

May 28, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President  
New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers:

We respectfully submit the attached Order as a communication requesting a workshop regarding the New Haven Board of Education budget including all income and expenses, staff composition, and proposed remedies for mitigating the current deficit. We wish to review each line item in order to assess how the Board utilizes public funds, current staffing and programming, factors driving the current deficit, and proposed short-term and long-term mitigation strategies. In doing so, we hope to advance transparency, knowledge, and trust between the Board of Education, the Board of Alders, and our shared constituents.

New Haven Public Schools Superintendent Negrón currently projects a \$23.2M budget gap, with potential cuts including: 1) \$9.25M in layoffs of 129 FTEs; 2) \$2M in staff vacancies; 3) \$1.5M in contract services; 4) \$1.2M in security and custodial overtime; 5) \$670K in abrupt school closures; 6) \$400K in part-time salary reductions; 7) \$300K in after-school programming; and 8) \$100K in middle school sports. Public comment during Board of Alders Finance Committee hearings on the city's proposed budget included significant concerns from teachers, students, and parents regarding the damaging impact of these potential cuts on critical programs such as the arts and school libraries.

During yesterday's Board of Alders debate regarding the city's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, our colleagues expressed a deep commitment to support the New Haven Public Schools and its students. Alders also communicated concern with inconsistent data, lack of follow through, and incomplete information regarding the district's financial position and needs. It is critical to address these gaps in knowledge and enhance collaboration to ensure we can take concrete steps together toward full funding of our school district.

Respectfully submitted,

Alder Kiana Flores, Ward 1  
Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith, Ward 9  
Alder Sarah Miller, Ward 14  
Alder Frank Redente Jr., Ward 15

**ORDER CALLING FOR A WORKSHOP ON THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET INCLUDING ALL INCOME AND EXPENSES, STAFF COMPOSITION, AND PROPOSED REMEDIES FOR MITIGATING THE CURRENT DEFICIT**

**WHEREAS:** Education is the City of New Haven’s largest spending category, representing approximately thirty percent of the annual budget; and

**WHEREAS:** The New Haven Public Schools serves approximately 19,150 students across 44 schools, of whom approximately 75% are low-income (as measured by free or reduced lunch eligibility); and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Alders is deeply committed to the success of the New Haven Public Schools and its students; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Education faces a recurring structural deficit based on decades of underfunding and the extent of non-taxable property in the City of New Haven; and

**WHEREAS:** New Haven Public Schools Superintendent Negrón currently projects a \$23.2M budget gap, with potentially harmful cuts to staffing, programs, and services, including the arts and libraries; and

**WHEREAS:** Public comment during Board of Alders Finance Committee hearings on the proposed FY26 city budget drew significant concerns from teachers, students, and parents regarding the damaging potential impact of these proposed cuts; and

**WHEREAS:** There is a need for greater transparency, knowledge, and trust between the Board of Education, the Board of Alders, and our shared constituents, in order to take concrete steps together toward full funding of our school district; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED** that the Board of Alders convene a workshop to examine the New Haven Board of Education budget including all income and expenses, staff composition, and proposed remedies for mitigating the current deficit; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that all relevant parties be invited to attend the workshop to address gaps in knowledge and enhance collaboration.