

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD REMOTELY
at GoToMeeting.com**

THURSDAY
April 22, 2021
6:30 P.M.
FY 2021-2022 BUDGET

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Special Town Council Meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2021 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilors Morgenstein and Testa were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present **(BY TELECONFERENCE)**.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. **COALITION FOR A BETTER WALLINGFORD**

*In Attendance: Ken Welch, President of Coalition
Jessie De Ponte, Acting Director*

Mr. Welch noted because of the lack of funds coming from activities they would have normally had, they are in a severe shortfall. In addition, they have taken on a lot more programming. He talked about Ms. De Ponte and her role. She has been with them about a year and came on as the Community Outreach Coordinator. He stated she is more than adequately equipped. He explained two programs that Ms. De Ponte oversees; the Junto Program which is a program for 18-24 year olds and they are also starting a Junto Jr. group which is a program at the middle school. He stated they are working with Mary Mushinsky to get a bill put in place to get funding for this.

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Welch if he is the \$30,000 Community Grant under the Y&SS budget. Mr. Welch said yes we've asked for that to be increased to \$50,000. Mr. Welch explained the reason for this is their overhead costs have gone up from \$30,000 to \$42,000 and the other \$8,000 they are asking for is a stipend to get Jessie started.

Mayor Dickinson stated the \$30,000 in the Y&SS budget is for the Coalition. He went on to state there is other funding that is being provided in addition to the \$30,000. Mr. Welch said the grant from the Health Department is program specific.

Councilor Tatta stated she is confused as to the amounts and would like a total amount. Mr. Welch broke down the \$30,000 indicating \$14.4 thousand is for the actual rent, the rest is for lights, gas and some administration expenses which have gone up in the last two years from \$21,000 to \$25,000. The \$7,000 comes from the state and that money is spent specifically on programming.

Councilor Fishbein stated his understanding is for \$30,000 the tax payers are paying for a store front to sell Life is Good products along with certain activities as well as to pay administrative salaries for that. He wonders if it's time to be enveloped from Youth & Social Services.

Mr. Welch doesn't think it's appropriate to say we are funding a store front so that we can make money. He explained the growth of the Coalition was for them to serve that particular need in the community. He doesn't think they will ever be not associated with Y&SS. He indicated those two things go hand and hand.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Welch if he would agree there is an overlap a little bit of Coalition and little bit of Social Services. He feels there is concern if Y&SS is not meeting the needs of the public.

Ms. De Ponte remarked we are a community organization at heart.

Ms. Miranda, Director, Y&SS, stated she started in October and has been part of the town for 18 years prior. She indicated the collaboration is very strong and they are working as a team. She mentioned Jessie has been a great addition to the Coalition and she could see them working together growing from here.

Councilor Shortell said he believes in lower taxes and he does not want to see Y&SS envelop the Coalition. He brought up an ordinance agenda item about pan handling and noted the Coalition stepped up and he wants to thank them for what they did.

Councilor Shortell asked Mr. Welch to elaborate on fighting marijuana legalization. Mr. Welch said that's true and noted they took the lead on that in the previous two years.

Councilor Laffin stated good job as always. He went on to state the Coalition has become such an important part of the community. He remarked nobody is going to do it better than you guys and he feels if we could save one person that's good. Councilor Laffin said he supports this.

Chairman Cervoni stated beyond saving one life he thinks the other immeasurable is the fighting chance to give people extending life. He went on to state the awareness at Celebrate Wallingford is always important to see and he thanked them for that.

Mr. Welch stated they are looking for Board members and if anyone is interested to please call them.

YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

In Attendance: Mandy Miranda, Director of Y&SS

Ms. Miranda reviewed staffing. She indicated they are fully staffed and the Program Coordinator started last week. She mentioned the full-time position that was supposed to start in January 2021 had not been filled and moving forward it's a part-time position. She stated the Diversion Program has been a big change. They are planning on increasing programming as well as having that mental health component. She is looking forward to the changes and the growth within the agency.

The Mayor said he would like to answer the question as to why the item on the social service contribution regarding mental health is not funded. The Mayor said the line was for Region II Mental Health Program. That program was funded in the 2019-2020 Budget. There was not a request for the current year and not a request for this proposed budget.

Chairman Cervoni thanks Ms. Miranda

PARKS & RECREATION

In Attendance: Kenny Michaels, Director, Parks & Recreation

Mr. Michaels indicated things are going well.

Councilor Tatta asked with the recent discussion of park fees and advertising, do you feel you need additional funding beyond what is in this budget.

Mr. Michaels explained back in fiscal year 2006-2007 the Parks & Recreation gave up a general fund line on the general fund side and inside the special fund created a park and facility fee account inside the special fund. He noted fees are used to fix swing sets, buy equipment and to pay for the building to be painted. He said the advertising is another avenue they are looking at as supplemental but they are looking to collect those fees and put them in the Recreation Commission line.

