

# Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting - Budget Workshop - Facilities/Budget Deliberations/Approval

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:00 PM

Board of Education Conference Room E, Live Stream:

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=763ff4de0370> Materials can be viewed at: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2425> The opportunity for members of the public wishing to make comments can attend and comment in-person or may send public comments to the Board via email or letter and it will be included as part of the record of the meeting., 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801

## 1. Call to Order

**Speaker(s):** Policy

9326

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

## 2. Budget Workshop – Facilities/Budget Deliberations/Approval

### 3. Correspondence

**Speaker(s):** Policy

9326

### 4. Public Comment

(Please note: The Board welcomes Public Comment and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 2 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the Bethel Public School System.)

**Speaker(s):** Policy

9326

### 5. Adjourn

**BOE Members 2026-2027 BUDGET Q & A**  
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#	Name - Initials	Question(s)	Answer(s)
<b>February 3, 2026 - Schools/Athletics</b>			
1.	JMG	3302 What kind of PD is planned?	Our district Professional Learning (PL) plan is created through our district PL Council which is composed of educators and administrators from various departments and from each of the buildings. Our PL plan is aligned to our district strategic plan and theory of action and often includes choice sessions for our educators. Our educators have a voice in what they need and it is grounded using data and feedback. PL can range from learning strategies for an upcoming unit of study, to learning about how to use generative AI safely and responsibly in the classroom, to calibrating around a performance task, and understanding assessment results and planning for instructional needs (this is not an exhaustive list).
2.	JMG	5301 Communications I understand. What does “research” involve?	We pay for services that allow students to do research such as Gale Cengage, Infobase (Facts on File), CultureGrams, JSTOR, Rosen Teen Health & Wellness, Discovery Video, Capstone Press, ImageQuest, and Encyclopedia Britannica. These resources provide reliable, peer reviewed materials for students.
3.	JMG	6110 I was glad to hear teachers are turning to copying pdfs, which means relying less on textbooks. Can we encourage more teachers	We use a range of resources in our classrooms, including open educational resources. Most of the textbooks used are required for AP/ECE courses at the high school. Students have shared that having a physical textbook is helpful to them.

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		to rely less on textbooks?	
4.	BF JL	1215 Please explain the large increase in School Monitors at RS, BS and JS.	Funding for two part time security monitors was added at the high school in this line. Also, the elementary schools have increased the use of lunch and recess monitors for the 2025-2026 school year. This was partially due to a reduction in special teachers for this year, who used to cover recess. This was a shift to more cost efficient resources. The total amount of the increase is related to a slight increase in lunch/recess monitors. If you subtract the cost of the security positions (below), then the remaining dollar amount is to cover the salaries of the additional monitors.
5.	BF	1215 Is the number listed at BHS for security monitor for two people. If yes, is there a reduction somewhere in salaries for the present position?	<p>Currently a building substitute is manning the front desk at the high school. Funding for that position was removed from the budget.</p> <p>The total variance for that line is \$109,708. The total cost of the two security staff at Bethel High School is \$65,000. This is a non benefited position.</p>
6.	BF	Please provide the percentage of next year's budget taken up by 1) medical/dental insurance 2) SPED (teachers (salaries and benefits), paras (salaries and benefits), out of district placements, SPED transportation 3) multilingual teachers (salaries and benefits as well as other associated costs). Please also provide for 5 years ago and 10 years ago if readily	<a href="#">Special Education, Health &amp; MLL Spending Trends</a>

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		available.	
7.	BF KD BR	Self-insurance was briefly considered last year but was dropped at that time due to time constraints to put the necessary information together. We have now had a full year to adequately explore that option. I would hope and expect we are very close to discussing that option. Are we? A larger pool of participants provides for lowered costs. Will town employees participate? If not, why not?	<p>We have a preliminary quote for a self insured model, that appears to be more cost effective than continuing with a fully insured policy. We expect to have a final quote in April after February claims data is available. A decision will be made at that time, but it looks highly likely that we will be shifting to a self funded model.</p> <p>The town has not yet made decisions about healthcare next year. We will continue to work with them on the most cost effective options for both the town and the BOE.</p>
8.	BF KD LS JL BR	We all know there were a large number of positions and other items that were lost this year due to budget cuts. As presented some have been budgeted back in the proposed budget. Please provide a list of all items budgeted back as well as a list of items lost this year that have not been budgeted back.	<p>Only the school psychologist, \$44,561 for replacement of aging technology in district, \$39,350 for supply line increases and some funding for Conferences, Travel &amp; Dues &amp; Fees were added back to the budget.</p> <p>Items not added back include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 Circle of Friends Preschool teachers</li> <li>● 1 Elementary Classroom teacher</li> <li>● 4 Elementary Specials Teachers ( Art, PE Teacher, Music, Computer Science)</li> <li>● 1 Middle School Elective Teacher</li> <li>● 1 High School Special Education Teacher</li> <li>● 1 HS Science Teacher</li> <li>● 2.5 Instructional Coaches - were completely eliminated. We</li> </ul>

