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From:  Budget 2021  
Alex Zuluaga <alzulu31@gmail.com> Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:36:30 PM  

Subject: Fwd: Redding School Budget and ER9

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File 5K

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Hello this is Alex Zuluaga, 29 Sunnyview Dr, Redding, CT 06896.

This email also represents Jennifer Zuluaga, 29 Sunnyview Dr, Redding, CT 06896

I was only able to spend a little bit of time with the budget so please excuse the following if they are covered but i did not see these explicitly considered in the line items of the budgets.

With the impacts of COVID disrupting the normal educational process we think that two incremental line items be instituted into the budget for next year:

Increase of paraprofessionals in each classroom for at least half the year

With the change to the curriculum that each of the students have encountered this year that there will be a need for incremental assistance to catch up to where they should be by the time they get into their new grades. With an increase in paraprofessionals we will have the benefit more individualized attention that can act as an accelerent to the students curriculum needs.

Alternatives could a series of summer school programs focused on broad subject matters (Math, English, Science, etc.) that is subsidized by the school but can reduce the learning curve for the next school year

Online curriculum development that can be instituted and minimize negative impacts of other future events

We can't assume that this COVID episode is a one time event that we don't have to deal with again in the future. We need to develop a sustainable approach in case something like this occurs. The first step is to establish pre-determined learning plans for online learning. Consider online lectures by our faculty be recorded so that they be leveraged on the spot. We should also consider planned online education weeks so that both students and teachers practice good home schooling approaches with the specifically developed curriculum. This change management activity will enable our school system to thrive under uncertain circumstances

We should reach out to the state universities and higher tier private universities for assistance is setting up online learning. Whether that be leveraging online methods used by these universities or even gaining access to their systems/licenses to enhance our resources

To offset the cost of these initiatives it seems like we could consider reducing the budget for summer camps in selectman budget (possibly eliminating for one year other than maintenance activities or diverting to the summer school type program outlined above). We should also consider if we can increase the tuition of the pre-k program and/or eliminate the transportation portion of the budget for pre-K program. I could not find the current tuition but my recollection was that the pre-school program was significantly less than Landmark and Montessori programs in the area. If you keep the tuition inline

with or just slightly below these programs it should certainly eliminate the current increase needed for the Pre-K program and in all likelihood contribute funds towards the above considerations.

Chris i hope you don't mind that i included you but figured that you could also consider the above in your conversations with the board of education or if you receive any questions from the board of finance regarding these views.

If anything is unclear or you would like to understand any aspects of this email better feel free to reach out 203-240-3119.

Kind Regards,  
Alex Zuluaga



Message

Mon, Apr 13, 2020 10:50 AM

From:

Budget 2021  
 Chris Tse <ccmtse@yahoo.com>

To:

Steve Gniadek Krista Gramer Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: Comments to budget2021

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Dear members - Board of Selectman, Finance, Education and Region 9

I participated in most of the budget discussion meetings of the 4 Boards. I am impressed by the effort by all of you to produce a budget that satisfies the need of The Town at the most optimal costs.

My personal feeling is that 2021 budget is well prepared and acceptable, since the rate of increase reflects the optimal need of the Town, through the exhaustive debates amongst the members.

With the COVID19, I think 2022 budget will be much more demanding, listening to the discussions already underway amongst the Boards. There will definitely be a higher budget increase next year, and hope with adequate forward planning, and revenue/expenditures improvement programs review, we would reach an affordable budget for the Redding residents.

Thanks again,

Christopher Tse

111 Gallows Hill Road

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From:  Budget 2021 <gsgrp3@gmail.com> Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:26:45 AM 

Subject: Fwd: forthcoming budget - committee authority

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File 4K

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Greetings,

I see that the budget authority has been transferred from a referendum to just a Redding Committee, which could be a problem. I expect you (the committee) will NOT be increasing our taxes in this economic environment for any reason. I strongly suggest you take this time and your temporary authority and at a minimum keep the budget NO larger than last fiscal year (which was much larger than it should have been). I would hope that you can find savings and maybe lower our tax costs both at the town level and at the educational level. DO NOT be convinced that even smaller class sizes are necessary...

