

Hartland Board of Education
Spring 2017 Newsletter



Superintendent of Schools...Dr. Anthony W. Distasio

Hartland Board of Education Budget

The Hartland Board of Education adopted the budget for the 2017-2018 school year at their meeting of March 13, 2017 at \$5,328,045 or an increase of .9%. The Hartland Board of Finance met on March 15, 2017 and reduced the Board's budget request to \$5,318,045 or an increase of .76%. The following two charts represent a summary of the proposed Board of Education budget.

Board of Education 2017-2018 Budget

2017-2018 Proposed Budget \$5,318,045	\$ Increase \$40,065	Budget % Increase .76%
Hartland School \$3,538,391	\$ Increase \$81,854	Budget % Increase 1.56%
2017-2018 High School Tuition \$1,779,654	\$ Increase (\$41,789)	Budget % Increase (.8%)

Changes by Budget Classification

Category	Increase/ (Decrease)
100 Salaries	\$80,901
200 Benefits	(\$432)
300 Purchased Services (Tuition)	(\$18,727)
400 Utilities	\$2,554
500 Supplies & Materials	(\$10,745)
600 Capital Outlay	(\$13,486)
TOTALS	\$40,065



Explanation of Increases

The majority of the increases in this year's proposed budget are in the area of Salaries. The Salary Account includes the contracted salaries for our teaching and support staff. Other than this line item, we were able to significantly reduce our budget in most all other areas.

This year, the Governor of the State of Connecticut has proposed the reduction of town aide from the State of Connecticut. He is recommending the reduction of the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) grant, the grant that helps to fund our educational programs. He is also recommending the reduction of monies from the State that help offset our transportation costs and the monies that help fund the programs for our special education students. He is recommending that the towns and cities in the State pay one third of the costs for Teacher Retirement, something that has always been funded completely by the State. These reductions, if approved by our legislature, will make it increasingly more difficult for town governments to maintain necessary services, not only in our schools, but for all town services as well.

If you have any questions about the 2017-2018 school budget, please feel free to contact me at 860-653-7207 or 860-653-0295 or you may email me at tdistasio@hartlandschool.com.

I would like to sincerely thank the Hartland Board of Education, the Board of Selectmen, our Town Treasurer, and the Hartland Board of Finance for their hard work and dedication in developing this year's budget. Additionally, I would like to thank our Principal, Laura Hollingsworth, our Business Assistant, Donna Roberts, and our Hartland Staff for their help during the budget development process. Budget development is never an easy task, especially with diminishing funds. This year's budget development was especially trying given the proposed budget reductions from the Governor, in particular, the reductions he has proposed for the small towns in Connecticut.

As superintendent, I am grateful to our town and very supportive parents for helping to make Hartland School the wonderful educational institution it is, which has resulted in Hartland School being rated a Category I school. This did not come by accident. It came because of the hard work of our very dedicated staff and because of the support of the community. Please know that we are all very appreciative of that hard work and for the continued support. Thank you.



Thank You!

Principals Corner...Laura Hollingsworth



Hartland School was named a Category I school, the highest category, on Connecticut's Next-Generation Accountability Report. The twelve indicators that feed into the rating include academic growth and achievement data in English Language Arts, Math, and Science, absenteeism, physical fitness, and access to the arts. This places Hartland School in the top 20% of Connecticut schools.

Hartland teachers continue to focus across disciplines on the high-leverage goal that "students will construct and engage in viable arguments based on evidence and critique the reasoning of others". Both orally and in writing, students are taught to make careful analysis, take an informed position, and support that position clearly with relevant information, all while demonstrating their reasoning skills. In a language arts classroom students are reading analytically and producing well-grounded communication about what they learn from one or more texts and digital sources. In art, students reflect on what visual characteristics were effective in conveying ideas in their own work and others. In science, students make and evaluate claims with relevant, accurate data and logical reasoning. As we continue this goal work for a second year, we notice that students are becoming more comfortable with tasks that do not have immediate, easy answers. These higher order thinking and communication skills are complex and rigorous. Aligning instruction and assessment to higher order thinking and communication skills has been a key driver in our school-wide goal work. The district's investment in professional learning time has been invaluable to our growth in performance data.

Another initiative targeting student growth includes a mindful integration of technology skills into instruction. This is a two year focus for our technology committee and one of the Board of Education goals. We are also insuring that we address the needs of the whole child by building in additional time and resources for Social and Emotional Learning. Hartland School continues to benefit greatly from an informed and invested parent community, dedicated Parent Teacher Organization and Board of Education, and immensely talented teachers and staff. We appreciate your ongoing feedback and continued support.

Ronnie Alicata, Cultural Arts Liaison

It is more evident than ever that Hartland School is deeply involved in the arts due to a very generous community. Our own PTO supports the students with funds for cultural visitors and transportation for a plethora of field trips. This year's schedule included storyteller Antonio Rocha, Bright Star Touring Theater, Mary Jo Maichack as Mother Goose, Lou Del Bianco as Abraham Lincoln and the Hartford Stage week-long residency. Just this month, through the PTO's help, our students were lucky to visit The New Britain Museum of American Art, witnessing the special National Park collection of Ansel Adams. Later in the spring the Hartland Land Trust will sponsor an Earth Day celebration with a visit from Riverside Reptiles. Imagine our students' faces when they see those visitors. Additionally, our cultural budget continues to be supported by our Capital Area Substance Abuse Council.

Within our walls there is the hum of learning, the buzz of experiencing, the wide-eyed glow of discovery: enticing writing pieces at every turn, mesmerizing portraits lining the middle school wing, along with water cycle posters. Earlier this season, one could witness young thespians preparing for the Drama Club's annual production. Presently, 8th graders are designing roller coasters for our STEAM event and there is often the perennial sight of students carrying their instruments that are larger than they are, to and from lessons. Staff members, at every turn, include the arts to reach all our students, helping them express themselves. Together with the community, a Community of Achievement, Hartland School benefits from the attention and dedication to the arts.