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			<p>transitioned as Curriculum Integration Specialist 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 custodian</li> <li>● 0.5 Nurse</li> <li>● 1 Part time IT Tech Support Specialist</li> <li>● 1 Special Services Secretary</li> <li>● Please see the linked memo for <a href="#">additional information</a>.</li> </ul>
9.	GH	1218 / 1320- custodian overtime - Is overtime needed because there isn't enough staff to do the necessary duties? If there isn't enough staff, would it be more cost-effective to hire additional staff or pay existing staff overtime for the additional work?	<p>The majority of custodian overtime is driven by work on Saturdays and Sundays and snow removal. Our current level of staffing does not allow us to cover all sections of the buildings when someone is on vacation or absent. Due to budget constraints we are reducing cleaning services instead of paying overtime when possible.</p>
10.	GH	1215 School Monitors - SW - Salary - Security Monitors: What type of situations have other districts experienced that the HS is trying to avoid? What sort of training will the security monitors need/receive? Will it include anti-bias and de-escalation strategies?	<p>After school hours and in transition times, there are a variety of situations that warrant the additional staff, with sometimes hundreds of students that are unsupervised. They include, but are not limited to, vaping, discourage mean behavior (afterschool), threatening behavior, vandalism, and unauthorized people in buildings.</p> <p>We would provide training in restorative practices. We would also work with our SRO's and Tyler Stevens on building security protocols. We would also provide them with Physical Management Training or PMT, which focuses on de-escalation strategies. Anti-bias training is always a part of our initial training. Please remember, we are not requesting armed</p>

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			security guards, but to the extent that they have security background would be helpful.
11.	GH	1230 Contingency - SW - Salary - How is this used?	The Contingency line is less than 0.3% of the operating budget. This is where funds are budgeted for salary increases that have not been negotiated yet. This year we are negotiating with the secretaries union, the nurses association and a new superintendent. This also includes increases of the non union employees, which the Board typically determines in June.
12.	GH	1310 Substitute Teachers - SW - Please explain the increase?	<p>We use a building sub model in our district to provide consistency and allows us to fill absent positions easier than attempting to get a daily sub. The expense of a building sub is slightly more; however, it is a need since it is difficult to get substitutes.</p> <p>In 2024-2025 expenditures for substitute teachers exceeded \$1M. We are trending to spend \$1M in 2025-2026. The increase is to bring the budget in line with historical spending. We anticipate needing to increase substitute pay when the minimum wage is increased next January.</p> <p>This line also includes the reduction of the front desk monitor at BHS.</p>
13.	GH	3000 - PURCHASED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - Please describe the services rendered for the following services: <b>3101</b> Purch. Serv. - Fiscal <b>3301</b> Curriculum & Tech Empl Training	<p>Purchased Services Fiscal includes services for unemployment claims processing, Payroll software system support and eRate administration services.</p> <p>Curriculum and Technology Employee Training includes funding for Advanced Placement (AP) training for teachers and when we bring an expert in to work with our staff.</p> <p>Special Education Employee Training includes funding for required training</p>

