

From:  Budget 2021  
Aaron Videtto <aaronvidetto@gmail.com>

Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:07:14 AM



Subject: Fwd: Board of ED budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

Dear members of the BOF,

As a parent and individual valuing education in our town, I am hopeful the board will please pass the Board of Ed budget as it was presented.

With respect,

Aaron Videtto  
[21 Werf Dr.](#)  
[Redding, CT 06896](#)

(860) 689-4290  
Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021  
Annet Bonfanti <annetb44@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:14:50 PM



Subject: Fwd: Re: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

This letter does not show up in the list. It was mailed to the board of finance email address this morning at 11:25 am.

### **To the Board of Finance,**

**Yesterday, another much needed relief package was passed by the Senate, but again, no help for state and local governments was included. The federal government can print as much money as it wants, Redding cannot. Until we have a better understanding of the impact the Coronavirus will have on our community, both the personal costs, as well as the financial, we cannot in good conscience approve the proposed budgets. The BOF must take an objective view, and ask the BOS and BOE to submit budgets in line with what will without doubt, be a severe downturn in our tax revenues. We should keep in mind that the Redding tax burden is shared by all homeowners, young and old, parents as well as empty nesters, employed as well as unemployed, and seniors living on fixed income.**

**Annet Bonfanti  
44 Umpawaug Road  
Redding**

From:  Budget 2021  
breathingyoga@gmail.com

Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:17:46 PM



Subject: Fwd: Proposed budget 2021

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

---

Hello Board of Finance,

I am concerned about the proposed budget increase. There are many Redding residents who have lost their jobs or whose incomes have been drastically reduced. I would appreciate it if you would please review the budget and look for ways to save so that you do not have to raise the mill rate.

Thank you,

Barbara Templeton  
7 Hill Rd, Redding, CT 06896

\*\*\*\*\*

Barbara Templeton MS, E-RYT 500 Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Student  
Providing peace and power to individuals through yoga, meditation, and tutoring  
Yoga - more peace more power  
949-338-3793

[breathingyoga@gmail.com](mailto:breathingyoga@gmail.com)

[www.breathingyoga.com](http://www.breathingyoga.com)

personal pronouns: she, her

From:  Budget 2021  
"chris dahm" <chrisdahm@sbcglobal.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:29:20 PM



Subject: Fwd: CUT SPENDING NOW

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

To the BOF:

Given the economic circumstance we find ourselves in at the moment. I cannot understand nor do I support any budget increase to the taxpayers of this town. Especially any increase in our school budgets.

There have been 22 million people pushed into unemployment and more to come tomorrow morning. We suffered a huge correction on Wall street that impacted everyone's IRA or 401k. Yet the Redding Board of Ed sees fit to ask for an increase. How can you justify this given what has just happened in the last 8 weeks?

The taxpayers of this town continue to suffer loss of property value coupled with year over year of tax increase whether significant or not - it never ends. What cataclysmic event will stop you from increased spending?

I would like to see a tax refund for the loss of virtually 1/3 of the school year, which of course will never happen.

Our country is on the verge of another depression – take a drive thru downtown Westport one morning and take a good look.

It is time to pull back, not increase spending of any sort at least for the next fiscal year. Cut some salaries, sell some police cars and sell back the salt that we did not have to use on the roads this winter. That would be a good start. The Redding taxpayers are not your ATM.

Chris Dahm  
70 Umpawaug Road  
Redding, CT 06896  
917 575 2660  
chrisdahm@sbcglobal.net

From:  Budget 2021  
Christopher Fahan <cbfahan@aol.com>

Friday, April 24, 2020 8:38:10 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

---

This is chris Fahan  
75. Cross highway  
2039383735

It seems to me that this is a unique time for the town leaders to finally put there money where there mouths are  
Everyone always says that they want be fiscally responsible but the spend until we're bankrupt faction votes for more  
everything  
With the economy dead and 20%+ unemployment the budget should be lowered or at the minimum kept at current levels

Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021  
Chris Bohn <cbohn@preferred-mfg.com>

Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:39:01 PM



Subject: Fwd: Town Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

---

Members of the board,

Many families, like mine, have had some loss of income due to the Coronavirus and related economic realities. Any increase in town spending at this time will result in even larger tax increases more individuals default on tax payments. There is a standing mandate to be fiscally conservative, and now more than ever needs to be the primary focus of the Finance Board's objectives.

