



School Funding Committee Overview

August 18, 2015

Purpose

The School Funding Committee (SFC) will engage in a series of discussions, centered on financial data, to help New Haven Public Schools decide on revisions to its school funding model in a way that addresses the below requirements. The SFC will recommend a revised school funding model to the Superintendent that will be implemented for the FY17 school year, and thus must make its recommendations by the end of November.

Requirements of a funding model for NHPS:

1. **Address Equity among schools;** defined broadly as the fact that certain schools receive significantly more in Education Operation Funds on a per-student basis than others, and student need is largely unaddressed
2. **Address Student mobility;** our students and families tend to move from one school to another at a higher rate than the state average, and our school funding formula should be able to address the mobility of our families. As schools grow and shrink, resources should be added or subtracted to reflect the student population
3. **Emphasize the school as the unit of change;** as portfolio school district, NHPS believes that schools are the unit that matters most in improving the educational outcome of our students. However, our funding model does not explicitly reflect that value statement. We need a way to show that schools are funded first before all other priorities of the district
4. **Address Financial sustainability;** neither the level of staff at NHPS, nor the funding provided, have a direct relationship the funding levels available. Rather, they are tied to historical levels of investment, and a general sense for program changes for the next year. NHPS needs a model that can adapt to forecasted funding levels in an efficient and equitable manner.

Focus of Scope

It is expected that the SFC will entertain a range of funding possibilities that have been employed in other school districts. This ranges on one end to a staffing model where staff are automatically added based on the number of students (e.g. 1 teacher for every 25 students) to the other end where money follows the child (e.g. \$5,000 per student is added to the school's budget).

Composition

The SFC will be a 9-member committee made up of the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief of Staff, three principals, two parents, and two community members. The meetings will be open to other staff and the public, and the offices of Finance and Talent will provide technical assistance for analysis/support.

Timeline and Meeting Schedule

In order to provide actionable recommendations to the Superintendent for the FY17 Budget process, the SFC must conclude its recommendations before the Thanksgiving break (11/25/2015). Given the depth of the discussions, and importance of the ultimate recommendation, the members should expect to meet at minimum of twice a month for 1.5 hours through November, plus two public board meetings for a total of 8 sessions.