



Board of Education Questions for the District: Round 2

2020-21 Proposed Budget

Date: April 10, 2020

Round 2 Questions	Sections 6, 8 & 9, and Round 1 Follow-up Questions
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Question Organization by Department:

	Direct Questions for Superintendent's Office and/or Deputies
	Accountability
	Communications
	Finance
	HCI
	IM&T
	Legal
	Operations
	Safety & Security
	School Chiefs
	Teaching & Learning
	Transportation
	East EPO

Round 2 Questions

2.1	In section 7 page 4 totals there are parenthesis where it looks like there was an increase in the budget totals not a decrease. (Section 7, p.4)- SENT 4/7/20 & RESPONSE PROVIDED 4/ 7/ 20
2.2	Please clarify – TOTAL cost of EAST high school- Shaun Nelms presented a vastly different number and it is critical we fully understand the true actual cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition the proposed return of \$3.5MM would that be reflected as a cut now or end of year? (Section 7, p. 4)



The \$22.9MM that was published and presented by Central Office on 4/2/20 did not include the proposed 7 FTE reductions nor the additional operating efficiencies. As stated on 3/12/20, the East budget is \$20.9MM. This accounts for \$2MM of the anticipated \$3.5MM discussed with the board.

The remaining \$1.5MM in question accounts for Title 1 and 1003a grants which are non-competitive and schools receive annually. However, if the Federal Government decides to withhold these funds because of the pandemic, the essential services to children are accounted for within the \$20.9MM budget.

It is true that if East were to receive the same level of Title I and 1003 Grant funds in 20-21 as was received in 19-20, the District would realize a fund balance reimbursement to the General Fund of approximately \$1.2MM. Similarly, if the Optics Grant is approved by SED, RCSD would receive approximately \$136K in additional reimbursement to the General Fund. The remaining approximate \$200K would come from savings in employee benefits from the staff reductions.

In summary, the \$3.5MM reduction will be realized in the 20-21 budget if the grant funds are received and the proposed 20-21 is accurately reflected in the Budget Book.

2.3

In addition please give a cost analysis of salaries and benefits for SEG group, and administrators at EAST separate from janitorial staff and other staff that is included per Shaun in the \$4,087,319 MM budget line
(General Question) [[note cross-listed with District Question 2.31]

As presented in Section 7, on Page 13, the composition of the "Administrative" portion of the East 20-21 budget is detailed below. Further detail is provided in Section 7 on pages 14 and 15.



EPO Administration Management Financial Discussion and A

BUDGET EXPENSE CATEGORIES			
	2019-20 Amended Budget	2020-21 Proposed Budget	Budget Change Inc/ (Dec)
Salary Compensation	\$1,040,841	\$1,068,907	\$28,066
Other Compensation	60,436	59,091	(1,345)
Benefits	-	-	-
Fixed Obligations with Variability	300	-	(300)
Debt Service	-	-	-
Cash Capital	13,920	32,301	18,381
Facilities and Related	120,125	114,000	(6,125)
Technology	32,650	111,653	79,003
Other Variable Expenses	1,846,367	2,551,367	705,000
Contingency Fund	247,965	150,000	(97,965)
Totals	\$3,362,604	\$4,087,319	\$724,715
FTEs	11.30	11.30	-

Please note, in NYS school district budgeting terminology, there are 3 distinct portions of the budget:

1. Administrative which reflects expenditures such as office and administrative costs; including salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties, as well as data processing, supplies, legal fees, property insurance, and school board expenses.

2. Program which reflects expenditures related to the actual instruction/curriculum of the students. These expenditures include: salaries and benefits of teachers and supervisors who spend the majority of their time teaching as well as instructional costs such as supplies, equipment, and textbooks, and transportation operating costs.

3. Capital which reflects expenditures associated all transportation capital, debt service, and lease expenditures in addition to legal judgments and settled claims, custodial costs and all facility costs (including service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, construction, renovation, debt and leasing costs).

As presented on 4/2/20 by Central Office, the expenditures listed on page 13 of Section 7 are included within the East Administration budget. It is important to note that the 1 FTE reduction in Administrative positions is not reflected in the chart on page 13. As such, instead of an increase of \$28,066 resulting from RCSD



contractually negotiated increases, the 20-21 salary expenditure will be reduced by \$107,444 and other compensation expenditures will be reduced by \$10,747 as opposed to being increased by \$1,345.

Other Variable Expenditures includes contractual expenditures that truly should be aligned with the Program portion of the budget. Examples include, but are not limited to, All Pro Catalyst, CHAMPPS, Encompass, etc. These programs directly support student academic achievement by providing instructional support.

The Other Variable Expenditure line also includes approximately \$1MM that has also been identified by Central Office as expenditures to be included within the Special Aid Fund. As such, this is double booking of the same expenditures.

In summary, the \$4,087,319 found listed in Section 7, Page 4 is overstated. Once the reductions are removed for the 1FTE Administrative position and the allowance is taken into consideration for the expenditures that we anticipate will be reimbursed through grant funding, the bottom-line total would be adjusted to \$2,971,086 representing a reduction of \$392K as opposed to an increase of \$725K.