

Wed 4/22/2020 3:52 AM

Re: Budget

Please address this problem like a cancer that has been allowed to grow in Hamden for the last 30? Years. As a taxpayer I strongly recommend cutbacks, wage freezes, no overtime, and demand accountability. It has been way too long to “kick the can down the road” and not enough take charge and do something about it. Even with declining enrollment and poor ratings the BOE continues to ask for more money and has proved it doesn't improve the outcome for our children. All should be stopped in their tracks. Every department should be gone through with a fine tooth comb and for once the taxpayers should come first. It is more than obnoxious to raise taxes once again even during a pandemic where people are not working. At some point there will be less people left on this town to tax and our property values have declined astronomically. Start a new direction from this moment forward, and put the taxpayers as the priority, find ways to lower the mil and get some businesses back here to pick up the tab or grande list. Forget about raises to town employees, it's time to say no. Cut the fat. Address the problem. And for Pete's sake, get this town back on track to be the once nice town it was.

Al lotto
Birchwood drive

Wed 4/22/2020 1:55 PM

Re: Town & BOE Budget(s)

Hello Hamden,

Please propose a more realistic budget for both the town and BOE. **This is unacceptable—taxes are too high as is.** I love this town and would really like to continue living here but you're making it quite difficult—heading towards the impossible. **How can you justify all these increases while Hamden is already struggling?**

How can you justify raising the existing BOE budget **while schools are closed**? A 3.05% increase? How about you make cuts to reflect the reality of the situation: schools are closed.

Shame on you, leaders of Hamden, for putting us in this financial hole—and not only keeping us down here but digging us further in. This is no way to run a town! This is teetering between criminal and incompetence. Must be nice, me thinks, to disassociate the number of dollars on a spreadsheet from the people that put it there. **Not only are you irresponsibly spending the money we give you, you're irresponsibly spending money we haven't given you yet!**

Hamden, you are actively pushing me out of my hometown and destroying my livelihood. I'll be closely monitoring your actions regarding these budgets. Rediscover your morality and change this insolvent path we are on. **Be the heroes this town needs.** Stand, leaders of Hamden, stand up now—before causality swallows us all whole.

May God bless you with the wisdom, strength, and fortitude to do the right thing. May God bless Hamden.

I wish the best for you all,

Tomasz Matusiewicz

Bradley Avenue

Hamden, CT 06514

Wed 4/22/2020 12:27 PM

Re: Budget

Dear Legislative Council Members,

For over 30 years we have lived in our home and raised our three children here.

Early on, I could see the town and BOE spending money they didn't have.

I have emailed numerous mayors, over the years to voice my concerns.

I was appalled, when Sharon Bass, revealed in her online newspaper, that we never paid millions into the retirement plan. These dishonest budgets and mismanaging the retirement plan continued, on and on, year after year.

We are on the edge of bankruptcy, in the middle of a pandemic and the mayor is proposing a dishonest, ridiculous budget.

We need leadership and accountability and we need it now.

We need an honest budget.

We need drastic cuts to personnel and services.

We need to tell the mayor his budget is not acceptable.

We need you, the Legislative Council to stand up for Hamden taxpayers.

We are counting on all of you!

I am thoroughly disgusted with how this administration is dealing with our financial problems. Please, make the right decisions to help put Hamden back on track.

Thank you for listening and may you and your families stay safe and well.

Janet Coughlin

Harmon Street

203-288-3143

Wed 4/22/2020 3:53 PM

Re: BOE public input comment

Please do not increase the budget for the BOE.

Unfortunately, we simply can not afford to increase their funding at this time.

Thank you.

Diane Hoffman

Wilmot Rd.

Wed 4/22/2020 4:55 PM

Re: Support for BOE budget

Dear Legislative Council Members,

I look forward to having the opportunity to present the BOE budget proposal during your budget deliberations. Given that today a public hearing is being held to collect public input, I want to share some basic information about the process that led to our budget proposal. I also want to note that the BOE voted on our budget proposal back in early March before the magnitude of the COVID-19 crisis and disruption unfolded.

