



# CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

## REPORT

May 2, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton  
Members of the Common Council

Re: **Education Budget**

The Education Budget Committee met at 7:30 P.M. on April 21, 2006 in Conference Room 3C in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Saracino, Stanley, Riley, Diggs and Visconti. Also in attendance were Board of Education Members Joan Hodge, Eileen Alberts, Scott Ferguson, Michael Fazio, Joel Garafalo, Robert Taborsak and Cathy Molinaro, Director of Finance & Personnel Dena Diorio, Director of Finance for the Board of Education Elio Longo and Council Members Basso, Chianese, Rotello and Taborsak, ex-officio.

Mr. Longo began with a review of the Board's presented budget. The biggest driver is the cost of health care. It looks like it will come in at 15%. Worker's compensation is flat funded. Standard fixed costs increased by 5.7%. Utilities have increased by 30%. There will be a \$700,000 shortfall on fuel costs this year. Mr. Longo continued with a description of transportation costs. Tuition for special placement reflects a 12.5% increase. Mr. Longo discussed the fuel costs for vehicle operations and fuel. Lease costs are down by 9%. The Head Start contribution is up \$10,000 to \$160,000. Mr. Longo continued that the budget is \$100,259,000 for an increase of 6.2% without the Magnet School.

Mr. Longo discussed the problems involving the start-up funding for the Magnet School. The total project amount for full enrollment is \$2,900,000. Ms. Saracino asked if there was any consolidation savings by moving students to the Magnet School. Mr. Longo said that he was not in a position to project savings. Mr. Riley asked if there were contract concerns regarding the staffing at the Magnet School. Mr. Long said that existing teachers have a right of first refusal. Ms. Saracino asked if the Magnet School costs are just for the first year. Mr. Longo said no, many of them continue. Mr. Longo explained that there is a \$1,000,000 gap between revenue and expenses.

Ms. Saracino asked Ms. Diorio to explain the rationale of the City's proposal. Ms. Diorio said that the City would suggest eliminating the Superintendent's priorities, grants for equipment, additional priority school district money plus energy assistance from the State. There is a gap to close of \$400,000. Mr. Ferguson said that the energy grant is great. The challenge is the Magnet School. Mr. Nolan asked about the potential for there having been a change in the reimbursement since it was approve years ago. Mr. Longo said no.

Mrs. Stanley made a motion that the committee recommend adoption of the education budget as proposed by the Mayor. Seconded by Mr. Visconti. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARY SARACINO, Chairman

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COLLEEN STANLEY

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ROBERT RILEY

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N. JANE DIGGS

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FRED VISCONTI