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		<p><b>3301</b> Special Ed Empl Training  <b>3302</b> Professional Development  <b>3401</b> Prof. Technical Services</p>	<p>(for example, PMT training in de-escalation and physical management strategies) as well as training in instructional techniques that are aligned with department needs or goals.</p> <p>Professional Development includes funding for teachers to attend out of district professional workshops.</p> <p>Professional Technology Services includes our offsite data backup services.</p>
14.	GH	<p>5000 - OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES - Please describe the services rendered for the following services:</p> <p><b>5301</b> - Communication and research services  <b>5601</b> Tuition - Regular Ed - Public  <b>5800</b> - professional development/travel/mileage</p>	<p>Communication and research services include fees for telephone service, internet connections as well as research materials and services for students (see above).</p> <p>Tuition - Regular Ed Public includes funding for Bethel students who attend magnet schools such as the Shepaug Agriscience School and the AIS Magnet School in Danbury. We are legally required to pay this.</p> <p>When employees drive to out of district professional development workshops we reimburse them at the IRS mileage rate.</p>
15.	GH, KD	<p>8100 - What do the various Dues &amp; Fees cover?</p> <p>CO Dues and Fees: Why the increase? Is this due to the cuts in dues and fees from the 25-26 budget? Are they being reinstated?</p>	<p>Dues and Fees cover memberships to professional organizations such as CAFE. More details are listed on the Dues and Fees page of the Superintendent's Budget Presentation. Belonging to these organizations are critical. They provide us opportunities for professional learning, policy updates, and legislative advocacy.</p> <p>The increases are modest. The total increase across all of the organizations is \$10,056. We are not adding new dues and fees, it is for the existing</p>

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			organizations.
16.	LS	1210 With the addition of 2 FTE Tutors, please explain where they will be and what their focus will be on.	The tutors are already on board and were previously funded by grants, which have been mostly flat funded. They provide literacy, math and multilingual intervention. Tutors also provide for homebound instruction and for students that are expelled. We have always run over on the tutor budget and need to correct for that.
17.	KD	3302 Please explain the increase in Conference registration fees. What conferences are attended?	We have been delaying professional learning in order to reduce expenses. Conferences attended include, but are not limited to, Associated Teachers of Mathematics in CT (ATOMIC), Connecticut Reading Association (CRA), Tier 1 instructional strategies, music, art, and PE conferences. In addition to the operating budget, we also use Title II grants to pay for professional learning.
18.	KD	6113 Please explain the increase in General Supplies: Sports and Clubs	Uniform replacement Volleyball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Softball It also includes equipment replacement.
19.	LS	5100/5103 District Transportation has a minor increase but St Mary's transport increased 3%. Please explain why one increased more than the other.	Overall, the district transportation lines are up 3% per the increase in our bus contract.  5100 is up 3%.
20.	KD JL	1210/1510 Berry School/Johnson: What are the roles of the tutors? Why the increase? What coaches and advisors were cut?	There is no increase or decrease in tutors. There is a shift in how we are paying our tutors who were previously paid for by grants.  Tutors work under the direction of our math, literacy, and ESL specialists.

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		<p>1210 Johnson: Why the decrease in tutors?</p> <p>Rockwell: Why such an increase in tutors?</p>	<p>They support our intervention programming in the district.</p> <p>In our last budget we had to cut 2.5 Instructional Coaches. The 3 remaining Instructional Coaches transitioned into a new role, Curriculum Integration Specialists.</p> <p>JS eliminated stipends for Yearbook and TV Studio. Yearbook is now being managed by PTO and the TV studio is during the day.</p> <p>MS reduced stipends (Dance Team, Math League, Robotics League, and Year Book Advisor)</p> <p>BHS eliminated Key Club.</p>
21.	LS,& SC	<p>7302 Middle School - please explain the increase in furniture and fixtures</p> <p>7302. What furniture needs to be replaced for 22.89% increase in spending at BHS, 153% increase at BMS, 20% increase at JES,</p>	<p>At BMS the increase is a need to replace broken desks and chairs, which date back to the renovation.</p> <p>At BHS, they try to buy a classroom replacement per year to address broken furniture. In addition, there is library furniture at BHS that needs to be replaced.</p> <p>At Johnson School, they also need to replace broken furniture and filing cabinets. This increase is only \$200.00.</p>
22.	LS	6901 Rockwell - please explain the increase in Other Supplies	This is an increase in the cost of custodial supplies.
23.	KD JL	4442 Why increase in copier leases?	We have transitioned away from preprinted workbooks and textbooks. Instead we are printing more resources for students which has resulted in

