



Colchester Public Schools

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Date: May 10, 2024

To: Members of the Colchester Community

From: Daniel Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Education Budget Information

As we approach the second public hearing for the budget, the town meeting and then the budget referendum, I want to ensure that everyone has access to the information they need to make an informed decision. Once again this year, the Colchester Public Schools built and updated a budget section on our website with copies of presentations, budget documents and supporting information. If you haven't already visited this page, I encourage you to do so.

https://www.colchesterct.org/board_of_education/education_budget

At the last couple of Board of Finance workshops, the administration received questions about why certified and classified salaries were not broken out by position to show individual placements on the salary schedule and corresponding salaries. Generally speaking, this is impractical as we build the budget in the late fall and work with the information available to us at that time. By this point in the year, we've received notifications of retirement, resignations and we also have position changes due to enrollment fluctuation, etc... In other words, who is scheduled to be in a particular position and who actually fills it September may be different.

When I joined the leadership team in Colchester, I spent a lot of time gathering feedback and charting a path forward. The concerns that impacted every aspect of our operations were confidence and trust. We've worked to address those concerns by being present and accessible, increasing access to information, enhancing communication and the introduction of new communication platforms such as ParentSquare. While survey data demonstrates progress, I recognize that it takes time to build confidence in the district and earn your trust.

Attached to this memo are two salary lists, one for all certified positions and another for each non-certified position. These are based upon staffing figures on February 14, 2024. As a reminder, some people may no longer work here, and others may have since notified us that they are retiring or changing jobs at the end of the school year. At the bottom of the lists, you will also see footnotes that include references to grant funded positions, contractually negotiated stipends for some veteran teachers, etc.

It is our hope that publishing these documents will help us take another step forward in terms of confidence and trust. As you will see, both the certified and non-certified salary documents balance out with the original budget documents to the penny.