



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 12:27 PM

From: Budget 2021
V Visners <visners@gmail.com>
To: Steve Gniadek Krista Gramer Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: School Budget support

Dear Board of Finance Members,

I am writing on behalf of the children of Redding. As a parent of three young children - 7, 3, & 1 - my husband and I are very invested in the education system. We moved to Redding because of the school system and its sterling reputation. As educators, we are acutely aware of the impact funding has on opportunities and services provided to children, which undoubtedly shape the community for future generations. I am asking you to fully fund the BOE budget, as presented. We have cut the budget for too long, which has resulted in a loss of programs, opportunities, and staffing. While I understand taxes will increase as a result, as a taxpayer I wholeheartedly support the necessary increase as it benefits not only my family but the Redding community at large. The counselor/social work position at RES is critical at a time when more students are presenting with emotional regulation difficulties and especially at this unprecedented time when children are grappling with increased anxiety. If we do not meet the needs of our children socially & emotionally, they are unable to access the learning presented to them, which leads in a downward spiral academically, resulting in an increased need for support throughout their educational career. If we continue to cut education funding, our community will suffer the consequences - more families leaving Redding, less families moving into Redding, property values decrease due to lower rated schools, increased funding needed to provide supports that otherwise could have been prevented by providing resources earlier in the education system, less engaged and productive products of the school system in our community, etc. Thank you for supporting the children and Redding community by **fully funding** the education budget.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Visners

50 Pine Mountain Rd.
Redding, CT 06896

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"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."
-- Martin Luther King Jr.

From:  Budget 2021
Carolyn Baker <bakerclb@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 3:14:14 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget 2021 Comments

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

To the Board of Finance and the Redding, CT Community:

As a community we are coming together in an unprecedented situation and must make decisions that will resonate through history. How we respond will determine how resilient the Redding Community will be to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unforeseeable implications on all of us of the prolonged social distancing, which has shut down our community. With that in mind I am asking the Redding Board of Finance, using the very unique power you are being granted, to make the courageous decision to vote in support of the budgets as presented by the Boards of Education and Selectmen. We all understand that it is hard to make the choice to approve even a modest increase to spending in a crisis, when everyone is hyper focused on where the economy is headed, and what the impact will be to our resources. Offsetting should be the concerns regarding the impact that pandemic will have on the continued well being of our community as a whole, both at the schools and via the enriching programs our community offers our youngest to oldest residents. I express grave concerns that the tight budgets as presented, that strive to meet calls for fiscal responsibility, will fail in meeting likely increased obligations of our schools and social services in the coming year. As you look ahead with hope to the days when we start to reopen, reductions today will be detrimental to our ability to succeed going forward. Voting in support of the budgetary needs of Redding, you are providing the necessary foundation for our most basic services.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Baker
15 Indian Hill Rd

From:  Budget 2021
"Sarah O'Dell" <sarah.odell.burgess@gmail.com> 4/16/2020 3:04:50 PM 

Subject: Fwd: 2020-2021 Budget Comments for 4.16.20 meeting

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

From Sarah O'Dell, 214 Black Rock Turnpike.

I am writing to express my support for the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets.

In particular, the budget put forth by the Board of Education is conservative, especially given the way that the pandemic has highlighted the years and years of cuts demanded by previous Boards. Unlike our peer schools in the region, such as Wilton and Bethel, we do not have 1:1 technology for our students. We do not have robust curriculum support staff nor dedicated social workers in each building. Despite the truly Herculean efforts of our administrators, teachers and support staff, the lack of resources thanks to a budget that's been starved over the years have become more apparent than ever in this time of crisis. I've noted with distress that the RES PTA was asked to pay for things like paper, paint and other extremely basic classroom supplies, and the JRMS PTA rounded up sewing volunteers to mend chairs so ragged that the stuffing was coming out of the seats. It's all part of an embarrassing legacy of short sighted decision making. Next year will be full of challenges that no educator has ever faced before, and having **more** support staff, **more** resources, **more** curriculum support will all be necessary to do right by our children.

The children of Redding are going to be dealing with the ongoing trauma of this pandemic for the rest of their lives, and any suggestion of cutting the school budgets going into the next year is irresponsible. We must fully fund the school and town budget request.

From:  Budget 2021
Faith Hsu <faith.m.hsu@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 2:54:38 PM



Subject: Fwd: Prioritizing Our Schools

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

Faith Hsu
89 Seventy Acre Rd.
Redding, CT 06896

During these times of economic hardship, it would be tempting to cut school funding. I believe this would be a short sighted approach. Next year, our children will start the school year with a learning deficit. While I appreciate the hard work of teachers and administrators, distance learning is not the same as learning that takes place in a classroom. Our children need small class sizes, and reading and math specialists to help them "catch up" on the academics that are currently being missed. For those students who are "getting ahead" during this time, they will need staff to be able to differentiate education to meet their learning needs so they do not become bored and frustrated with school. This can only happen with appropriate staffing. I hope you will take into consideration the unique needs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Faith Hsu

From:  Budget 2021
Jonathan Hopkins <j5acoustics@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 2:51:13 PM



Subject: Fwd: Town budget

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

Hello - I am writing in support of the three town budgets as proposed. I fear our schools in particular will be starting out slow with playing some catch up should we be lucky enough to have a "normal" school year in the fall with teachers needing support. I also support finalizing the emergency communications upgrades as soon as is feasible. Supporting our local government resources is more important than ever in these times.