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		6901: Why increase in Other supplies: fiscal services	<p>increased copying fees and paper expenses.</p> <p>Other supplies fiscal services include an allowance for incurred debt associated with unpaid school meal balances.</p>
24.	LS	2210.903.1221 Other Staff - Summer School. Please explain what was eliminated here.	We have transitioned to a self funding summer school model for regular education (HS Credit recovery). The summer school coordinator stipend will be paid for via student fees to attend summer school.
25.	JL	2500.101.2600 I see a large decrease in unemployment compensation. Can you explain how this will work?	The 2025-2026 budget included an increase in unemployment due to budget related staff reductions. We are able to decrease this line for 2026-2027 as we do not anticipate the same level of staff reductions.
26.	JL	2310.101.1217 Can you explain the staff increase in Nurse-SW-Health Services?	The total number of nurses is staying flat at 7.5. Funding has been reallocated from BHS to SW nurses for the float nurse, who works across multiple schools. This line also includes funding for ESY nurse support.
27.	JL	1100.101.1310 Are building substitutes part of this line?	Yes
28.	JL	On the secretary lines across schools I see increases and decreases without the number of staff changing can you explain?	In 2025-2026 We reduced 1 special education secretary and redistributed assignments. The corresponding budget updates across the schools are incorporated in the 2026-2027 proposal.
29.	SC	3201. What “professional educational services” at BHS totaling \$41,000?	Professional education services at BHS includes EdAdvance (health care internships) and Virtual High School.

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<b>February 5, 2026 - IT, Curriculum, SPED</b>			
30.	BR	<p>2140 School Psychological Services</p> <p>What is the current caseload for each individual psychologist?</p> <p>Do the school psychologists administer the academic tests as well as the psychological tests or do the special educators administer the academic tests?</p> <p>Did the psychologists conduct groups with students last year? If so, please provide the data for how many groups each psychologist facilitated, the frequency of each group and the duration of each group.</p>	<p>Last year our 4 school psychologists completed 139 initial evaluations for special education. We also conduct around 190 reevaluations per year. The scope of individual evaluations vary, however, the bulk of these are comprehensive evaluations that include cognitive, memory and processing, and social-emotional-behavioral components. Special education teachers complete academic evaluations.</p> <p>Our school psychologists provide both individual and group intervention services. In 2024-2025 the 4 school psychologists made over 2600 counseling intervention contacts. Typically a school psychologist maintains a counseling caseload of 15-20 students.</p> <p>The recommended ratio for school psychologists is 1:500. We are approximately 1:775.</p> <p>Adding 1 school psychologist will bring our ratio to 1:620.</p>
31.	LS KD	<p>5602 SPED tuition costs increased 11.6% is this due to increased outplacement costs or increased number of outplacements? Is a portion of this offset by grants?</p> <p>5602: Why the decrease in tuition for Other LEAs? About how many students are outplaced?</p>	<p>Outplacement tuition is reflected on 3 different lines: 5602, 5603, and 5604. We estimate costs based on actual student placements in different types of outplacements. For example, placements in special education schools run by RESCs like EdAdvance or CES are reflected in 5602. This line also reflects services for students with IEPs who attend local magnet programs or who are placed by DCF in foster placements outside of Bethel (for which we are fiscally responsible).</p> <p>Student placements change from year to year, so there is typically variation on these lines. 5602 actually reflects <i>decreased</i> costs next year (meaning,</p>

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			<p>fewer students are projected to be placed at RESCs or other LEAs next year). However, 5604 increased by 23% reflecting more students as well as anticipated tuition increases at special education private schools.</p> <p>There are currently 20 outplaced students and we have 2 additional anticipated placements for next year.</p> <p>Yes, this is somewhat offset by the Excess Cost Grant. As presented, the largest variable is the cap that is placed on this grant.</p>
32.	KD	1216 Rockwell /Berry Why does Berry have over 20 paraeducators? Is it COF? As the needs increase at Rockwell, is there consideration in reallocating paras? Are 7 paras enough?	The paraeducator numbers reflect paras funded by the operating budget only. Many paraeducators are funded via grants or other revenue sources (e.g., IDEA grant, SEED grant, COF tuition, Excess Cost reimbursement, Medicaid reimbursement). There is equitable paraeducator coverage at Rockwell and Berry.
33.	LS	1216 Please expand on the increase in Paraeducators.	Additional paraeducators were hired this year in response to student needs. We were able to fund these paras using various sources (e.g., SEED grant, Excess Cost reimbursement that exceeded what we had budgeted for). We will need to continue these positions next year. Therefore, due to the continued need, we moved those 8 paras to the operating budget.
34.	LS	2150.101.110 Certified SLP adding one FTE. Please expand on what schools this FTE will serve. Given the expanding needs of our students is one additional FTE sufficient to meet those needs?	This is an existing speech-language pathologist position that was previously funded via a grant. We added an SLP position several years ago to meet student needs and our current staffing is sufficient.