It is time that we right size the school budget to the number of students enrolled, limit spending, reduce benefit-related long term liabilities, and reduce other town expenses like the police force.

Respectfully,  
Christopher W. Bohn  
301 Umpawaug Road

From:  Budget 2021  
dharris2 <dharris2@swarthmore.edu>

Friday, April 24, 2020 4:40:19 PM



Subject: Fwd: Region 9 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Hello,

Please pass the education budget as is, without any cuts. It is crucial for Redding to maintain educational excellence.

best wishes,  
David Harrison  
162 Sunset Hill Road  
Redding

---

K. David Harrison, Ph.D.,  
Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science  
Swarthmore College

From:  Budget 2021  
dharris2 <dharris2@swarthmore.edu>

Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:23:28 PM



Subject: Fwd: Education budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Hello,

Please pass the education budget as is, without any cuts. It is crucial for Redding to maintain educational excellence.

best wishes,  
David Harrison  
162 Sunset Hill Road  
Redding

---

K. David Harrison, Ph.D.,  
Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science  
Swarthmore College

From:  Budget 2021  
Dwayne Boulden <dwayne@thebouldens.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 5:24:11 PM



Subject: Fwd: Tax increases must be avoided

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Members of the board,

Many families, like ours, have had some loss of income due to the Coronavirus and related economic realities. Any increase in town spending at this time will result in even larger tax increases more individuals default on tax payments. There is a standing mandate to be fiscally conservative, and now more than ever needs to be the primary focus of the Finance Board's objectives.

It is time that we right size the school budget to the number of students enrolled, limit spending, reduce benefit-related long term liabilities, and reduce other town expenses like the police force.

Respectfully,

Dwayne Boulden  
20 Wood Road, Redding

From:  Budget 2021  
Eric Baker <ericbaker721@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:09:33 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget 2020

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Board of Finance,

I support the budget put forth by the Board of Education, and even though cuts are going to be made to teaching positions and programs, I respect the fact that the BOE tried as best they could to pare it down to a number that would hopefully be accepted by the Board of Finance and the voters at large.

The proposed budget is lean. If you are thinking of asking the BOE to make further cuts from the budget, please consider what an even lower budget will do to our schools. You can clearly see by what's been cut, especially over the last few years, that we are way past cutting excess, and instead are cutting teaching positions that are resulting in increased class sizes and eliminating quality programs that benefit all students and enhance their education.

Please remember that in 4 out of the last 6 years, the school budget had a negative increase from one year to the next, which the district has still not recovered from. The number of programs for students has diminished greatly from what was available when I first moved to Redding 12 years ago. Even with slight increases to the school budget over the last two years, staff and educational programs have still been cut.

To put this year's proposed school budget into perspective, the 3.15% increase divided among roughly 3500 households in Redding would be less than a \$17 increase per household each month. I feel that this is a more than reasonable request.

Collectively, we need to avoid the mindset of "What is the least amount we need to keep our schools running?," and instead we should be asking, "What is the most responsible way to maintain and improve our excellent school district?" Please trust our Superintendent and BOE. Show that you support our schools and our children by supporting this budget.

Regards,

Eric Baker

Black Rock Turnpike

---

From:  Budget 2021  
"francinepjones@yahoo.com" <francinepjones@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Budget  
To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

---

4/22/2020 5:30:34 PM



Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

In light of the present pandemic, I'm joining fellow residents in urging you to reduce the budget this year and not even remotely consider increasing it. Aside from the usual hardship of continued declining property values in spite of yearly rising taxes, many people are now facing unemployment and devastating losses in 401k and retirement plans.