Councilor Tatta stated based on the budget we give contributions to many sports leagues, etc. and she asked if we would be able to add non-profit to that list even if we could offset them a little bit. She then asked if sport teams also pay usage fees to use parks.

Mr. Michaels remarked why would we fund groups to run camps when that's what we do. As far as the sports leagues he indicated they endorse these and give the league contribution. He stated by endorsing them financially we are helping them provide a service and sports opportunity to the kids in the community.

Councilor Tatta inquired about the opening of the pool in June of 2022. Mr. Michaels agrees with Mr. Bowes that we don't want to continue to put this project out and have these companies put in their time and effort and not follow through with it because eventually the contractor will walk away. His hope is we could get this out by the beginning of the summer. Councilor Tatta asked if the Council could get an update after the meeting on Monday.

The Mayor said if we can have private organizations providing camps then that takes the financial burden off of the town. He does not think we should be discouraging private organizations from utilizing our recreation facility whenever they can.

Councilor Fishbein stated going back to contributions to other groups last year, the Council put out a request that any entity that was not directly affiliated with the town provide certain backup information and to his knowledge none of the sports leagues submitted that. Chairman Cervoni stated they might not have gotten the letter and noted this may have been an oversight.

Councilor Fishbein stated since government to taxpayers is getting involved in subsidizing these groups he asked what rules does government impose upon these groups as far as refunds to parents. He indicated several parents contacted him when it was closed down and they said they did not receive their money back. Mr. Michaels stated if participants dropped out due to COVID, those people were refunded.

The Mayor asked if we require a certificate of coaches training. Mr. Michaels answered no.

Councilor Marrone asked assuming they start advertising on the fields, and the money goes to the Recreation Department, would that money have to be accounted for as revenue in the budget and the expenses as expenditures in the prior budget year. Mr. Bowes answered yes. Councilor Marrone then asked if the Special Revenue Fund is budgeted for by item and Mr. Bowes stated that is budgeted as a whole for both revenues and expenditures.

Councilor Shortell would like to hear the outcome of the conversation about the pool. He said in regards to opening the old pool, he would not be in favor of putting money into that. He feels we need a new pool.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Michaels if he is part of the determination as to whether or not somebody's background is going to disqualify them in the coaching capacity. Mr. Michaels answered no. Councilor Fishbein then asked if a background check is being done on part-time employees. Mr. Michaels answered yes. Councilor Fishbein mentioned there is a lot of movement in Hartford to remove people's criminal backgrounds.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the Wallingford Symphony entry is to secure the Independence Day symphony performance. Mr. Michaels stated that is correct and noted they did not submit for funding last year.

Councilor Fishbein asked about the line PC Workstations and Accessories. He noted we approved \$3,000 last year but it was not expended. Is there a reason for that? Mr. Michaels explained it is in the works and in the process of being purchased.

Councilor Laffin agrees with Councilor Shortell and stated the current pool is dead.

Councilor Zandri agrees that the pool is dead. He feels last year would have been the year to get the work done and now prices are going up. The only way this facility is going to come back is complete overhaul.

Ms. Koepfer had a question that Mr. Michaels read. She wants to know in Special Funds line item 42120 is the parks usage fee currently under discussion that is reflected in this number. Mr. Michaels stated it is all one in the same. The number she is referencing is \$50,000.00.

Ms. Koepfer wants to know if the pool is not open this summer, can the time be used to rebuild the pool for next year. Mr. Michaels said that is his hope and goal that they have the ability to put the pool out to bid.

Mr. Michaels thanked everyone for their continued support.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

In Attendance: Dr. Menzo, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Menzo thanked all of his team and gave a presentation on the proposed BOE Budget (attached).

Councilor Laffin stated there is \$1.6 million from last year and another \$1.1 million and asked if there are any plans to do all the baseball fields. Dr. Menzo answered yes and said also many other items that would be put on the list to be done.

Councilor Laffin asked if there is any word on continued federal funds. Dr. Menzo explained the federal funding they are getting now is meant for new programming and cannot be used to offset reoccurring expenditures.

Councilor Laffin asked if there are talks on summer school for kids. Dr. Menzo answered yes and stated they have a variety of summer school plans.

Councilor Zandri asked if we are looking at the future calendar year with the mindset of going back to the old method of snow days, cancelling school and adding on the snow days. Dr. Menzo stated the Board approved one traditional snow day and every day after that would be virtual learning but that's if we have permission from the State Board of Education.

Councilor Zandri wants to understand the numbers between the current unencumbered funds and the new one building up. He asked would this be what would roll into the overall account. Dr. Menzo stated what would roll over into the new account is the \$1.1 million. Councilor Zandri asked if there are two accounts. Dr. Menzo answered yes.

