

**Monday, February 14, 2022**  
**Questions & Answers**

**PTC Budget Study Questions**

74. Are sufficient funds allocated for elementary psych support and socialization programs?

Yes, if there is a need above what the current personnel needs are, we can bring in consultants similarly to the HS this year. However, we do not anticipate this being the case.

**Special Education Report**

75. Request: Can you please provide the total of IEPs versus 504s in the special education report to better assess the budget of special education teachers?

This can be found in the [Budget Session #2](#) presentation. (12% classified as CSE, 12.2% identified under Section 504)

76. The Special Education presentation talks about special education cohort classified under the 13 eligibility criteria under IDEA. It would seem that this does not include the special education population number served under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. When should we expect to see how many students are provided services under the 504 plan?

Those students served through a 504 are not part of the special education population. They are identified as students with a disability but do not receive “specialized instruction” but only accommodations or related services (speech, OT, PT etc.). Students with a 504 can receive support through all of the pre-referral services provided to all students.

77. The Special Education presentation states that 12% of the student population receives special education services. Does that include 504 cohorts?

Please see the previous two questions.

78. With the increase in Special Education services this year, does the District administration anticipate more students qualifying for Extended School Year services and is that covered under the pandemic-related considerations of the proposed \$500,000 allocation?

Extended school year is for students who experience significant regression in academics over long absences, this is not the typical profile of students we are seeing classified, so there is no anticipated increase in ESY. Most of our ESY students are in self-contained classes or out of District placements. Some of our ICT students do receive related services over the summer. All of these summer services are part of the regular special education budget, not the pandemic allocation.

79. Can the administration be specific as to the categories that will be covered under the allocation of \$500,000 pandemic-related considerations?

The District's budget includes \$500,000 in budgetary appropriations which are funded from assigned fund balance as an offsetting revenue (net zero tax impact). These funds would not be utilized unless there are budget overruns due to the pandemic. Although we are uncertain of exactly where these overruns would occur or to what extent, we have planned on the following:

\$150,000 - Tutoring Costs  
\$220,000 - Instructional Salaries  
\$130,000 - PPE related expenses

It may be necessary to transfer funds during the course of the year from one of these areas to another area such as Custodial OT if the need emerges. These funds could also be used due to extra-ordinary inflationary increases.

### Questions About Budget Book

80. Will you be able to tell the community the budgetary implications of the superintendent search? The Board of Education has not yet issued an RFP for these services so we are not quite at that point as of yet. Presently, about 35 districts in the state of New York are looking for a superintendent. At what point, will you put in the budget a figure for the superintendent salary and benefits for 2022-2023? There is an estimated amount in the budget for the salary and benefits of an interim superintendent for the next school year. When do you anticipate that Appendix K, called Selected Compensation and Benefits, will be published? This will occur after the Board of Education adopts the Budget on April 4th. Will you be letting the community know the breakdown of costs for the superintendent search, such as what percent of base salary and/or benefits a search firm is paid? This would not occur until after the RFP and interview process. Is it based on the

first year of employment or does it include more? That would depend on the negotiated contract which is not yet in place. And are there costs for staff and/or BOE members, who might have to travel to interview a candidate or candidates? Yes, there most likely will be costs associated with this part of the process.

81. Is there a cap on compensation for the superintendent role? Given the number of NY districts that are searching for a new superintendent, how are we thinking about the compensation for our incoming Superintendent relative to the outgoing Superintendent?

There is not a cap in place for compensation. The compensation package for an incoming Superintendent would be negotiated by the Board of Education which would be informed by local, regional, state, and national factors.

82. Do you have studies showing the cost differential between electric vs. diesel school buses?

Yes, the District does have some information regarding electric vs. diesel school buses and plans on investigating this transition for inclusion in future budgets.

83. Given the current low-interest rate environment, does it make sense to issue additional school bonds prior to interest rates increasing later this year? Given the low debt service per pupil for our district, perhaps we can take advantage of low-interest rates to push this a bit higher and lock in a low cost of capital.

There are no current large-scale capital plans under discussion that would require the issuance of debt. With work from the 2018 Bond coming to a close this upcoming summer, it is anticipated that small and large-scale discussions regarding a prospective 2026 Bond will commence in the fall of 2023. Issuance of the debt related to that project would dovetail with the retirement of existing debt at that time.

84. Does the district get any visibility into future years of proposed state aid for our school budget? This may influence the decision to be more aggressive (or not) with bond issuance.

Year to year state aid is dependent upon the New York State budget allocation as approved by state legislators. This is determined in late winter/early spring each year. Future building aid is the one known predictable aid category. The District is prohibited from issuing debt without the proper authority to do so and in accordance with applicable State Education and General Municipal laws for doing so. A short-term RAN (revenue anticipation note) or TAN (tax anticipation note) is allowed if the District's cash flow

would prohibit us from meeting financial obligations until such time aid or taxes were received later in the school year.

85. How will the current rise in oil affect our District's energy costs?

The District is already experiencing the impact of increased energy costs. Unlike past years we are unlikely to see a surplus in these categories in the current year. Depending on weather and prices, we might actually have a deficit. The 2022-23 budget for utilities has been increased by \$300,000 to take into account these escalations.