Added to this common knowledge are the personal sacrifices of individuals: health care workers are sacrificing their lives daily and residents are sacrificing by remaining in their homes. So why should the town of Redding be exempt? By sheer necessity, the town must not only forego any extra expenses this year, no matter how desirably deemed, but should also figure out how to manage with less money. Whatever the town or boards of education feel is absolutely necessary, then now, more than ever, they need to start thinking outside the box. Otherwise, they simply need to do what the rest of the world is doing: sacrifice.

In conclusion, this year will find many families struggling to pay bills. It is incumbent upon the Board of Finance to recognize and respect the harsh demands of our present reality and do whatever they can to minimize burdensome taxes.

Sincerely,  
Francine Jones

From:  Budget 2021  
John Despirito <jdespirito@google.com>

Friday, April 24, 2020 8:45:19 AM



Subject: Fwd: No Vote, No Budget Approval

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Fellow Redding Taxpayers.

Governor Lamont, has decreed that, out of an abundance of caution, we do not get to vote on our towns fiscal budget. In fact 2.1 Million Connecticut voters are told to stay home, continue to social distance, hunker down and watch these budget travesties unfold without any actual vote by the people who will continue to pay for these broken spend and borrow policies in Connecticut.

It's one of the reasons that Lamont has allied himself with Governors Cuomo, Newsome and Murphy to petition the Federal Gov't, otherwise known as, the American taxpayer for Federal relief with no strings attached, no accountability or oversight to fix their states pre-existing economic crisis, and relieve them of any actual fiscal responsibility.

Here are the budgets that the First Selectman is proposing that the taxpayers of Redding foot the bill for, with no vote, no referendum, no modifications. I urge you to look through the budgets, as incomprehensible as they make seem to understand, we will ultimately be responsible for these budgets their increases and payment.

[2020-2021 Board of Selectmen Proposed Budget](#)

[2020-2021 Redding Board of Education Proposed Budget](#)

[2020-2021 Regional School District No. 9 Board of Education Proposed Budget](#)

Here are the Budget numbers that you are not able to vote on:

Region 9: \$24,351,255  
Redding BOE: \$22,761,634  
Town Of Redding: \$15,232,141

The thing to consider here is are you going to be better off economically over the next year than you were the past year? All Economic indicators like the stock market, unemployment, debt, point to a tough year(s) ahead. Now is the time to really think about reigning in these expenditures.

**John DeSpirito**

**Redding Road**

From:  Budget 2021  
"John Shaban" <john.shaban63@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 2:45:13 PM



Subject: Fwd: Redding budget - comment

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

April 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Board of Finance:

I write to join my friends and neighbors in urging you to reduce the Town budget.

Our national, state and local economies have suffered great injury from the reaction to the CV-19 virus outbreak, and Redding citizens in turn will suffer job loss and reduced incomes for many months to come. The Board and all Town officials must consider and then lead with these harsh realities in mind.

John Shaban  
29 LedgeWood Rd  
Redding 06896

From:  Budget 2021  
Laurie Richardson <lgrichardson@optonline.net>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 4:18:18 PM



Subject: Fwd: Comments on Budget Increase

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

---

To Whom It May Concern Regarding the Proposed Budget Increase

The following "news" story is my comment on the proposed budget increase for Redding.

Laurie Richardson  
23 Giles Hill Road  
Redding CT 06896

Headline:

Leaders of a small town in Connecticut believe that raising taxes in the current economic downturn with uncertainty, layoffs, furloughs and extra long lines at food banks is a good idea. These leaders believe that their constituents have no reason to be worried and will have no problem digging deeper into their pockets. Landlords foregoing rent payments, those with businesses that are closed or operating at 25% of normal revenue will be outvoted by those who easily made the transition to work from home in high paying jobs without skipping a beat. Even though many town services and school operations have been severely cut back, this special town does not have to look for savings anywhere. Hold the line? Nope. It's not enough that our town is continuing to keep up payroll when it is getting less in productivity. No, apparently what is needed right now is more of whatever our taxes are buying. Gives new meaning to the phrase "less is more."

Nice optics, guys.

From:  Budget 2021  
Lisa Herring <wlherring32@gmail.com>

Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:55:14 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

Please keep the budget as is! I live at 8 Chapman place and my name is Lisa Herring. I have a 2nd grader and a freshman at Joel Barlow!!

