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Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

January 14, 2011

Dr. Polly Rauh
President
Stamford Board of Education

Re: 2011-12 Superintendent's Budget Request

Dear Dr. Rauh:

Attached for your consideration is an Operating Budget in the amount of \$231,999,074 (3.86%) and a Grants Budget in the amount of \$23,169,708.

Considerable effort was expended to develop a budget that preserves programs and positions, allows us to continue our instructional reform efforts, and remains fiscally prudent. My budget is driven by the Strategic District Improvement Plan (SDIP), incorporates cost saving suggestions from "District and Community Partners", and complies with State and Federal mandates.

Because of the current fiscal climate, and to facilitate BOE and City Board approval, many areas of the budget were pared down to a bare minimum. Of the 3.86% increase, 2.3% reflects expiring ARRA and GE Developing Futures™ Grants, as well as mandates around pension and OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits). When non-controllable items are isolated (and a one-time credit in the benefit account of \$1,690,000 is taken into account), my requested budget request represents a .8% increase over the current fiscal year.

I look forward to your support to bring forth this budget. I believe it will enable us to build on the progress of our educational reforms that prepare our children for higher education and the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools