do we have additional information at this time on the new contract?	As of now, we have not received the updated numbers for the new contract.	
Transport	G3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	62	Given that we have been told that transportation contracts are coming in higher than 5%, what was the reasoning for using this number in the proposed budget?	The 5.02% increase in transportation costs was based on the most accurate and reliable information available at the time of budget preparation. While we recognized there were some risks associated with this percentage, it reflected the data and projections we had at that point.	

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Transport	G4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	63	We are running with 8 less busses than is ideal and what we have run in the past, what are the current challenges surrounding this for our district and students?	Running with eight fewer buses than ideal presents several challenges for our district and students. We continue to face difficulties fulfilling charters and field trip requests, and we are experiencing delays and longer bus runs to and from school. To accommodate the reduced fleet, we are frequently forced to adjust and configure routes on a daily basis to make operations as seamless as possible. Despite these efforts, the strain on our transportation system is evident, and we are working to address these issues to minimize the impact on our students and families.	
Transport	G5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	63	I understand budgeting realistically due to the ongoing shortage but what would this line item be if we had the 119 busses?	If we were to add the eight buses back, using the average cost of a two-tier bus, it would add approximately \$600,000 to this line item. This is based on the current cost structure for a two-tier bus.	
Transport	G6	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	66	#65 Transportation: TRANSP-BUS AIDES-SPED: This years budget for this item is flat: What is the \$194,910 23% increase proposed for next year attributed to?	The proposed \$194,910 (23%) increase for TRANSP-BUS AIDES-SPED is primarily attributed to the rising costs of bus aides. Additionally, the increase reflects the need for two additional buses with aides next year to accommodate scheduling requirements at Holland Hill for the ECC program along with the addition of a half-day/full-day program at Warde.	
Transport	G7	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	66	#65 Transportation: TRANSP-SPED SUMMER School. What is the \$194,151 63.33% increase proposed for next year attributed to?	The proposed \$194,151 (63.33%) increase for TRANSP-SPED SUMMER SCHOOL is attributed to the rising costs of transportation and bus aides. The rising costs of transportation and bus aids as well as more students attending ESY.	
Transport	G8	1/12/2025	Guernsey, Carol	62	Will the Superintendent be proposing any adjustments to the Student Transportation budget estimate, given the new information regarding the challenges of extending our current contract?	Yes, when they are made available.	
Transport	G9	1/13/2025	Krasnoff, David	62	Is the transportation for Gifted included in this number? Do we have a specific breakdown of this?	Yes, it is \$230,000 is included.	
Tuition	H1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	68, 69, 196	<a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ddksgj-L6_xPV8W6HbDtl6p9_W9XcwSW/edit?gid=1737579062#gid=1737579062">Magnet School Tuition: Can we please have the Magnet school enrollment chart from last year updated with 2024-2025 Actuals and the 2025-2026 Proposed Budgeted: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ddksgj-L6_xPV8W6HbDtl6p9_W9XcwSW/edit?gid=1737579062#gid=1737579062</a>	See link	<a href="#">MagnetSchoolEnrollment Projections2025-2026</a>
Tuition	H2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	68	What is the basis for the 68% reimbursement rate? Were we given that for 2025-2026 from the state?	We actually budget this year at 62%, in spite of the previous year's capped amount at 68%. This needs to be adjusted on page 68. Our actual reimbursement rate in 23-24 was closer to 66.7%. The December 1 ECS estimates are for a 64.4% reimbursement for FY 24-25, and potentially as low as 60-62% in FY 25-26.	
Tuition	H3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	69	#62: Pupil Personnel Services: Tuition - Out of District: We budgeted 70% reimbursement rate for excess cost in this years budget and that is listed as flat. The Proposed 2025-2026 budget includes an estimated 117 outplaced students (page 179) , 17 less than budgeted this year, so is this increase due to higher rates at the placements?	Yes and less projected excess cost reimbursement.	
Tuition	H4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	69	We were told that we received the rates for this year in July, well past budget adoption and that the range in increases was 3%-9%. Have we received any rates to date from the out of district placements for next year?	We have not received 25-26 tuition rates from outplacements as of 1/13/2025	

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Tuition	H5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	69	If we have not received out of district tuition rates as of yet, and we are budgeting for less outplaced students, what is the basis of the 4.37% increase in tuition? Looking for if there is any risk in that number if we have not received the rates yet.	Less excess cost reimbursement projected and increased out placed tuitions	
Tuition	H6	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	179	Out of District Placements: Unlike other parts of the budget the chart on 179 does not contain years prior budget and actuals. A trend line on our total outplacement students budget to actuals would highlight that the numbers of students we are budgeting for has come down each of the last 3 years, and from our peak in 2022-2023 - a nod I would hope from the programming that has been invested in to serve students in district. Would it be possible to get a trend line pre-pandemic through this year of budgeted outplacement counts to actual and the estimated for 2025-2026 - say 2017-2018 school year forward?	Yes, we can provide this information.	