- Our district would need to increase our budget by 4.6% to cover all contractual and fixed costs increases to special education & other services.
- The Superintendent proposed an increase of 3.05%.
- In March the Board of Education voted to propose a 2.37% increase. This was adjusted to 2.35% upon correcting a line item.
- The BOE anticipates that the COVID-19 disruption will widen the achievement gap and increase the level of inequity and need among the Hamden student population.
- At this point the BOE estimates that the academic programs and interventions needed to address the COVID-19 disruption will cost an additional \$500K.

The Board of Education has also taken proactive steps to communicate to our state government and legislative delegation the following:

- Increases should be capped for critical services such as transportation and Special Education.
- Hamden should receive 100% of Education Cost Sharing funding. Hamden has been chronically underfunded for decades by more than \$10 million per year.
- The excess cost formula should be adjusted down to allow state reimbursements at a lower threshold than 4.5 times the average expenditure per student.
- Mandate relief should be provided to municipalities and school districts.
- Funding should be allocated and distributed to ensure recruitment and retention of minority teachers and certified staff.

Finally, we ask you to join us in reaching out to Hamden's state delegation to request that our public schools receive adequate funding. Hamden's taxpayers should not have to continue enduring higher taxes to overcome state under-funding.

Thank You,

Arturo Perez-Cabello

Wed 4/22/2020 5:08 PM

Re: Please support our schools Hamden Public Schools

- Our district would need to increase our budget by 4.6% to cover all contractual and fixed costs increases to special education & other services.
- The Superintendent proposed an increase of 3.05%.
- In March the Board of Education voted to propose a 2.37% increase. This was adjusted to 2.35% upon correcting a line item.
- The BOE anticipates that the COVID-19 disruption will widen the achievement gap and increase the level of inequity and need among the student population.
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- Mandate relief should be provided to municipalities and school districts.
- Funding should be allocated and distributed to ensure the recruitment and retention of minority teachers and certified staff.

I ask that our elected officials in town join me by reaching out to Hamden's state delegation to request that Hamden's public schools receive adequate funding. Hamden's taxpayers should not have to continue enduring higher taxes to overcome state under-funding.

Andrea Nezat

Wed 4/22/2020 5:23 PM

Re: Proposed board of education budget

I am writing in regards to the proposed Board of education budget for the 2020-2021 school year. As a parent of a student with special needs, the stay at home learning has been challenging and I would like to be sure that funding is in place to help address the needs of students in helping them regain lost skills. Especially as there may be a need for extra support for others as well due to all the social distancing measures this school year.

Janet Quinones Tobin

Wed 4/22/2020 5:24 PM

Re: Public Comment for the BOE budget hearing

To the legislative council members,

I am asking that you reject the request for an increase of 36.9% or 1.7 million dollars with a request for 91 million dollars. There are several reasons to deny the request and hold the BOE line flat. My reasons are as follows: **Hamden will be running a 12 million dollar deficit with a dangerously low general fund for the current fiscal year.** As a basis for comparison, there are towns that have upwards of 15 million in their general fund. Hamden will need to somehow prepare for the fallout of this Covid 19 crisis, the likes of which we have not seen yet. **Also, there is inflated revenue included in the mayor's proposed budget.** The state grant of 5.1 million dollars is problematic for several reasons: we haven't received any confirmation that Hamden will receive any money from CT because the state does not know what they will be able to provide to towns at this time. State Legislators D'Agostino and Porter clearly said in recent days there is no guarantee of any grants coming to us at this time. The stipulations for those grants are very specific and cannot be used for an operating budget, nor can it be counted as revenue. **Hamden is in no position to increase any components of the BOE budget.** Rather, you need to look for every possible cost saving measure in every department as we are effectively insolvent. It is irresponsible and reckless to continue to increase spending without any cuts in spending while running deficits which grow each year. It is negligent to continue to put heavier burdens on the back of taxpayers while awarding raises and increases without any efforts to consolidate aspects of the town where there are many opportunities to save money. Instead of spending more money, the BOE needs to think outside of the box and look at possible cost-saving solutions such as redistricting by creating a K - 2, 3 - 5, and 6 - 8 model with our school programs. This will save jobs and money for many years to come and also addresses the diversity issues we need to correct. The BOE is a part of our town, we cannot continue to operate as 2 separate entities. If Hamden is struggling, then the Board of Education is struggling, too. Let's work together.