Y'all are doing an amazing job!

Thank you!

From:  Budget 2021  
Nicole Carwin <ncarwin@yahoo.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:34:46 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

Please pass the board of Ed budget as it is. Our children need this money. Please help Redding stay attractive to new families coming here and help retain the valuable families we already have. Our children need the resources this money will provide.

Nicole Carwin  
141 Cross Hwy, Redding

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From:  Budget 2021  
Patrick Schuchard <p.schuchard@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 4:02:01 PM



Subject: Fwd: BOE budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Hi -

I am writing to encourage you to pass the BOE budget as is. The quality of our schools is one of our town's greatest assets, and I believe the budget put before you has been crafted to provide the children in this community with the education they deserve.

Thank you,

Patrick Schuchard  
[81 Pinetree Road](#)

From:  Budget 2021  
Peter Graziano <grovermax@me.com>

Friday, April 24, 2020 6:42:47 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget 2021

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Selectpersons

I'm writing to comment on the town budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. We are all feeling overwhelmed with the havoc to our personal, professional, educational and social lives that COVID 19 has thrust upon us.

I can absolutely appreciate the sentiment of being fiscally prudent. I believe the current elected officials work hard every budget cycle to meet this fiduciary responsibility.

With that said we are in uncharted waters and additional strategies will need to be explored. I have read and heard that some viewpoints are to reduce next year's budget by -10% because of the potential for tax collection shortfalls that may happen. I don't share this sentiment. It would create a lower mill rate but would also change the the personality of the town. Children will be less educated, roads won't be repaired or plowed, and first response will take longer to deploy .....

To assume we can squeeze the same amount of service out of less funding is a slippery slope that sounds great to save dollars in the short term that comes with a heavy price in the long term.

I am entirely willing to pay the modest increase as presented to ensure such services.

Lastly, if it is decided to cut funding to the town and school services, the approximately \$2m senior tax credit should also be reduced. It is not something that sits well with me personally also but if one sector is to be reduced all should all be reduced to share the pain.

Thank you all for your service

Respectfully,

Pete Graziano  
Deacon Abbott Road

Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021  
PL Kirby <plk1957@sbcglobal.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:23:07 PM



Subject: Fwd: Please reduce the budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

---

At a time when unemployment is rising (22 million Americans are unemployed)and the future is more uncertain than it has been in years why are we looking to increase the town's budget? Let's sharpen the pencils and decrease this budget!  
Thanks,  
Peter Kirby

From:  **Julia Pemberton**  
info@townofreddingct.org  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:10:09 PM

Subject: Public Comment from Richard Stein Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Kim Yonkers



----- Original Message -----

**What does this comment regard?**

Budget Issues

**Please include any questions or comments:**

(For April 22 Meeting)

We do not expect the Board to own or operate a crystal ball, so your proposed budget contains no significant contingencies for what is already a fast-developing, and long-duration sea change in town, country and world.

However, even before Covid, the real estate conditions in this area were pointing toward an unjust and regressive tax situation, where the drop in high-end values automatically result in shifting the burden to those generally poorer residents. If, as we most certainly can expect, unemployment, underemployment, mortality and disability will reduce both occupancy and ability to afford taxes, we can expect more than a few percent decrease in 'normal' revenues. Add to this the unpredictable effects of restructuring the schools and especially the guaranteed cost escalation for special needs service providers, and we're in deep trouble.

We understand that the Town feels constrained by salary contracts and State of CT mandates, but if the lessons of the early 1930s can be understood, structural adjustments will be forced on every town and city, like it or not. What these are, may be speculated, but personally I would not expect the most significant effects to be far off.

So, what to do? The only fair choice is to add debt and use reserves NOW to keep from destructive defaults by taxpayers and preserve all services and presumably contracts. In addition, examine the regressive effects of assessments, apply early for any external emergency funding, as it will deplete quickly, especially for towns like ours, solicit major donations from the numbers of significant wealthy residents.

No credible estimates on the depth or duration of economic problems are shallow or short. We need creative, effective planning for a few very adverse years. NOW.

**Name**

Richard Stein. Ph.D.