Councilor Zandri asked with regard to potential snow days in the future/distance learning is there a difference in the cost or is it a wash. Dr. Menzo indicated some savings but not significant.

Councilor Zandri, as a parent, thanked Dr. Menzo. Dr. Menzo stated his staff did a remarkable job.

Mr. Rajan Doering, Sharon Drive, thanks BOE for all their hard work and everything they do for the students. He asked about the items that were removed and highlighted in yellow and wants to know how those items were decided. Dr. Menzo stated the items in yellow were not removed

those were the ones that would be funded and noted this was previously approved by the BOE. He went on to state items in yellow were top priority to be funded first.

CAFETERIA

There were no questions.

Chairman Cervoni adjourned the meeting AT 8:32 p.m.

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

26 MAY 2021
Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

5.26.2021
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-28-21
AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK



Wallingford Public Schools

2021-2022

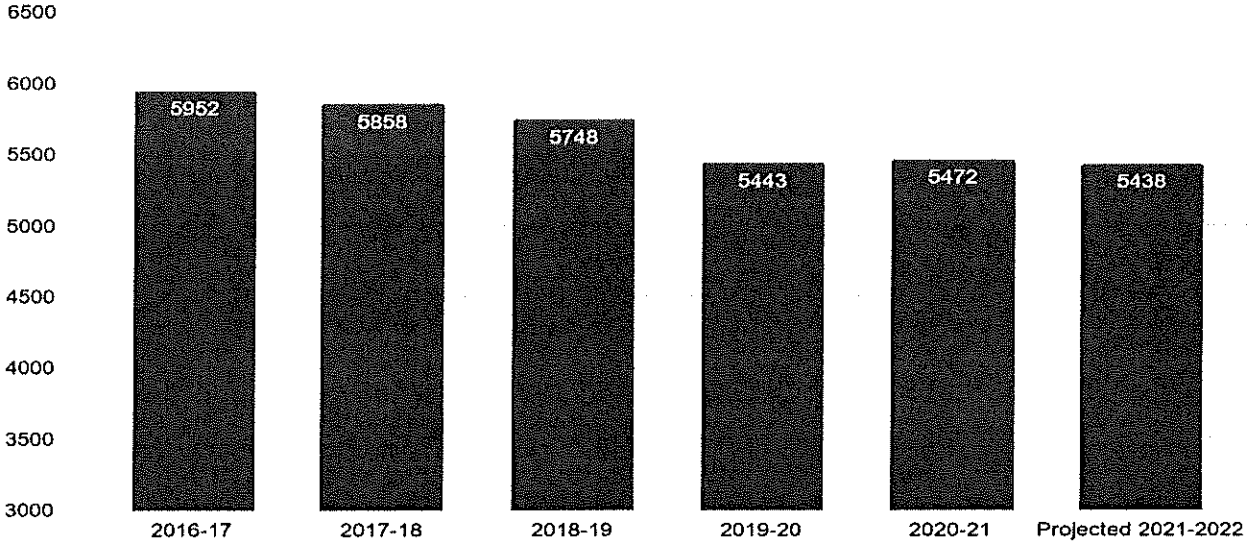
**Proposed Board of Education
Budget**

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Context for 2021-2022 Budget Request