The time has come to make some difficult but noble decisions to change the course of our town. I am asking the council to turn the path of Hamden from approving wasteful, irresponsible budgets which are harmful to the quality and integrity of the future of this town and be courageous by creating a budget which begins to close the financial gap and correct mistakes of the past and be champions of solving the problems and get off the path of destruction.

"The time is always right to do what is right". ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you for your service to our town.

Respectfully yours,
Karlen Meinsen

Wed 4/22/2020 5:26 PM

Re: BOE Budget

I support the BOE budget as written

Amy Hekeler

Wed 4/22/2020 5:36 PM

Re: Bear Path Budget

To whom it may concern,

We fully support the budget proposal for Bear Path Schools. Although we have recently moved to Hamden from Argentina, we are very happy and proud to have been able to participate in such a wonderful program and educational environment. The amazing teachers and staff need the support of our community to continue doing the great work that they are famous for.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Michael and Agustina Dirschel

Wed 4/22/2020 5:40 PM

Re: Hamden Budget

Good Evening,

As I sit at my computer working harder than ever, I am compelled to write this email to implore you to support the 2020-21 Education budget. I have been an educator for my entire career with the majority of my time spent in Hamden. I have also raised my children in Hamden Public Schools and at this point, I am reaching the stage in my career where I am fortunate enough to think about retirement AND move out of Hamden.

I'm sad when I think about the changes Hamden has made in supporting the education of all children in our town. It's time.... it's time to stand up for what's right and just. Maybe we're actually functioning as a city with the budget and State funding of a town. It's not easy, I get it. But I have to spend at least \$5,000 - \$7,000 of my paycheck to purchase the materials I need in order to do my job each year. Do you do the same for your job? I don't say this to complain, I say it to send you a message that this isn't going to get better people. The younger teachers coming out of college aren't going to last long if they have to spend their own money to get their job done, when they could just as easily work elsewhere and not have the same concerns.

Special Education has a HUGE line item... for GOOD REASON!

Do you have any idea how many troubled children we have in our town? Not to mention the children who have very real learning disabilities that make it difficult for them to access grade level curriculum? ALL children deserve funding to learn. We HAVE excellent teachers who know how to do their jobs, this is probably why we have so many students with disabilities move to Hamden. BUT there are a good number who are moving out (if they can afford to), because they see the issues with class size and behavioral issues. WE NEED MORE.....NOT LESS!

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BUDGET!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ball

25 year Hamden resident

Wed 4/22/2020 5:40 PM

Re: support Board of Education proposed budget for 2020-21

Dear Legislative Council,

I am writing to support the Board of Education's proposed budget for 2020-21. Asking for a 2.35% increase overall seems very reasonable. I am not sure why the BOE are not asking for 4.6%, which is what is needed to cover all fixed and contractual costs. Also, they may need to add more given the eventual cost of the corona-virus situation.

We need to continue to support Hamden's school system; we must continue to provide high quality education which is a draw for companies and businesses and new families to move into Hamden.

We also need to all work hard to pressure CT's state government to give Hamden our full Educational Cost Sharing, which has been chronically underfunded.