**Email**

[Cooke@snet.net](mailto:Cooke@snet.net)

**Address**

61 Whortleberry Rd  
Redding, CT 0696  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Phone**

(203) 218-5461

From:  "Yonkers, Kimberly" <kimberly.yonkers@yale.edu> Wed, Apr 22, 2020 9:58:41 PM  
Subject: FW: Public Comment from Richard Stein Fwd: New submission from Contact Us  
To:  **Steve Gniadek**



Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (8.1K)

Please send to board members

**From:** "info@townofreddingct.org" <info@mail186-21.suw21.mandrillapp.com> on behalf of Julia Pemberton <jpemberton@townofreddingct.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 5:11 PM  
**To:** Steve Gniadek <sgniadek@townofreddingct.org>, "Yonkers, Kimberly" <kimberly.yonkers@yale.edu>  
**Subject:** Public Comment from Richard Stein Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

----- Original Message -----

**What does this comment regard?**

Budget Issues

**Please include any questions or comments:**

(For April 22 Meeting)

We do not expect the Board to own or operate a crystal ball, so your proposed budget contains no significant contingencies for what is already a fast-developing, and long-duration sea change in town, country and world.

However, even before Covid, the real estate conditions in this area were pointing toward an unjust and regressive tax situation, where the drop in high-end values automatically result in shifting the burden to those generally poorer residents. If, as we most certainly can expect, unemployment, underemployment, mortality and disability will reduce both occupancy and ability to afford taxes, we can expect more than a few percent decrease in 'normal' revenues. Add to this the unpredictable effects of restructuring the schools and especially the guaranteed cost escalation for special needs service providers, and we're in deep trouble.

We understand that the Town feels constrained by salary contracts and State of CT mandates, but if the lessons of the early 1930s can be understood, structural adjustments will be forced on every town and city, like it or not. What these are, may be speculated, but personally I would not expect the most significant effects to be far off.

So, what to do? The only fair choice is to add debt and use reserves NOW to keep from destructive defaults by taxpayers and preserve all services and presumably contracts. In addition, examine the regressive effects of assessments, apply early for any external emergency funding, as it will deplete quickly, especially for towns like ours, solicit major donations from the numbers of significant wealthy

residents.  
No credible estimates on the depth or duration of economic problems are shallow or short. We need creative, effective planning for a few very adverse years. NOW.

**Name**

Richard Stein. Ph.D.

**Email**

[Cooke@snet.net](mailto:Cooke@snet.net)

**Address**

61 Whortleberry Rd  
Redding, CT 0696  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Phone**

(203) 218-5461

From:  Budget 2021  
"ramorton@optonline.net" <ramorton@optonline.net>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 5:35:22 PM



Subject: Fwd: Board meeting requests April 22, 2020

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

To the Board of Finance:

We want to register our support for three propositions before the Board:

1. Make a 10% reduction in the Town Budget across the board. Even the present modest increases are insupportable in the current conditions.
2. Increase the bond amount to \$10 million from \$5 million to cover expected decreases in tax revenue, support from the state, and Unassigned Fund Balance
3. Change the collection of town taxes from semi-annually to quarterly to increase cash flow and spread out the bigger burden on taxpayers.

Without a referendum to voice our views and rally support, we urge these changes to present plans.

Robert and Marjorie Morton

Robert Morton  
P.O.. Box 16  
274 Poverty Hollow Road  
Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
Tel: 203 938-2992  
Cell: 203 470-4454  
[email:ramorton@optonline.net](mailto:ramorton@optonline.net)

From:  Budget 2021  
Sara Videtto <sara.videtto@gmail.com>

Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:56:08 AM



Subject: Fwd: Board of Ed budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear members of the BOF,

As a parent and individual valuing education in our town, I am hopeful the board will please pass the Board of Ed budget as it was presented.

With respect,

Sara Videtto  
21 Werf Dr.  
Redding, CT 06896

--

---

Sara Videtto | [sara.videtto@gmail.com](mailto:sara.videtto@gmail.com) | 860-309-3436  
This email was sent using only 100% recycled ones and zeros.