Tuition	H7		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	179	How many of these out-of-district placements are for students who COULD be served by our in-district programs, but our programs are full? Or are unilaterally placed?	I am not aware of a case where a student has been out placed as a result of an in-district program being at capacity enrollment. FPS staff is always looking to return students to public school when appropriate and collaborates with parents to prepare students in such cases. At times a student may be unilaterally placed by parents despite being offered an appropriate program by the district. The district attempts to resolve these cases through a Resolution Meeting of Mediation.	
Tuition	H8		Flynn, Kathryn	69	Similar to Jen's question above can we get a general breakdown of out of district placements and tuition rates? It would be helpful to see an inclusion of rates year over year to see that tuition increase on their end.	see attachments (outplaced / in-district cost comparison with summary sheets 23-24 & 24-25)	<a href="#">24-25 Cost avoidance of in district program v. outplacement tuitions</a>  <a href="#">23-24 Cost avoidance of in district program v. outplacement tuitions</a>
Oth Purch Srvc	I1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	75	#60: Instructional Services: 24-25 REV Budget- from where did the additional @77K come from and what was it needed for?	Funds were repurposed from elementary texts/materials to support the K-5 literacy work that evolved during the year for school literacy leadership teams. Grant money then supported the texts/materials' items.	
Oth Purch Srvc	I2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	75	#66: Technology Services: IS the \$38,242 increase here for the training for PowerSchool?	Yes, PowerSchool training for the initial onboarding year. 2026-27 we expect a reduction due to being able to leverage in-district Personnel to facilitate additional trainings.	
Oth Purch Srvc	I3	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	71	The description of 327 on p71 says \$90,750, but the actual bottom line on p78 is \$90,730	Will correct, thank you.	
Oth Purch Srvc	I4	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	71	Can you help me understand better where the overall savings for switching to MFDs appears? The Tech backup (p183) references a reduction of \$118,951, citing desktop printer reductions, but it's hard to tease out of that single line.	The significant cost reduction stems from replacing our previous desktop printer maintenance contract with a new contract, reflecting the decreased number of desktop printers throughout the district. There is an increase to the number of contracts, resulting in a net reduction.	See link

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Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80/88	World Language Textbooks: Why is the \$603K not staying in the Textbook category of 411 and instead noted in 401?	The textbooks are in 401 so that they are allocated to the actual department's account for text/materials versus the 411 textbook district account which formerly only included MLL. MLL will be included in 411 to avoid confusion.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	401; The \$59,000 for Social Studies materials. What materials is this buying?	This account includes Fairfield Museum field trips and textbook subscriptions which will expire at the end of the year and before a new curriculum is proposed.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	401: The \$70,000 for Science Materials. What materials is this buying?	This is the renewal of digital licenses for AP Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science textbooks..	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	401: \$22,889 increase in instructional software- please breakdown the \$22,889 between the inflationary v the new programs.	Three(3) programs were removed (Turnitin, Make Math Moments and Noteflight(music), and four(4) were added (Dorico Pro, ASB Classroom, MagicSchool and Lexile).  IXL - Additional licenses were added to align with the current District usage both in and out of school.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	401: What is MagicSchool- which subject area(s) and grades is this for? What is the 1st year and ongoing costs?	MagicSchool licenses will be limited to secondary schools, at \$24,000 per year. The contract operates on a yearly renewal basis. Costs would only increase if we extend licensing to include primary school staff. Leading AI platform for education, Tailored for teachers/students with safety features, and helps to Promote the responsible AI use.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J6	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	What is Read and Write Gold, which subjects area(s) and grades is this for? What is the first year and ongoing cost?	We purchase Read and Write Gold as part of a bundle with Equatio (estimated \$17K), used in SPED for. This is used with students with disabilities in all grades and is a primary tool for students with dyslexia. This tool offers text to speech, speech to text, PDF editing, word prediction, note taking among other things.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J7	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80	What is SchoolLinks, what subject area(s) and grades is this for? What is the 1st year and ongoing costs?	This replaced Naviance, and is currently only used at the High School Level. The cost is \$25,907.18, which is about 12% cheaper than our previous Naviance contract.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J8	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	80/90	404: \$17,900..."to support the addition of new classrooms". What new classrooms is this referencing? What is the \$17,900 increase purchasing.	With the addition of three new ECC classrooms during the 2024-25 school year and the implementation of the new ELA curriculum ECC staff is requesting additional supplies and materials to support student programming.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J9	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	90	If we are shifting items out of 411 60/62 and into other Supplies/Materials categories, as mentioned in the description page, why isn't this line zero? Shouldn't we be simply closing this category out?	Yes, we should close this out to be consistent. This will be reflected in the board budget.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J10	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	80	Several elementaries are seeing a notable increase in Obj 400 expenses for "General & Office" (McK, NSS, OHS, RSS)...is there something they've been missing or is this normal noise in the category?	These are school-based accounts. The schools were asked to review prior year expenses to more closely allocate based on need, so perhaps that is why we see shifts.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J11	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	85	400/30 should read "Fairfield Woods" vs current "Wood"	Thanks will correct.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J12	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	80	Why does this page indicate \$59,000 for SS texts, but p. 178 indicates \$124K (a few more items are indicated, but not \$65K worth... And then p 88 indicates \$119K	This budget (SS Txt/Mtls) includes the renewal of textbook subscriptions in addition to other line items such as the Fairfield Museum Field Trips (grades 3 & 5). The number on page 80's introduction is only the year over year difference.	