Thank you,

Evelyn Cumberbatch &

Arie Kaffman

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517

Mother & father of prior and present Hamden Public School students,

Concerned Citizen, & Community Member of Hamden High School Governance Council

Wed 4/22/2020 5:49 PM

Re: Board of Education Budget

Dear Hamden Legislative Council,

I am writing as a Hamden High parent and as a teacher in the Hamden Public Schools. I am writing in support of the proposed budget of the Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year. Now, more than ever, our schools need support and resources to address the learning challenges of many of our students. The current pandemic has robbed them of a consistent and predictable education. Next year the result will be a larger achievement gap that requires the resources of staff and programming to address these significant needs.

I can attest to the challenges my student face to learn remotely. Many are trying to remain engaged with learning at home while taking care of younger siblings, caring for sick and elderly relatives, working to help support their families and struggling to complete class work on their own. Our schools already endured months before the pandemic without technology due to the computer virus which disrupted many of our normal routines and forced us to innovate and collaborate to continue providing an excellent education to all our students. However, despite all of these challenges, our teachers, administrators and students have continued to show determination and flexibility to take advantage of the educational opportunities available.

We need the support of the Legislative Council to meet the greater needs and challenges that await us. We cannot do this immense and important work alone. This pandemic is reminding us that we are all in this together and this is why I ask the Legislative Council to join with us and support the Board of Education's budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you.

Yours,

Ann Stiltner, HHS Special Education Teacher

Mather Street

Hamden CT 06517

Wed 4/22/2020 5:45 PM

Re: Hamden Board of Education's Proposed Budget

Dear Members of the Hamden Legislative Council,

As a lifelong Hamden resident and a veteran Educator in Hamden, I fully support the budget the Hamden Board Of Education is proposing to the Legislative Council for the reasons listed below.

- Our district would need to increase our budget by 4.6% to cover all contractual and fixed costs increases to special education & other services.
- The Superintendent proposed an increase of 3.05%.
- In March the Board of Education voted to propose a 2.37% increase. This was adjusted to 2.35% upon correcting a line item.
- The BOE anticipates that the COVID-19 disruption will widen the achievement gap and increase the level of inequity and need among the student population.
- At this point, the BOE estimates that the academic programs and interventions needed to address the COVID-19 disruption will cost an additional \$500K.

The Board of Education has also taken proactive steps to communicate to our state government and legislative delegation the following:

- Increases should be capped for critical services such as transportation and Special Education.
- Hamden should receive 100% of Education Cost Sharing funding. Hamden has been chronically underfunded for decades by more than \$10 million per year.
- The excess cost formula should be adjusted down to allow state reimbursements at a lower threshold than 4.5 times the average expenditure per student.
- Mandate relief should be provided to municipalities and school districts.
- Funding should be allocated and distributed to ensure the recruitment and retention of minority teachers and certified staff.

For the reasons mentioned above, I ask that you please approve the proposed Hamden Board of Education's budget. Now, more than ever, each child residing in Hamden needs your help in creating a budget that supports their education and preparedness for what lies ahead.

Respectfully,

Laurie King

Wed 4/22/2020 5:58 PM

Re: For tonight's meeting

As a resident of the Town of Hamden, and as a teacher in the Town of Hamden, I support the budget proposed by Hamden's Board of Education and ask that you fully fund it.

Thank you, Rose Annis

Wed 4/22/2020 6:11 PM

Re: budget support

Hello,

As residents with elementary aged children and teachers in the town of Hamden, we support the proposed budget. Some of our points that we would like to highlight are listed below.

- Our district would need to increase our budget by 4.6% to cover all contractual and fixed costs increases to special education & other services.
- The Superintendent proposed an increase of 3.05%.
- In March the Board of Education voted to propose a 2.37% increase. This was adjusted to 2.35% upon correcting a line item.
- The BOE anticipates that the COVID-19 disruption will widen the achievement gap and increase the level of inequity and need among the student population.
- At this point the BOE estimates that the academic programs and interventions needed to address the COVID-19 disruption will cost an additional \$500K.