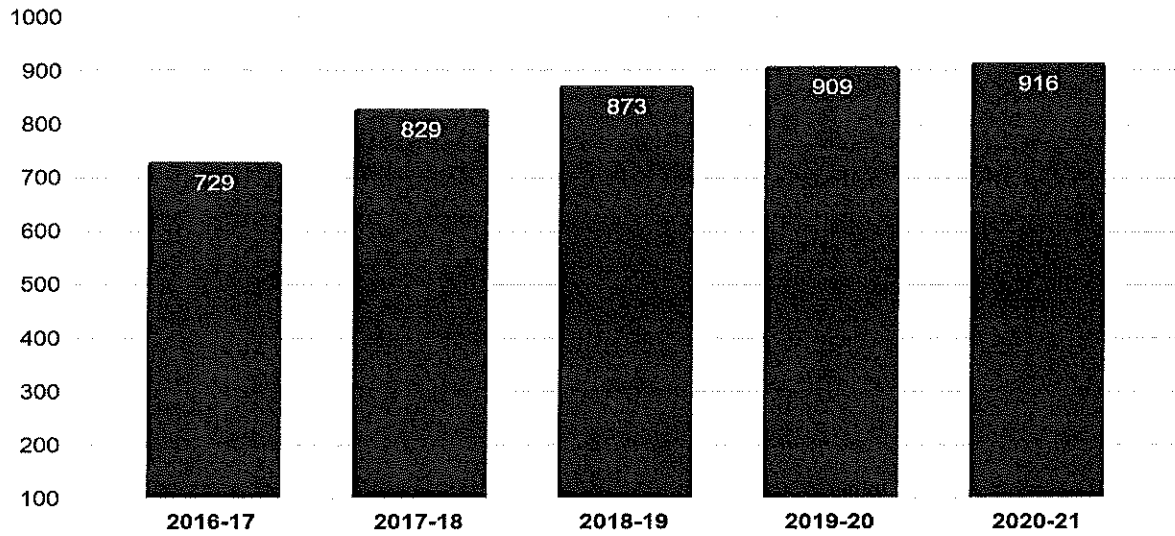
Review of Enrollment

5 Year Total Enrollment (Oct 1)

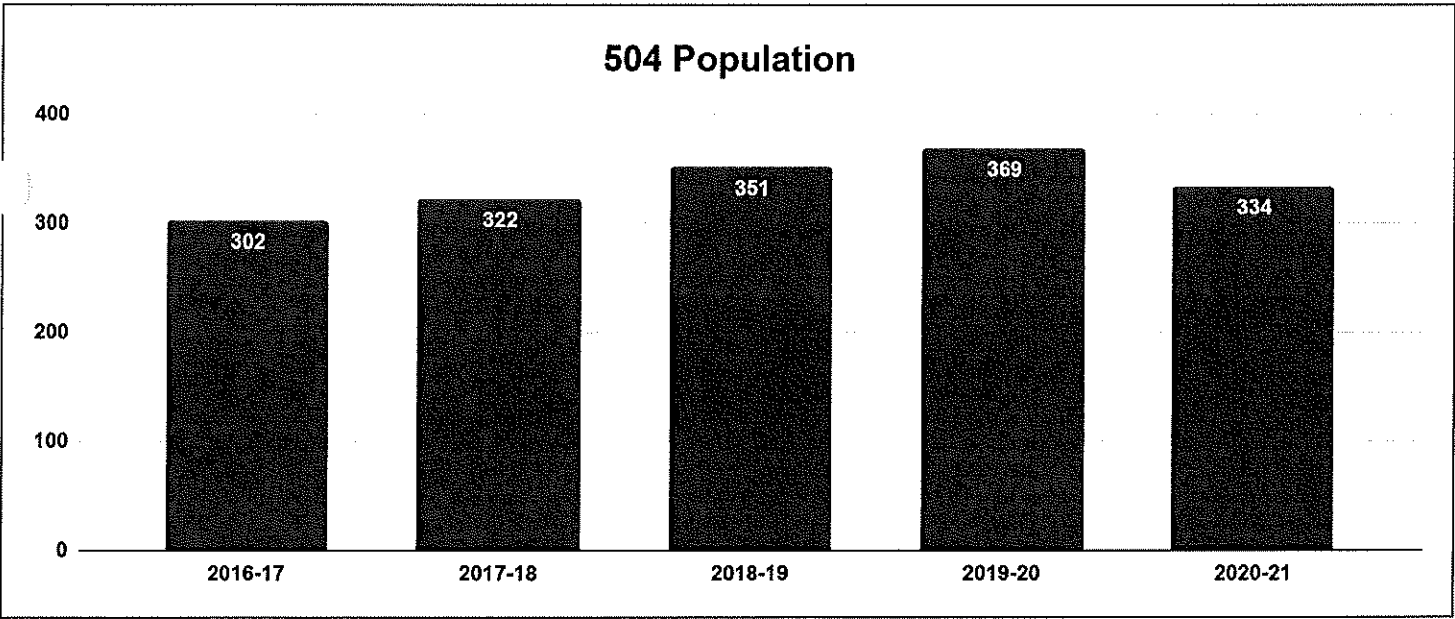


Review of Enrollment

5 Year Total Special Education Enrollment (Oct 1)

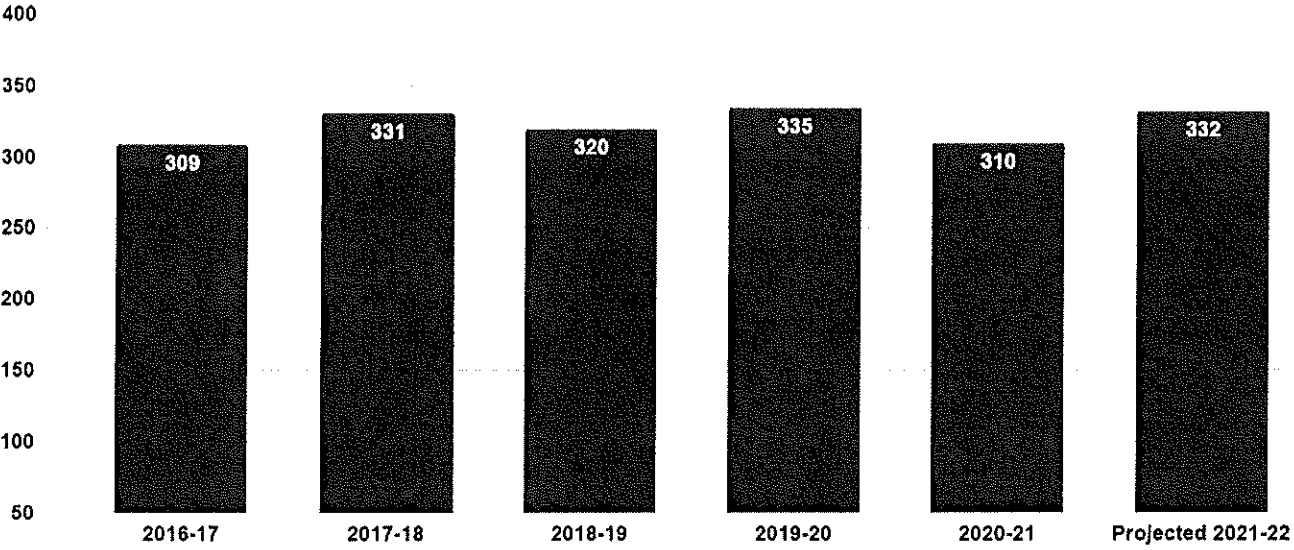


Review of Enrollment



Review of Enrollment

5 Year Total EL Enrollment



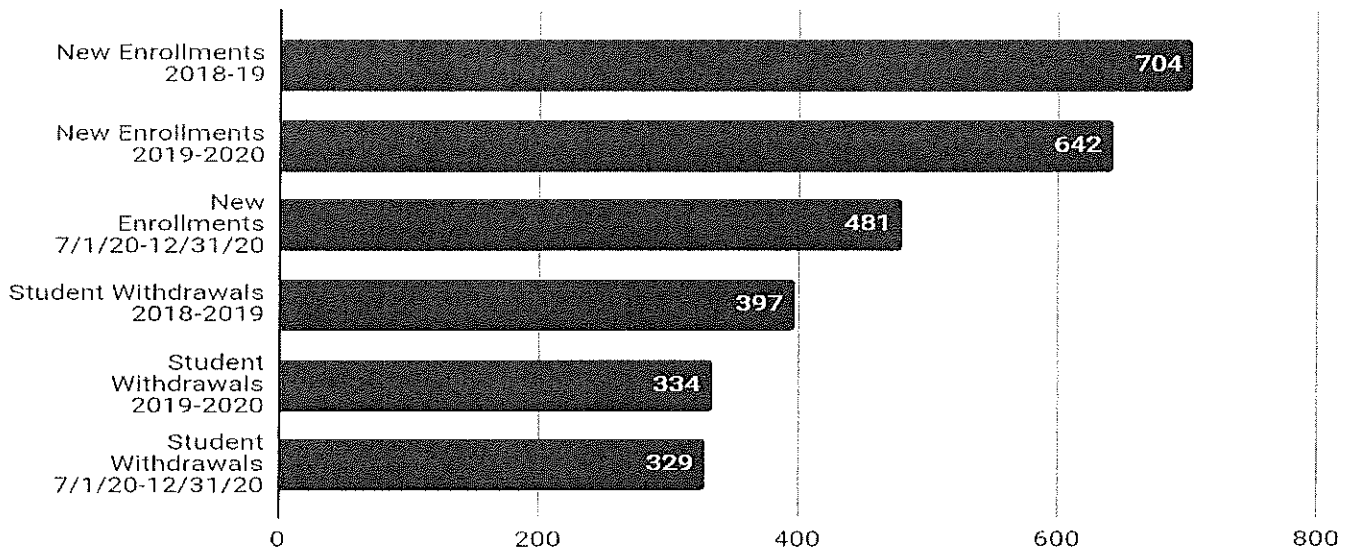
Review of Enrollment

Languages Spoken in the District

English	Cantonese	Hindi	Korean	Mandarin	Portuguese	Tagalog	Twi/Fante
Spanish	Creole-Haitian	Hungarian	Kurdish	Marathi	Punjabi	Tamil	Ukrainian
Albanian	French	Igbo	Lao	Nepali	Russian	Telugu	Urdu
Arabic	Gola	Italian	Malay	Pilipino (Filipino)	Slovak	Tibetan	Vietnamese
Bengali	Greek	Kannada	Malayalam	Polish	Swahili	Turkish	Visayan