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Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J13	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	80	What prompted the move from our presentation number of \$55K for author visits to a \$80K increase? (or am I remembering incorrectly)	There is no change. It was originally presented and accounted for five thousand per school.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J14		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	80	Continuing same theme: p. 80 indicates \$70K for science, while p. 88 indicates \$107K	The total with elementary school (science recurring supplies) is 107K. High school text/materials science account is ~ 70K.	
Supplies, Texts, Mtrls	J15	1/13/2025	Krasnoff, David	80	Is there a way to spread out the World Language expense of \$604,000 over multiple years?	Yes	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	96-99	Natural Gas defunding at all schools Natural Gas is listed for: We are showing using that as budgeted this year. None of the schools need Natural Gas next year? Why not?	That is being consolidated under heating fuel.	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	99	#64 Maint of Plant/Operations: Utility Management Fee NEW Item of \$728,484 Is this the Cynergistic contract? Is it entirely the Cynergistic contract?	The management fee is \$540,000 per year. The budget in this line includes an additional \$208,484 to reflect anticipated energy costs.	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	99	#64 Maint of Plant/Operations: The \$728,484 New item Utility Management fee, without this add Utility Services would be (-\$272,120). Why are we adding this very costly item? What are they doing that we cannot accomplish in house? This would cover many educators and programs for our students, so I'd like to understand the need for this contract.	<p>The contract fee is \$540,000 and represents the average cost per year over a multi year. The remaining \$208,484 represents anticipated utility costs districtwide, as we cannot guarantee where savings will occur in a given year.</p> <p>The fee for Cynergistics is a significant investment, but it brings several key benefits that we are unable to fully accomplish in-house. By working with Cynergistics, we gain access to a dedicated district energy professional who is on-site daily, along with additional resources such as energy engineers and experts in boilers and controls. Their expertise includes nationwide knowledge of best practices for energy management, which allows us to implement more efficient strategies across our district.</p> <p>Additionally, this contract is a no-risk agreement: if the services provided do not result in savings on utility costs, Cynergistics will reimburse the district for the cost of their services. This mitigates the financial risk while providing access to specialized expertise that would be difficult to replicate internally.</p> <p>Cynergistics will also be collaborating with the PTAs and Green Teams to run educational programs on energy management and environmental stewardship, which will help raise awareness and promote sustainable practices within our school community.</p>	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	102	#64 Maint of Plant/Operations: The \$112,837 increase to refuse/recycling- what is the increase attributed to?	The \$112,837 increase to refuse/recycling is attributed to several factors. A portion of the increase is due to the cost of living adjustment in the contract. However, the majority of the increase is driven by the expansion of composting services. Composting has been extended from 3 elementary schools and 3 middle schools to 11 elementary schools, with continued service at the 3 middle schools. This expansion is also absorbing the Green Teams grant, which is running out of funding at the end of the year.	

