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CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

MARK D. BOUGHTON
MAYOR

(203) 797-4511
FAX (203) 796-1666

May 29, 2007

Honorable Members of the Common Council
City of Danbury, Connecticut

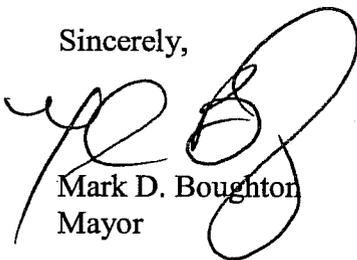
Dear Common Council Members:

The Western Connecticut Academy for International Studies magnet school has been a terrific success for Danbury and our regional partners. One of the funding challenges of our magnet school is created by first-year start-up costs and below capacity enrollments from partner communities. We have worked closely with our legislators to mitigate the shortfall and recently were awarded a grant that effectively halved the Board of Education's \$1,270,000 shortfall.

The attached letter from Dr. Pascarella requests a supplemental appropriation of \$620,000. I propose the Common Council approve a "line of credit" to the Board of Education, thereby allowing them to draw down on this credit as the documented need arises to fill the financial gap from the Magnet School.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

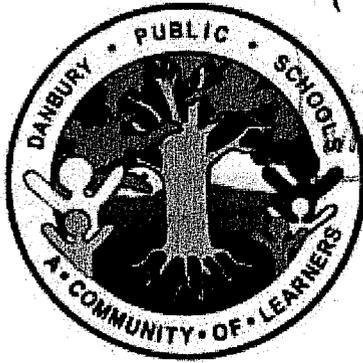


Mark D. Boughton
Mayor

MDB/mm
Attachment

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DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Administrative Center
63 Beaver Brook Road
Danbury, Connecticut 06810-6211
(203) 797-4701
FAX (203) 830-6560
Email address: pascas@danbury.k12.ct.us

Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 9, 2007

Mayor Mark Boughton
Danbury City Hall
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Dear Mayor Boughton,

I am writing on behalf of the Danbury Board of Education seeking supplemental funding assistance for the current fiscal year, 2006-2007. Over the past year we have struggled to close an operating gap associated with the opening of our new magnet school, the Academy for International Studies (AIS). We opened the fiscal year projecting a \$1,270,000 AIS operating deficit. The shortfall results from many contributing factors, including: a regressive penalty the State applies to our reimbursement rate given the first year enrollment mix, unfilled seats which remain after all sending districts declared their final respective enrollments, and first year startup costs.

A collective effort was put forth to close the pending operating deficit with additional assistance requested from the State Department of Education (SDE). A local delegation of board members, central administrators and you successfully pled our case to SDE. With the assistance of our local state legislators, at-the-time Commissioner of SDE George Coleman and SDE staff we have recently learned of an award in the amount of \$650,000 made by the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) as supplemental revenue assistance for AIS, year 1. All parties involved need to be commended for their diligence and hard work.

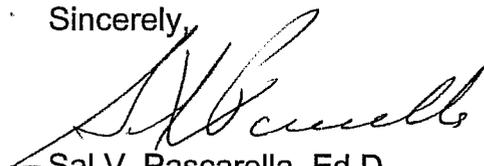
While OPM's assistance mitigates approximately one-half of the projected operating deficit the challenge of closing the current fiscal year with a balanced budget remains. We have taken every appropriate action to further reduce the pending deficit including a spending freeze enacted on April 1, 2007. Only materials and services needed to sustain school operations until the close of June 30th are being approved by our Director of Finance, Elio Longo, Jr. Unforeseen increases in general fund expenditures in some areas have been balanced throughout the year with cost-containment and

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savings efforts in others. Unfortunately, there are no areas of general fund account surpluses which can be identified as possible transfers to further reduce the AIS revenue shortfall. It is for this reason I write respectfully requesting your support to bring forward a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$620,000 to the Common Council. I ask the supplemental funding request be placed on the June 2007 meeting agenda of the Common Council for approval. As always, my administrative team and I are readily available to address any questions you or member of the council might have in advance of the June 2007 meeting.

I thank you and the Council for the continual support your have shown us throughout this year and in past years.

Sincerely,



Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.

/d

cc: Dan Garrick, Assistant Finance Director
Board of Education