



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

FINANCING EDUCATION: LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS
HARTFORD BUDGET WORKSHOPS CONTINUE
---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(March 24, 2011) – Education is at the center of improving Hartford’s quality of life. It empowers people with the opportunity to earn a degree, improve their job status, invest in their community by owning a home or business, and be a stakeholder in our City’s future.

At tonight’s Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting Mayor Pedro E. Segarra and City Council members focused on our library and school systems with the goal of identifying potential cost-saving opportunities that would not sacrifice the gains that have been made in these areas of education.

Mayor Segarra said, “I remain committed to the reform policies of our school system that will help Hartford students compete for jobs in this 21st Century global society. To benefit the entire educational system, we must reach out to and improve collaboration with all of our learning institutions – including higher education and vocational-technical schools – to help lift all of our students. I also urge parents, educators and businesses to continue to work together and invest in our children because education is the key to our City’s future.”

Matt Poland, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hartford Public Library said, “In today’s economic climate, libraries provide access to information through technology. We’re living within our means but still providing more services to our residents and visitors. Libraries are more than books on shelves, they are now an interactive process and we provide these quality services at all of our branches.”

The library and the school system work in tangent when it comes to investing in learning enrichment. Instructional time will be increased at all schools in order to help raise student achievement. When it comes to the budget, there will be further Central Office “right-sizing.” Additionally, it is anticipated that there will be no request for increased funding from the City of Hartford.

Superintendent Dr. Steven Adamowski said, “During the last four years, we have closed 40% of the achievement gap. Our graduation rate has increased from 29% to 52%. All of this points out how far we have come and how far we have to go.”

This is the fifth special session in a series of collaborative workshops designed to achieve a consensus on a fair and balanced budget that meets the needs of residents, taxpayers, and our diverse neighborhoods. The financial forecast for FY 11-12 currently projects a shortfall of \$17.8 million. The COW meeting is held each week in Council Chambers as part of a 6-week process that is open to the public. This series of workshops is being facilitated by Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH). The workshops, which are an extension of the city’s successful collaborative format used during the One City, One Plan (POCD 2020) for conservation and development, can be seen on Government Cable Access TV Channel 96 which streams live on www.hartford.gov.

Here are some important dates:

Recap of Sessions:	March 31 st
Budget due from Mayor to Council:	April 18 th
Public Hearing on Budget at Bulkeley High School Auditorium:	April 26 th
Public Hearings/Department Hearings:	April/May
Budget Deliberations:	May 9 th - 17 th
Last day for Council to amend Mayor’s Budget:	May 21 st
Final Adoption of Budget:	May 31 st