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Build Maint. & Facil.	K5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	102	#64: Maint of Plant/Operations Paving/Sidewalks. We budgeted \$100K for this year. 24-25 REV Budget is showing \$50,000. What happened to the planned paving/sidewalks? How does that influence the request for \$100K next year? This item as budgeted is consistently not being expended. In the last 2 years we have budgeted \$200K but only expended @\$58K so looking to why the ask is \$100K for next year.	<p>The \$100,000 originally budgeted for paving and sidewalks this year was reduced to \$50,000 in the 2024-2025 revised budget due to several factors. Over the past few years, this line item has consistently under-expended. In the last two years, we budgeted \$200,000 but only spent approximately \$58,000. A portion of the work has been completed through end-of-year spending, and during the COVID-19 period, we were able to get ahead on some paving projects.</p> <p>For the upcoming year, we anticipate being fully back on track with paving projects. We typically do not expend this budget line until the spring, which allows us to reserve funds for emergency needs if necessary. It also provides the flexibility to utilize both this fiscal year and the next to complete larger projects.</p> <p>Looking ahead, we could consider reducing this budget line after next year if the funds are moved to the newly established rollover account. This rollover account could serve as a potential source of funding for paving projects, while also offering some protection in case of emergencies, allowing us to use the original budget line for its intended purpose.</p>	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K6	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	102	#64: Maint of Plant/Operations: Grounds contracted services: The \$23,567 increase for this item, is this the amount contracted for already in the contract?	<p>The \$23,567 increase for Grounds contracted services is primarily due to the cost of living increase specified in our current contract, as well as a margin for unforeseen expenses. Additionally, this increase accounts for preparations as we prepare to go out to bid for our playing fields, which may involve potential cost fluctuations.</p>	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K7	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	102	#64: Maint of Plant/Operations: Painting. I have brought this up several times over the years on why the budgeted amounts are not being used to refresh our classrooms and buildings. In the last 2 years we have budgeted \$200K for painting but only \$115,699 has been expended. Why is the ask for next year \$100K?	<p>The \$100,000 requested for next year's painting budget reflects a similar principle to the previous budget adjustments. In the past two years, we budgeted \$200,000 for painting but only spent approximately \$115,699. This under-expenditure is partly due to the fact that some of the work was completed in-house, allowing us to accomplish more with fewer resources. Additionally, we have been able to use end-of-year spending to complete some of the work.</p> <p>For next year, we anticipate being fully back on track with painting projects, and we continue to reserve funds for any emergency needs as they arise. We typically do not expend this budget line until later in the fiscal year, which allows us to utilize both this fiscal year and the next to complete larger painting projects.</p> <p>Looking ahead, we may also consider reducing this line item in future years if funds are shifted to the newly established rollover account, which could help manage unexpected expenses while ensuring this budget line is used for its intended purpose.</p>	



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Build Maint. & Facil.	K8	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	102	#64: Maint of Plant/Operations. Other Contr Serv: The @81K overage this year, and the \$55K increase for next year, what are those attributed to?	The \$81K overage this year and the \$55K increase for next year are attributed to several factors. The increase for next year is primarily due to a 4% cost of living increase on our contracts. The \$55K increase for next year also includes the installation of more boards and a new rotating schedule for deep cleaning the kitchens, which will help maintain cleanliness and address ongoing issues. The overage this year was driven by a deep cleaning completed in all the kitchens to address mice problems at multiple locations, as well as fume hood inspections and repairs. Additionally, we used this account to hire an outside vendor to hang 100 promotional boards district-wide, which allowed our in-house staff to focus on other projects and repairs.	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K9	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	103	#64: Maint/Plant Operations: HVAC PM. I do see an increase of @21k for this item for next year, but does this account for the additional square footage of AC that will come online next year at Woods, NSS, and OHS? Want to make sure this is enough of an preventative maintenance amount for all buildings.	Yes, the \$21K increase for next year takes into consideration both the 4% contract increase and the new equipment coming online at Woods, NSS, and OHS. This adjustment ensures that the preventative maintenance amount is sufficient to cover all buildings, including the additional square footage of air conditioning at these three schools.	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K10	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	103	#64: Playground Safety. Not sure this is the right place for this question but the accessible playground proposal at Jennings, is this where that would live, and can we provide the information on the options to the full board?	This line item is specifically for safety inspections and repairs that result from those inspections.	
Build Maint. & Facil.	K11	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	189	The Solar Savings chart. Have we been waiting on the Town for an updated savings determination methodology for 4 years?	Yes, we have been waiting for an updated savings determination methodology from the Town for approximately four years.	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	105/106	503: Technology Capital. Can you please breakdown the \$1,049,700 request by item and cost?	1:1 Chromebooks - \$576,450 Charging Carts Grade 4/5 - \$125,250 Wireless Access Points - \$32,400 Laptops for Staff & Students - \$92,850 Mac Music Lab for High Schools - \$25,200 Interactive Boards - \$180,000 Desktop Printers & Monitors - \$17,500	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	108/182	Items #41 and #42 Equipment -Athletics at Ludlowe and Warde: On pg. 108 the proposed budget says \$20K to each school, however on page 182 in support information it says \$23K each, which would be a \$6K variance. Is there a reason for the discrepancy in proposed appropriation v the support description?	The schools each have a budget of \$3k in the coop accounts for the waterfall.	