Thank you,

Jonathan Hopkins
16 Little Boston Lane

From:  Budget 2021
 Robert Mars <studio@robertmars.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 2:47:37 PM



Subject: Fwd: Revised Redding proposed budget funding

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Dear Redding Board of Finance,

We are writing to voice our full support for the Board of Education's proposed budget for the 2020/2021 academic year as it stands. As parents of two Redding Elementary School children, we are seeing first hand their challenges and hardships, both emotional and educational, involved with distance learning. Presuming that school will begin again on schedule in the Fall, who knows what additional educational, physical, and emotional support our students will need. Additionally, there may be a call for repair or upkeep to buildings that have sat relatively untended. As self-employed creatives, we are also well aware of the personal and financial hardships that we, and many other town residents, are experiencing. We still feel that this is a time to look forward and maintain standards of excellence in education. This community is centered on our schools and our phenomenal Mark Twain library, both of which provide a heart and home for the town of Redding. We urge you, in the unusual absence of a town vote, to have the strength to stand up for the future of our schools. Appropriately fund our educators, school staff, support professionals, and the numerous people and programs that continue to make our schools a featured part of why people choose the Redding community over neighboring towns. The elected Board of Education has thoughtfully presented this budget based on decades of experience in education, while weighing the many needs of our schools and the community. We ask that you respect and support these experts and their carefully presented plan.

Sincerely,
Brenda Phelps & Robert Mars
2 Indian Hill Road
Redding, CT 06896

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Robert Mars
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studio@robertmars.com
503.784.3982

From:  Budget 2021
Lisa Cederbaum <lcederbaum@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 3:39:47 PM



Subject: Fwd: Support proposed school budget as is

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

Hello members of the Board of Finance,

Please keep Town of Redding strong and desirable by supporting the proposed school budget, as is. We appreciate the temptation to make short-term budget cuts. However, with the sudden and dramatic shift to online learning this year, my family is concerned that next year Redding schools will have to play curriculum and technology catch-up. Any cuts to the already tight school budget would leave the Redding schools unable to deal with these issues.

Thank you,

Lisa Cederbaum
23 Pine Mountain Road

AND
Robert Cederbaum
23 Pine Mountain Road



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 12:40 PM

From:

 Budget 2021
citykat713@aol.com

To:

 Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: Please support our schools

Hi,

Our names are Joel & Kathleen Kaplan. We live at 41 Deacon Abbott Road. We have two daughters in RES. Chiara is in 3rd grade and Reese is in PreK.

We are begging you to please support our schools during this budget season. We would love for you to reinstate more reading, speech and math specialists. **Please no more cuts.** While we are in strange times, the more assistance my girls, and all the kids, can get next year to get them caught up is extremely important to everyone. To take anything away right now would be detrimental to their catching up next year. We beg you to please help our kids this budget season.

Best,
Joel & Kathleen

Sent from Kat's iPhone



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 12:48 PM

From:  Budget 2021
danielle fiori <dfiori6@gmail.com>

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: Redding Budget

Hello! I am a Redding resident of almost four years. My husband and I have three children 5 and under. As we continue to explore the town, we would love to request a possible playground for the children of Redding. This does not need to be extravagant, but a place where all our children can go to play, imagine and explore. We often travel to neighboring towns to use their spaces and support their towns with the purchase of lunch, snacks or ice cream. It would be great to bring business to our town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Danielle Frenzel



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 1:31 PM

From:

Budget 2021
Pina Jabbari <PinaCol22@hotmail.com>

To:

Steve Gniadek Krista Gramer Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

Hello,

My name is Josephine Jabbari, and I live at 37 Wood Road. I write in to ask the board of finance to fully support the Board of Education budget request, and if flexibility permits, to increase the budget allocated to the schools greater to than what's being requested by the BOE. I know the BOE always carefully crafts a budget that will meet our children's needs, while not exceeding the BOF expectations, therefore giving them very limited ability to make strategic investments in our children's future - and the education system needs more.

As a mother of two young children, who cry each morning asking when they will be able to go back to school, I ask you to please, please support our schools during the budget season. Our children are the future of this town, and I am asking you to reinstate more reading and math specialists, and to fully fund technology so our children can get the full benefits of online learning today and in the future. As citizens, we all deserve the best schools we can get.

Thank you,
Josephine



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 1:39 PM

From:



Budget 2021

Angela Caes <angelamcaes@gmail.com>

To:



Steve Gniadek



Krista Gramer



Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: Public Comment: BOF Meeting April 16

The best way to safe guard the health and wellness of our youngest community members is by supporting a smart and strategic Education budget. In these unprecedented times, I strongly encourage you to accept the Board of Education budget for K-8. Further, I challenge the BOF to deliberate and request the BOE to identify the areas of learning and social gaps unfilled by the distance learning challenges with no known end date. Of all times to consider use of any "war chest" funds or town savings, now is the time to shore up our best town asset -- Education -- and make it well known this town will invest in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Caes
Deer Hill Road