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35.	KD	1216: Please explain the salary reduction for ESY paras. Are less paras needed for ESY? Do some students have 1:1 paras during the summer? Access to a BCBA?	The ESY paraeducator line was reduced to be in line with last year's spending.
36.	KD	1110: Are you hiring more ESY teachers? How many ESY teachers typically work during the summer?	We typically have around 30 certified staff members at ESY. This varies slightly from year to year based on student need. This line has been increased this year due to a rebalance of some ESY costs previously being charged to the schools. We do not have plans to increase the size of the program.
37.	KD	5109: Why is the amount of Special Education transportation low? Is this ESY only? How many buses are required for ESY? Do some of the students require a para/aid on the bus? If so, what budget line would represent this?	<p>5109 is utilized for special education department field trips or other singular transportation expenses.</p> <p>The funding for special education transportation to and from school including ESY is in line 5104.</p> <p>Regarding support on the bus, the special education vans each have a First Student monitor. The cost for the monitor is included in the transportation line.</p>
38.	KD	7303 What equipment is purchased? Does this include Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices?	Equipment purchases include a range of assistive technology equipment, AAC applications, and equipment used by our occupational therapists and physical therapists (e.g., specialized chairs for students with physical needs).
39.	KD	5103: Please explain transportation SPED non-public? Is this line for	Yes, this line is for outplacement transportation to private special education facilities. Similarly, 5100 is used for outplacement transportation to RESC

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		outplacements?	schools (e.g., CES).
40.	KD	1110: Please explain the role of social workers. Is there a social worker at each school? Why are reference materials and other supplies for SW? Why are those lines zeroed out?	<p>We have 6 social workers in district. Our staffing is as follows:</p> <p>BHS- 2            BMS 1.5            Johnson 1.5            Rockwell .5            Berry .5</p> <p>Our social workers provide individual and group counseling for students, including the counseling support for our special education social-emotional programs (FLEX and STEP). They also provide consultation with teachers to support social-emotional-behavioral needs, family consultation, and crisis intervention services. They play critical roles in supporting students who have DCF involvement or are experiencing homelessness. They also support attendance teams in identifying and intervening early for students with chronic absenteeism.</p> <p>Please note, there are school counselors and a school psychologist in each school also to provide additional student supports.</p>
41.	KD	How many staff members work in COF? What are the class sizes? Has there been any consideration for going back to full day? Does the Berry School Psychologist also work with COF - such as conducting assessments, and	<p>We have 4 COF teachers and 11 paraeducators. There is also a dedicated speech-language pathologist for the program. School psychological services, BCBA support, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are also provided.</p> <p>Current enrollment in our 4s classes is 12-13 students. Our 3s classes currently average 7 students, however, students enter throughout the year as</p>

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		consulting with teachers?	<p>they reach their 3rd birthday.</p> <p>Moving to a full day program is not mandated and would require us to 2 teachers as well as a number of paraeducators. This would add at least \$600,000 to the budget.</p>
42.	KD	<p>1110: Is the salary for the new school psych competitive with surrounding districts? Is there a year's experience/step capped? Are there times you had to outsource testing to an outside agency? If so, what is that cost compared to a new school psychologist?</p>	<p>The psychologist will be paid according to our collective bargaining agreement.</p> <p>We have utilized a few strategies to complete evaluations. We have taken advantage of free triennial evaluation support from CSDE (using a RESC evaluator) when it has been available to us. Our school psychologists have also completed evaluations during ESY that they do not have time to complete during the school year. We have also utilized outside evaluators, however, these evaluations are expensive and typically cost between \$4000 and \$8000 each.</p>
43.	KD JL	<p>Do OTs and PTs service every school? With only 2 of each, how do they manage their time at schools? Is it a balance of consultation and direct instruction?</p> <p>With the increased number of students receiving special education services how are SLP, OT and PT caseloads monitored to not be too large?</p>	<p>We have 2 occupational therapists and 1 physical therapist. They provide both direct and indirect services for students.</p> <p>We monitor our OT, PT, and SLP caseloads closely and continuously. At times we have had to contract for part-time support to meet student needs. However, we currently do not have any contracted OT, PT, or SLP services. Our current staffing is sufficient.</p>

