Follow-Up Questions
Town Hall Meeting
Jan. 22, 2019

The following questions were asked at the Jan. 22, 2019 Town Hall meeting:

How will your priorities address underserved students’ need for opportunity and access to tutoring in and out of school, extra classes and test taking training to help increase their success and advancement?

Teachers are available for extra help after school and/or during free periods at certain times. All teachers spend time during the school day preparing students for upcoming state tests. The following language is in the teachers’ contract.

*High School teachers will provide a minimum of two (2) scheduled periods of extra help per week, of which at least one (1) will be after school and one (1) may be before school. One (1) afternoon period shall be a “walk-in” session, and the other shall be by student sign-up the previous day. If no students have registered for the “sign-up” session, the teacher shall not be required to remain for it.*

*Middle School teachers will provide a minimum of two (2) scheduled periods of extra help per week, of which at least one (1) will be after school.*

With a huge push for social and emotional learning in our District right now, is the District planning to implement more Health Education into our schools. Currently, all students do not get Health education until 8th grade. In the past, the District was awarded the SHAPE Grant which offered health education to all second graders for three years. The intent was for the District to take over the cost of the program and continue the health education program for these students. What happened with that?

The District meets all state requirements for health education, beginning in kindergarten. New York State Education Commissioner’s Regulations require that, in kindergarten and the primary grades, “the teacher shall provide for pupil participation in planned activities for developing attitudes, knowledge that contribute to their own sense of self-worth, respect for their bodies and ability to make constructive decisions regarding their social and emotional, physical health and mental health.”

With the SHAPE Grant expired, health topics are taught at the elementary level by classroom teachers rather than specially designated staff.

What is the budget impact of the Children’s Language Academy Dual-Language (CILA) program? Who would be teaching the students if the program were discontinued? Would we hire new teachers or increase class sizes in the non-CILA classrooms? Additionally, what would happen with the English as a New Language (ENL) students enrolled in the CILA program? Those ENL students enrolled in CILA historically phase out of being labeled ENL students and thus do not require additional ENL services. Are we looking at the financial impact of phasing out CILA will have on those ENL students enrolled in CILA both short term and long term? Less students phasing out of ENL.
If the CILA program did not exist, ENL students now in CILA settings would be in non-CILA classrooms with ENL services. The implications for staff sizes and other impacts would be determined by the manner in which the District offered the services. The World Languages program is currently under discussion, so the nature of the program going forward has not been determined.