Thank you.

The Aurora Family

Wed 4/22/2020 6:04 PM

Re: HPS Budget

Dear Legislative Council,

As parents of a HPS student and educators ourselves, we wish to put our enthusiastic support behind the BOE's proposed school budget for the 2020-21 school year. We urge you to pass the BOE budget without any cuts or modifications.

While we know you are aware, but as a reminder from informed residents and voters, we wanted to remind you that HPS would need to increase the budget by 4.6% to cover all increases to special education, contractual obligations, and other fixed costs. However, our superintendent proposed an increase of only 3.05%; then, in March, the Board of Education voted to propose a meager 2.37% increase. This was adjusted to 2.35% upon correcting a line item. This is already a "bare-bones" budget, further cuts will only irrevocably harm our children's futures.

In this time of a pandemic crisis, where our children's education may be forever altered, the BOE anticipates that the educational disruption will widen the opportunity gap and increase the level of inequity and need among the student population. It is the estimation of the BOE that the academic programs and interventions needed to address the COVID-19 disruption will cost an additional \$500K.

The Board of Education has also taken proactive steps to communicate to our state government and legislative delegation the following: Increases should be capped for critical services such as transportation and Special Education. Hamden should receive 100% of Education Cost Sharing funding. Hamden has been chronically underfunded for decades by more than \$10 million per year. The excess cost formula should be adjusted down to allow state reimbursements at a lower threshold than 4.5 times the average expenditure per student. Perhaps, most importantly, funding should be allocated and distributed to ensure recruitment and retention of minority teachers and certified staff.

Finally, we ask you, our elected officials in town, in joining us as constituents by reaching out to Hamden's state delegation to request that Hamden's public schools receive adequate funding. While we support higher taxes for educational purposes, Hamden's taxpayers should not have to continue enduring unfair tax burdens to overcome the state's constant under-funding.

Sincerely,

Steven and Megan Clapp

Dorrance Street, Hamden CT

Wed 4/22/2020 6:17 PM

Re: BOE Public Hearing

I have 3 kids in Hamden Public Schools. I have spent many hours helping my children cope with distance learning and coaching my second grader through Google Classroom. Through this, I have learned that Google Classroom was not designed with second graders in mind. I reaffirm my support for teachers and support staff daily. Teachers have built an online learning environment very different from the warm enriching environments in a school building. Our kids miss the warm enriching classroom. The district has communicated with parents and is making adjustments to the content and rigor of online materials. We have access to excellent resources like Lexia to assist distance learning. Please retain this resource whether kids are learning at home or in school.

The CDC Director has warned of a second wave of Coronavirus this fall. Hamden Public Schools needs to be prepared for distance learning in the future. The Board of Education may not have considered a global pandemic when they crafted their budget. Please allow them to make adjustments, research available grants, and craft a budget that supports the situation we are living through.

I appreciate the work the district has done in providing meals, technology, and assistance to families. Their consistent and clear communication is incredibly helpful and reassuring during this crisis. Please carefully fund a budget that will support teachers and our children. While parents are doing their best to keep their children engaged, teachers will need to get students back on track and cannot do this without resources.

Lauren Garrett
Andover Rd.