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44.	JL	With preschool being ½ day are we still getting enough model peer students to keep the 50/50 ratio for integrated classrooms?	Yes, we have maintained the 50/50 ratio. The number of typical peers this year is similar to last year.
45.	JL	As the special education numbers and high needs cases increase are we able to handle all of the students needs with the current staffing?	Handling the current level of student needs continues to be challenging, which is why we have increased paraeducator support.
46.	JL	How are we handling evaluations for students who need to be evaluated in their home language? Is this something that we will be looking into when hiring a new psychologist?	<p>We contract with bilingual evaluators to conduct psychoeducational evaluations and speech-language evaluations. In cases where a bilingual evaluator cannot be located, we follow best practices for non-biased assessment.</p> <p>We would welcome bilingual candidates for the school psychology position. However, school psychologists continue to be identified as a shortage area in Connecticut.</p>
47.	JMG	<p>6502 Tech supplies and subscriptions: 529,862</p> <p>Does Bethel see Chrome books as essential?</p>	<p>This budget line is for software subscriptions, which are considered a supply in the uniform chart of accounts. This line does not include equipment such as chromebooks. The 6502 line does include Chrome licenses (Google Workspace) and Chromebook protective cases.</p> <p>As a system, Bethel does believe that access to technology is an essential skill to prepare our students for college and career readiness. We only use technology in a developmental appropriate manner. In K-2, the use is very limited. As our students progress through the school system, the amount of</p>

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			time on technology increases based on the age and course/subject requirements. As part of our overall program, we emphasize digital wellness, safety, and digital citizenship.
48.	SC	6502: Please clarify the \$78k increase? Also, do we pay a service for any type of electronic storage for records retention?	<p>The \$78,000 increase is needed to maintain our current software subscriptions and technology supplies. The increase is due to contract renewal prices and the incorporation of Rave security alert software in the operating budget. Contract renewal increases vary from 1 to 10%. Rave was initially purchased through a security grant.</p> <p>Key technology subscriptions include PowerSchool, and cyber security filters and alert systems, antivirus, and cyber education software.</p> <p>Also, we are planning for an increase in Chromebook cases and management licenses next year as we anticipate replacing one grade of devices to sustain our 1:1 program (not factored in last year). We are also planning to add a subscription for an AI tool by reallocating funding within the line.</p> <p>Last year we were able to reduce the 6502 budget line because we were notified in December of 2024 that we were awarded cybersecurity grant funding—these reimbursements were used to pay for iBoss, MFA and patch management in 25-26. We will not know if we will be awarded the second round of this grant until March this year.</p> <p>The challenge has been that we have encumbered costs in operating budget from the renovation project, security grants, subscriptions originally funded</p>

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			<p>with ESSER, and student number count increases, yet have made minimal increases to this line over the years to factor in the added costs.</p> <p>We do not pay for electronic storage for records. We use Google Workspace for cloud storage and our databases are cloud hosted. We pay for offsite backup of local storage; but that is in the 3401 budget line.</p>
49.	KD	<p>What is the overall cost for IXL, AimsWeb, and MyView? Do you have to replenish consumables for MyView, EL Education, Math, Science and Social Studies? How often do teachers teach Science and Social Studies? Has the social studies curriculum been updated based on the new standards? What materials do you use?</p>	<p>IXL is a 3-year license paid annually. The total cost is 57,641, with \$17,292.30 to be paid in 26-27 for ELA 6-8 and Math 3-8 subscription. Multiyear contracts drive down the overall cost.</p> <p>We were quoted \$6,787.5 for Aimsweb for 26-27.</p> <p>We have two years left in our contract for MyView Literacy, K-5 which covers consumables. Funding for MyView will need to be added to the budget in the future.</p> <p>There are no consumables associated with the EL Education Literacy Program at the Middle School. All materials required have already been purchased.</p> <p>In Grades K-5, the Myview Literacy Program is designed with thematic units that integrate content-area standards, including social studies and science. The program supports Connecticut's educational standards by utilizing informational texts, fostering critical thinking, and addressing</p>


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			<p>disciplinary literacy in history/social studies through a comprehensive, inquiry-based approach. We do not use a separate program for Social Studies.</p> <p>We have been engaging in ongoing curriculum work in grades 6-12 to align with the new standards. Almost all of our courses at the High School level have approved curricula that reflect the new standards. Grades 6-8 will be brought forward for board approval soon.</p>

