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Newton ARPA Investment  
Newton Public Schools Covid-Related Costs - \$1.51 million

My goal since the pandemic began has been to provide the Newton Public Schools with financial support to help teaching and learning in these difficult times. We have been “all in” on using CARES and ARPA funds to cover in full NPS COVID-19 related costs.

Yesterday, as the NPS financial team scrubbed their books, they let me know of \$1.1 million in COVID-19 related projects that had not yet been reimbursed as well as a number of summer projects involving ventilation and new space for specialized programs. These one-time COVID related expenses are exactly the right use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and I immediately provided the funding.

Thus, I am providing an additional \$1.51 million in ARPA funds, which in turn will relieve some of the budget challenges facing the Newton Public Schools.

Altogether we have provided NPS with just under \$16 million of ARPA funds to date and \$6.4 million of CARES funds. The allocation for the NPS operating budget for next fiscal year, FY2023, is also increasing by 3.5% or almost \$9 million to \$262 million.

School Superintendent David Fleishman is using these additional \$1.51 million of funds to support students’ academic, social and emotional needs. More specifically, he will reinstate approximately 20 full-time positions. These include elementary literacy interventionists and math intervention aides at all elementary schools, two and four teacher teams at the middle schools, and secondary school guidance counselors.

Our children are our highest priority and these one-time ARPA funds are helping a lot.