Wed 4/22/2020 6:18 PM

Re; board of Ed Budget

As President of the Hamden Education Association I would be remiss if I did not comment on the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget. I am writing to support the students of Hamden and to tell you that the Board, more than ever, needs appropriate funding in order to provide students with the tools they will need both now and in the future. Families have been going through an unprecedented time - parents are helping to teach their children, these children do not have their teachers in front of them. They have shared with teachers how they want to be in school and they are trying to understand all that is happening around them. This new way of learning is not anything that any of us has ever experienced. Think about how you are dealing with this sudden change- this social distancing. Imagine what it is doing to our children. When we do get back to a "new normal", and who knows when or what that will entail, students more than ever will need the guidance and support of staff so that they can be reacclimated academically, socially and emotionally. The Board cannot adequately provide the necessary supports without appropriate funding. As you know, issues of equity, the achievement gap, increases in Special Education and other services are all things that we cannot control or even predict. The State mandates regarding increasing graduation requirements will then require the Board to provide more classes in the areas of Civics, Health, World Languages, Math and the Capstone Project. These will all have to be addressed when they happen. Hamden is going through another difficult year with the budget and everyone knows that homeowners do not want taxes to increase. Everyone has bills to pay. Some are doing less because of the economy. But it is the students who need to come first. They will be the backbone of this community in years to come. Not providing them with what is necessary to achieve their goals will only reflect poorly on the community and what it will have to offer its members. I understand there are difficult decisions to be made, but when you review the Board of Ed budget please review it with the students as the priority. They have been on an emotional roller coaster of sorts these last 6 weeks. They will need stability and guidance when the roller coaster stops. Provide the Board with the funding so that they can do what needs to be done to meet the needs of all of Hamden's students.

Sincerely,

Diane Marinaro

Hamden Education Association , President

Wed 4/22/2020 6:21 PM

Re: Budget

We totally second Budget proposed by Hamden education board.

Thank you,

Viraj Sheth

Hamden resident

Wed 4/22/2020 6:22 PM

Re: Support of BOE budget

Dear Legislative Council,

As a Hamden tax payer, parent and HPS educator, I am writing to ask for your full support of the BOE budget.

I realize the cost of education is high, but know the outcome is crucial for Hamden's future.

As my youngest child will be graduating this year from Hamden High School, I want to make sure that all children of Hamden have the same opportunities my own children have had. I want those young families looking at our town to look past high mill rates because of the strengths of our school system.

I worked in other school districts before coming to Hamden and have witnessed the impact on teachers and students when funding is reduced. Education in 2020 needs to look forward. Part of being a teacher is creatively doing more with less. Yet - our students deserve more support, modern tools and services - not less.

Lastly, I am hopeful that the town and BOE will continue to find ways to best support and educate our youngest constituents.

Sincerely,

Susan Martinez Sendroff

Augur Street, Hamden CT

Wed 4/22/2020 6:20 PM

Re: School Budget

In the last two years the BOE budget has grown roughly \$5M while enrollment continued to decline. The mayor's new budget proposes another \$1.6M for the coming year. We all want to deliver an excellent education to Hamden's kids but frankly this situation seems like a case of diminishing returns to me. More and more spending hasn't worked up till now and there is not reason to think that will change.

Furthermore, this year is clearly very different. The pandemic has changed everyone's lives and education, particularly, is changing drastically. Despite best efforts of everyone, this coming year will be different. The town is in a financial crisis and frankly nobody should get a raise and the budget should be no higher last year's level. The board always asks for more money but not this year the town must say NO. The schools should be funded at the same level as last year and the board should adjust their budget to economize on everything and reduce staff as needed.

Note that once all is said and done there will be a big surplus from this year, due to money not spent on substitutes, buses, and special education facilities, etc, beyond the personnel and medical payments mandated by the governor. Some portion of that might be returned to the Board but technically all surpluses should go to the town.

The town needs the money more that the Board of Education!

These are hard times and the schools need to tighten their belt along with the taxpayers.

Fair is Fair!

Respectfully,

George Levinson

Shepard Avenue

Wed 4/22/2020 6:29 PM

Re: Budget

Please provide the full 4.6% increase in the budget requested by the Board of Education.

Thank you.

-Peter Swan, Hamden citizen and taxpayer.

Wed 4/22/2020 6:30 PM

Re: Please support BOE budget

Dear Legislative Council,

As a parent and taxpayer in the Town of Hamden, I urge the Legislative Council to support the budget put forth by the Board of Education. I also would encourage the Council to consider the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will have on students and the additional resources and support that will be needed as students transition back to school.

The COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating a pre-existing education crisis in our town and across the nation - the opportunity gap, which disproportionately affects Black and Brown children and low-income children. The worsening of these education disparities are not inevitable and we must be prepared to respond. I urge the Council to use equity principles in determining the town's budget, particularly the education budget. One way to do this is to convert what we would consider "risk factors" and instead make them priority factors that earn additional funding and resources.

We must also consider children with disabilities and how they are also disproportionately affected by being out of their school environment without the supports and services they require to access the curriculum. Compensatory services and their associated costs should be planned for now. Children with disabilities will need these services upon the return to school. There should not be caps on increases for special education services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

Valen R. Diaz

Pleasant Drive

Hamden, CT 06514

Wed 4/22/2020 6:30 PM

Re: Hamden PS

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the to the board of educations budget for the next school year. It is with great concern that I worry about our students after this absence from the classroom and how much the covid 19 disruption will affect them in the next school year. I hope that you recognize this and approve the funds necessary to help our kids thru this and how cutting funding will have lasting impacts.

Sincerely, Teresa Considine

Wed 4/22/2020 6:25 PM

Please support the Board of Education Budget

I have been a homeowner in Hamden for the past 12 years, but my husband, Jason Collins has lived here all of his life. We are parents to two boys who attend Bear Path School; 4th and 5th grade. As an educator myself, and a business owner, I firmly believe in the importance of investing in your town's education system. The return on your investment can be limitless. I ask that you approve the Board's budget and in turn you will prove to us that you value this town and its future.

Sincerely
April Smoke-Collins & Jason Collins

Wed 4/22/2020 6:56 PM

Re: I support the budget for education

William Metcalfe

Wed 4/22/2020 7:13 PM

Re: Budget

Please fully fund the education budget! Our kids need the very best.

Thanks,

Christine Frumento

Wed 4/22/2020 7:30 PM

Re: Budget

Dear Legislative Council Members,

I am writing as both a Hamden Resident (Russell St) and as an educator at Hamden High School (I teach chemistry and biochemistry).

Our transition to online learning has been a difficult one for students, families, teachers, and administrators. The HPS district worked very hard to ensure equity across our diverse district, so that all of our families had access to the internet and computers to use instead of phones/tablet devices. This has put a huge strain on our already tight budget, and means that the proposals set forth by both the superintendent, BOE, and now the budget that will be voted on by you, the Legislative Council, and then the mayor, represents less money than would cover our costs.

I know that this is an incredibly difficult financial time for our town, our town's residents, our state, and the country. **I write to ask you to fund the BOE budget at the highest possible amount possible**, so that our students - our town's future! - has the best chance possible to succeed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Bower-Phipps

Wed 4/22/2020 9:40 PM

Re: Question for public input

My question is regarding the BOE budget and 2018-19 Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil (NCEP). Out of the state's 166 school district, Hamden has the 45th highest expense per pupil. When you compare to the 30 Alliance Districts we have the 4th highest cost. We are currently spending \$19,964 to educate a student. This is \$3,000 per student greater than the state average. This is equivalent to \$16.2 million per year more than the average.

Looking at the 5 year state testing results show our schools are behind the curve. English results show an 8% decrease over the last 5 years and the 7th poorest performance compared to the other Alliance districts. While Math scores show improvement they still show us with the 8th poorest performance.

Compared to other districts, there seems to be no correlation to money spent per student and results.

My question is why do you think increasing monies to the BOE will help the district and worth the cost to taxpayers?

Chris Sette

Julian Drive

Thu 4/23/2020 10:10 AM

Re: School budget

Hello,

I hope this email finds you healthy and safe. I'm a parent and a member of the Helen Street School PTA. I am in full support of the Board of Education's request for full funding in the next budget meeting.

Stay Well,
Erica Sapp