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<b>February 10, 2026 - Facilities/Budget Deliberations</b>			
50.	GH	<p>Are sustainable options being considered under the capital plan when replacing HVAC systems, roof, or generators, etc.? Are electric buses being considered instead of diesel? Are accessibility improvements needed? What is the cooler floor structural investigation?</p>	<p>Yes, sustainable and energy efficient options are, and will continue to be considered.</p> <p>Several years ago, when we were in the process of renewing our transportation contract, electric buses were explored. At that time, the cost of an electric bus was 3 to 4 times greater than a diesel bus, which made it not feasible to move to electric buses at that time. Our current bus contract runs through 6/30/2027. We will explore electric buses again as we work on the next contract. Also, current clean air legislation requires districts to move to zero emissions buses by 2030 or 2035 depending on environmental justice zones. The legislature is currently working to clarify how this impacts school districts. There is also concern at the state level about the lack of infrastructure to support charging of electric buses.</p> <p>We currently have 2 wheelchair vans serving 6 students who are transported to 6 different schools. We maximize use of these vehicles by transporting other students as well.</p> <p>The cooler referenced is the walk-in refrigerator located in the Berry School cafeteria. The cooler floor is inadequately insulated, which is resulting in condensation forming beneath the unit. A mechanical room is located directly below the cooler, and the condensation is accumulating on the underside of the cooler and dripping onto the equipment below. Further investigation is required to determine appropriate mitigation measures.</p>

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51.	GH	Does the district use Account 460 just to payout invoices? Or does it earn interest?	The 460 is a general ledger account used to keep facilities expenditures separate from other departments. It is not a bank account. As a reminder, the 460 account is part of the town budget.
52.	BF GH	Can you prioritize the list prior reductions with a cost estimate?	Please see attached  Cost to Restore Reductions - Sheet1.pdf
53.	SC	460 B: HVAC repair. At a rate of over \$100k per year, would it make sense to have a certified EMS/HVAC contactor on staff?	This is something we considered; by the time we factor in a competitive salary and benefits, and necessary materials associated with the maintenance/repairs (refrigerant, parts, tools, etc.) the cost would likely exceed the current budgeted value.
54.	SC	460 C: What are the typical repairs costing \$170k?	<p>The \$170k line on the 460 C is the budget for contracted HVAC preventative maintenance (not repairs).</p> <p>Preventative maintenance includes: changing filters, inspecting/cleaning coils and inspecting/replacing belts for approximately 66 air handlers; changing filters, inspecting coils and inspecting/cleaning condensate drain pans/pumps on approximately 245 fan coil/VRF units; inspecting and greasing approximately 36 pumps (HW, CHW, CW); inspect, grease and change belts (where applicable) on approximately 92 exhaust fans; inspect, and replace filters on approximately 52 cabinet unit heaters; inspecting and cleaning approximately 20 condenser coils (these are in addition to the condenser coils associated with Air Handlers); inspect, clean and service approximately 9 domestic hot water heaters; inspect, start-up (spring), shut-down (fall) and service 4 chillers; inspect, start-up (spring), shut-down (fall), clean and service the Middle School cooling tower.</p>

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			Typical HVAC repairs that we are encountering, that fall outside of the contracted services, are fan bearing and motor replacements (supply fans, exhaust fans, condenser fans, induction fans), refrigerant leak repairs/ refrigerant recharging, and hot water valve replacements).
55.	SC	460B: What security system required \$10k in repairs?	This budget allocation is based on past spending for repairs to the security cameras, door access controls (card readers, automated door openers, electronically controlled door locking devices), motion detectors, and the associated wiring for each type of device across all schools and TFTC.
56.	GH	What incentives can the district provide to permanently fill the 2 special ed positions currently open?	We are bound by our collective bargaining agreement with the teacher’s union, which does not include any financial incentives for new hires. We need to focus on recruiting and supporting our existing special education teachers.
57.	JL	I see that we removed the emergency contingency line -\$40,000.00 but only see that \$20,000.00 was added to other lines, please explain?	The \$20,000 was reduced in order to keep the total facilities budget request under \$700,000. We were comfortable doing this as we have a commitment from the town to make Capital Non Recurring (CNR) funds available if needed.