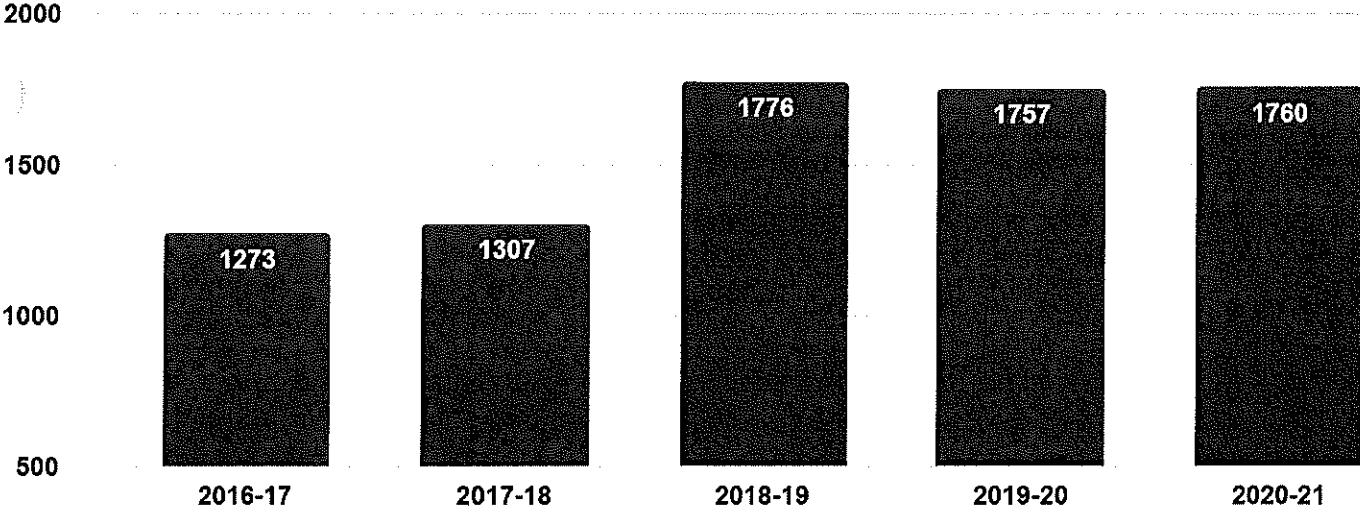
Review of Enrollment

Enrollment Changes - Student Entry/Withdrawals



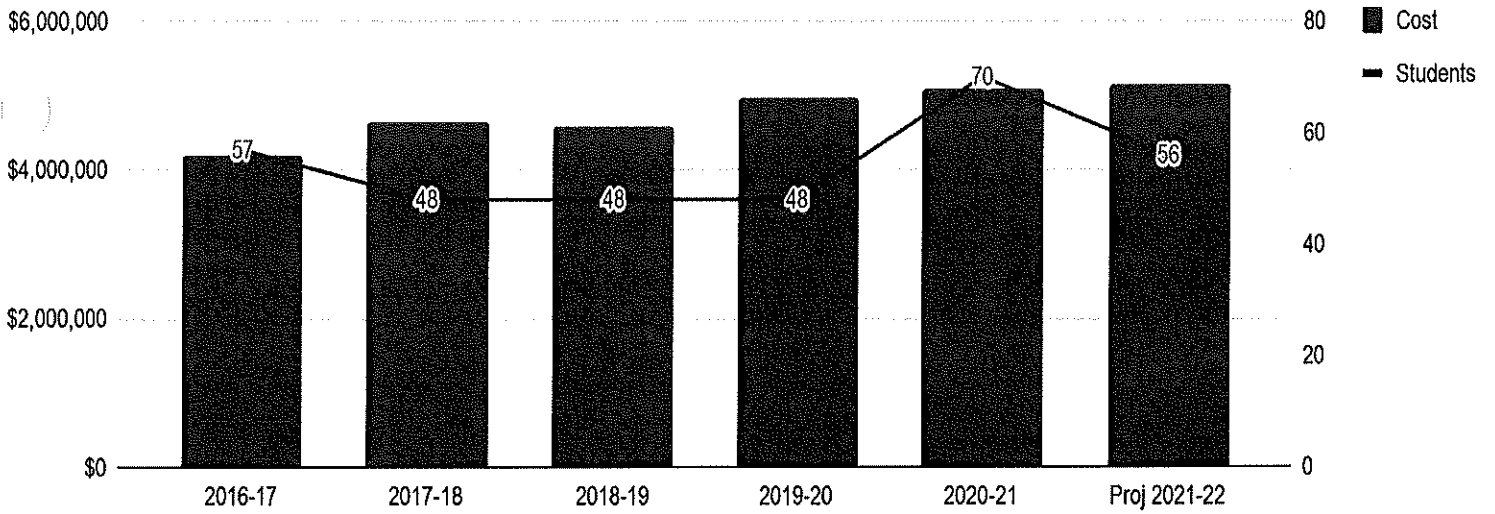
Review of Enrollment

Eligible Free/Reduced Lunch Population



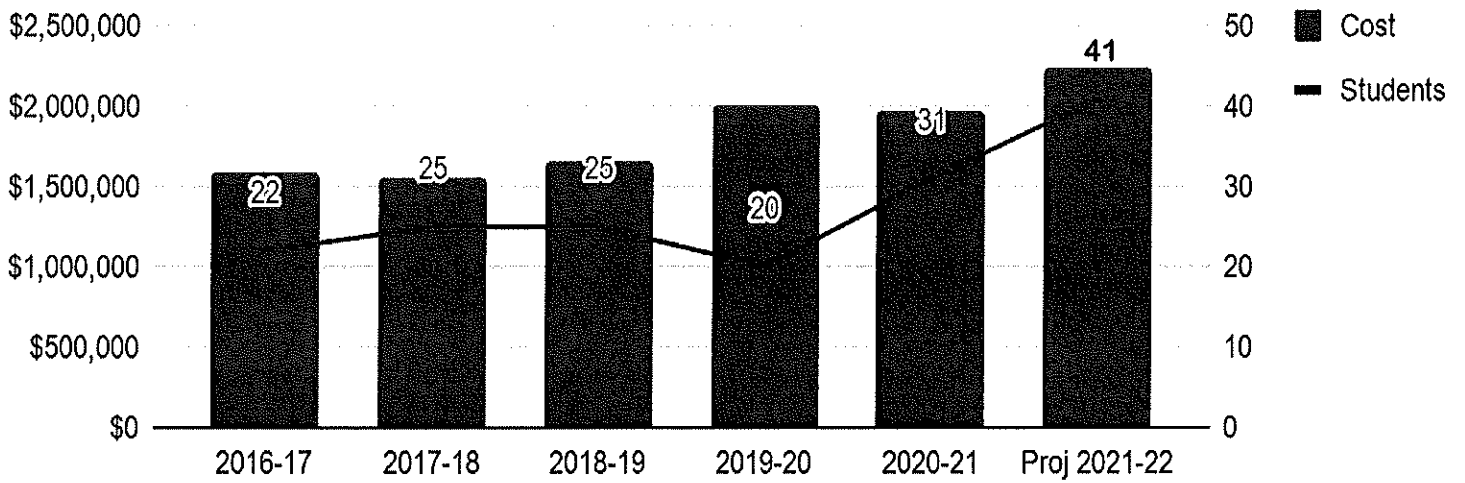
Developed Sustained Services Budget

Private Outplacements



Developed Sustained Services Budget

Public Outplacements



Developed Sustained Services Budget

Areas Reviewed

- Certified Negotiated Contractual Increases
 - Teachers - 2.90% - Wages and Steps
 - Building Administrators -2.01% Wages and Steps
- Certified Staff
 - Retirements - Savings - \$477,106

Developed Sustained Services Budget

Areas Reviewed - Certified Staff

➤ **REDUCTION OF 3.0 FTE**

- Reduced 3 FTE Elementary Teachers (based on enrollment and does not increase class size above Board of Education approved threshold - PreK - 2 = 21, 3- 5 = 23)
- Reduction - \$196,927

➤ **INCREASE of 1.0 FTE**

- Increase of Sheehan Social Worker to 1.0 FTE from 0.5 FTE
- Increase of Adult Education Counselor to 1.0 FTE from 0.5 FTE

Developed Sustained Services Budget

Areas Reviewed - Non-Certified Staff

- Non-Certified Staff
 - Reduction- 2 Special Education Clerical Positions - \$111,388

Developed Sustained Services Budget

Insurance Details

- Benefits
 - Health Insurance (decrease) -7%
 - Severance Benefits to Pay
 - Certified - \$520,204
 - Non-Certified - \$65,514

Developed Sustained Services Budget

Estimated Water and Sewer Expenses

- Combined increase of \$3,878

Estimated Utility and Fuel Expenses

- 0.0% Electricity Rate Change - pending rate study
- Estimated Heat (No. 2 Oil - \$1.420 per bid) - reduction of (\$159,796)
- 3% Natural Gas increase (3% intermittent, 0% firm)

Developed Sustained Services Budget

Maintenance Budget

- 2 Contracts (3 buildings)
- 1 additional contract may be bid or renewed

Transportation Budget

- Contractual Increases of 3% (year 2 of 5)
- Budget decrease of (\$110,195) based on projected vehicles

Requested Budget - February 22, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION
2021-2022
SUSTAINED BUDGET COMPARISON BY OBJECT