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Capital - Physical & Tech	L3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	108	Item #50. WFC. This may also fall under materials/supplies but putting it here. When discussing facilities and in our LRFP it came to our attention that WFC would like space in the back behind the APR for a library/media/computer lab space. My question relates to equipment and to discuss what may be needed there for students to access courses such as CAD or other advanced tech classes that requires some different equipment than they have. It is a budget discussion but I also feel it is an access question that I'd like to raise as we process the budget. Also how they can access library books as there is not an LMC there. We did adopt it in the LRFP, but just looking to see if there is any progress we can make on it here or elsewhere in the budget.	WFC already has suitable technology infrastructure with workstation-class desktops capable of running CAD and business software, plus access to all district high school software. While the LRFP includes plans for a library/media/computer lab space behind the APR, the immediate focus should be on developing solutions for library book access since there isn't currently an LMC facility. The technology component appears well-addressed, but the library access remains an open item for budget consideration.	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L4	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	106	Under 501 "The" capital outlay budget...		
Capital - Physical & Tech	L5	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	106	Obj 501 description: I understand opportunistically using budget ebbs and flows for potential pre purchases, but does this discussion of using year-end funds imply we are expecting a surplus? Otherwise this paragraph feels out of place.	This was intended to say if we utilize a multi year planning strategy we are able to prioritize and purchase against a multi year plan in the years where we have spendout funds (i.e. a high degree winter).	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L6	1/12/2025	Peterson, Jeff	106	Obj 503: Could you give some context on "High School Music Labs"?	The proposed High School Music Lab will consist of 9 Mac Mini stations (8 for students, 1 for teacher) equipped with the Pro Apps Bundle for Education. This setup will give students hands-on experience with industry-standard software like Logic and Final Cut Pro, particularly valuable as Logic becomes increasingly dominant in music production. The investment aims to better prepare students for both higher education and professional opportunities in music.	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L7		Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	129	Sorry if I missed this in text....but in two years we have doubled the money committed to Capital Outlay for PPS. Why is that? (from actual to 25-26 budgeted)	This is for replacement and replenishment of old devices.	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L8	1/12/2025	Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer	183	I recognize the reality of this budget....however, what WOULD it have cost to implement Yondr pouches in our two high schools?	Waiting on pricing from the vendor for both a High School and a Middle School rollout of Yondr pouches	
Capital - Physical & Tech	L9	1/13/2025	Krasnoff, David	106	How many computer charging carts are we buying per school and per grade? How much does each cart?	A total of 36 Grade 4 carts will cost \$2,150 each (\$1,100 cart + \$1,050 chargers), while 33 Grade 5 carts will cost \$1,450 each as we will be using surplus chargers.	
Revenue	N1	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	143	The Paraeducator Insurance Subsidy Program and the 2% Excess Cost Sharing: Were these one time funds?	Yes, the first was a program funded by the state legislature and we were given all of the funds anticipated to be expended. The excess cost sharing funds are offered each year, this year we decided to keep them at the board level.	
Revenue	N2	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	143	ECS: As the district has been provided with an ECS appropriation estimate that is less than what is in the budget, does this line item need to be adjusted to the new estimate ( -294,792)?	The prior year was 1,124,616 with 298,605 excess cost prior year adjustment. The new estimate is 1,131,021 with no current estimate for the excess cost adjustment. The net entitlement before the excess cost adjustment is 1,108,401.	
Revenue	N3	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	143/179	Excess Cost Reimbursement. pg. 143 shows \$2,240,000 and pg. 179 shows \$2,420,000, for a +180K variance. The net cost calculation on pg. 179 does match what is the tuition area, so I presume it is in the revenue where the 4 and 2 may have been inverted?	Correct.	
Revenue	N4	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	144	SPED revenue from other districts- reasoning for lowering the experience from this year and/or the budgeted amount?	The revenue reflects the current enrollment of our current students' needs.	

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Revenue	N5	1/11/2025	Jacobsen, Jennifer	144	Preschool Tuition/ Based on enrollment projection ( backing out the service only count) the projection is flat from this years budget. Are tuition rates not being increased next year?	Tuition rates will increase 3% for the 25-26 school year (full day tuition will increase to \$8185 and half-day tuition will increase to \$5457. Reduced full-day tuition will increase to \$4092.71 and half-day reduced tuition will increase to \$2765.55 for the 25-26 school year.	