OBJ	DESCRIPTION	2019-2020 ACTUAL EXP	2020-2021 REVISED BGT	2021-2022 SUSTAINED BGT	\$ DIFF	% DIFF
100	PERSONNEL SERVICES	67,719,047	69,377,403	70,387,796	1,010,393	1.46%
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	12,932,595	14,380,116	13,753,164	-626,952	-4.36%
300	PURCH PROF/TECH SVCS	1,740,921	1,677,951	2,254,753	576,802	34.38%
400	PURCH PROPERTY SVCS	4,217,787	4,216,566	4,225,473	8,907	0.21%
500	PURCH SERVICES	9,744,842	13,075,471	13,160,961	85,490	0.65%
600	SUPPLIES	3,150,511	2,583,858	2,577,186	-6,672	-0.26%
700	PROPERTY	802,935	285,402	277,763	-7,639	-2.68%
800	MISCELLANEOUS	580,371	188,810	199,340	10,530	5.58%
	GRAND TOTAL	100,889,009	105,785,577	106,836,436	1,050,859	0.99%

Strategic Plan Prioritization

School	Description	2020-21
Middle School	Increase Instructional Coaches - (includes benefits)	162,034
Pre-School	PreSchool Teacher	64,000
District	Communication Specialist	31,200
Adult Ed	2 Instructors for 3 hours per day for 34-week program	19,072
District	Computer Replacement Plan	150,000
District	Teacher Laptops	50,000
IT	IT Vehicle	26,000

Strategic Plan Prioritization

School	Description	2020-21
VoAg	Ag Science Coordinator	24,986
Elem Schools	Energy Efficiency Items	295,500
LHHS	Softball Field Renovation - Design Only	20,000
DAG	Renovate ballfields	100,000
Moran	Renovate softball fields	50,000
	Total Strategic Plan Request	992,792

Final Numbers - Approved Board of Education Budget 2021 - 2022

Description	Financial Request	Percentage Increase
Sustained Services Budget	106,836,436	0.99
Top Strategic Plan Budget Priorities	992,792	0.94
Combined Total Request	107,829,228	1.93

Capital Requests

School	Description	2021-22
Moran	8,000 gallon Oil Tank removal and replacement	75,000
Wymann Hall	20,000 gallon Oil Tank removal	150,000
Service Bldg	Remove and Replace gas tank and pump	60,000
Sheehan	New Elevator - Design and Build	175,000
	Total Capital Request	460,000

Mayor's Proposed Board Education Funding for 2021-2022

Wallingford Public Schools
2021-2022 - Budget Message Summary

	BOE Requested	BOE Request Adjusted for Insurance	Mayor's Recommendation	Difference
Sustained Services	106,836,436	106,335,848	106,335,848	0
Strategic Plan	992,792	983,302	381,068	-602,234
Total	107,829,228	107,319,150	106,716,916	-602,234

Wallingford Public Schools

2021-2022 - Strategic Plan Budget Prioritization

The Board of Education recommends the following strategic plan items:

School	Description	COVID-19	2020-21
Middle School	2 Instructional Coaches (includes benefits- revised number based on insurance)		152,544
Pre-School	PreSchool Teacher		64,000
District	Communication Specialist (COVID-19 Funding)	31,200	
Adult Education	Additional 3 hours for 34 weeks		19,072
District	Computer Replacement Plan (COVID-19 Funding)	150,000	
District	Teacher Laptops (COVID-19 Funding)	50,000	
IT	IT Vehicle		26,000
VoAg	Ag Science Coordinator		24,986
Elem Schools	Energy Efficient Items		295,500
LHHS	Design - Softball Field Renovation		20,000
DAG	Renovate ballfields		100,000
Moran	Renovate softball fields		50,000
	Total Strategic Plan Request		992,792

Items highlighted in **YELLOW** are funded based on Mayor's proposed budget or through **COVID-19** related funding. Note that 94,486 of the Energy Efficiency Projects would be funded at this time.

Unencumbered Fund Balance

April 19, 2021

	April 19, 2021
Contingency	322,193
Benefits	444,200
Special Education	
Tuition	-296,880
Excess Cost Estimate	-70,946
Transportation	2,431,240
Salaries	-456,530
Unemployment	197,000
Medicare/SS	51,653
Other Accounts	
Special Education	-380,658
Other Accounts	-88,262
Technology	-298,597
PPE	0
Utilities	93,487
Plant/ Maintenance	60,000
Food Service - Current Year	-378,376
Food Service - Summer/Fall	-86,226
ECS Return	-379,805
20-21 operating budget projection	<u>1,163,493</u>

NOTE

- The unencumbered balance is based on the use of the 20-21 allocated Board of Education Budget (\$105,785,577).
- All above accounts assume the use of CRF (\$1,687,100) and Cares Act (\$438,879) grant funds (total \$2,125,979).
- The surplus does not reflect the use of any 2% funds (\$1,600,853 for 19-20 budget surplus).

Prior Year Surplus

Prior Year (2019-2020) Unencumbered Funds (in 2% Fund)	1,600,853
Current Year (2020-2021) Projected Unencumbered Funds	1,163,493
Total Remaining (2019-2020 and 2020-2021) Unencumbered Funds	2,764,346