I sincerely hope you can do the right thing and not spend money that is not yours to spend ...

Stay healthy,

Howard Schloss

57 Drummer Lane

Redding.

Title:

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From:  Budget 2021  
Lenore Pranzo <lcpranzo@hotmail.com>

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 9:16:41 AM



Subject: Fwd: Leave the budgets as in

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File

3K

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I live at 781 North Park Avenue and believe that any cuts to the proposed budgets would be a mistake. After having to deliver education and other town services in new ways things will fall through the gaps.

This next budget year would be a year for filling in those gaps and seeing what could work differently for the 2021/2022 year.

Don't let the idea that this town can do with less bait you into quick and shortsighted decisions.

Thank you for your time and your work for our town.

-Lenore Pranzo

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From:  Budget 2021  
Martine A Gorevic <mag238@nyu.edu>

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 11:23:15 PM 

Subject: Fwd: School Budget

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

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Dear Board of Finance,

You have the difficult task of approving a budget for our schools during this challenging time. Throughout this budgeting process our leaders have been forced to make compromises and concessions about what is needed for our students to thrive given "the known." As we are now in uncharted territories, the funding needed for schools requires flexibility and innovation. From technology to mental health our needs are evolving. This is not a time to eliminate the known, but rather to preserve and build off what works, to innovate, and to support. Our new normal is projected to have devastating impacts on mental health, special education, and potentially educational outcomes. We must plan accordingly.

Please stand behind the proposed school budget, granting required flexibility and providing support to our community as we navigate this crisis. The approved budget must be one that allows students to return to a joyous school with programs and staff they love and where they can receive the supports needed to grow, thrive, and give back.

With Appreciation,  
Martine King  
440 Rockhouse Road

Title:

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From:  Budget 2021 Wed, Apr 15, 2020 12:56:04 PM   
 Peter Bonfanti <peterb44@optonline.net>

Subject: Fwd: Economic downturn and its impact on the towns's finances

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

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To the Board of Finance,

The economic downturn is directly tied to the COVID-19 spread and its ultimate control. Many analysts predict that will take 18 months or longer.

The town's financial planning needs to consider this reality and the likely persistence of the disease and its unprecedented economic impact. BOF discussions to date seem to imply the economic impact could be based on our previous experience which seems to be an unrealistic assumption. Budgeting and cash management for worse case seems to be essential.

Peter Bonfanti

44 Umpawaug Road  
Redding CT06897

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From:  Budget 2021 "Gagnon Personal" <sgagnoncpa@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 15, 2020 9:15:25 PM  

Subject: Fwd: Budget comments

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File 2K  
 BoF letter 4 15 2020.pdf / Uploaded File 76K

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Dear BoF,

Please find the enclosed comments for the upcoming budget discussion. Thanks for all your hard work during this very difficult time.

Thanks,

Steve Gagnon  
83 Cross Highway

Steven Gagnon  
83 Cross Highway

RE: Proposed Budget comments 2020 – 2021 year

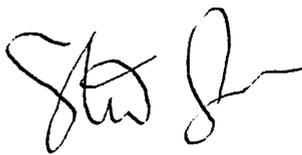
Dear Board of Finance:

We are amid an economic meltdown due to the result of external factors that this country has not seen since the turn of the century. People are losing jobs or being forced to take significant pay cuts. Business owners are struggling. Housing values will continue to drop. Yet, the proposed budget is showing an increase to the overall town Budget. The increase is spearheaded by the Board of Education. They think it is appropriate to raise their budget by almost \$700,000. This is unacceptable.

During the Summer of 2019, the town put forth a survey asking residents what was important to them. Tax stabilization was one of the main items on that list. I believe it will be disgraceful to the town if budgets are increased and taxes are raised. As home values continue to decline, the burden of tax is going to shift to those with less expensive homes, probably with less disposable income. A tax increase will hurt them more than anyone else. It will hurt our single mothers in town. It will hurt our seniors who scratch and claw to stay in the town they love. The town they grew up in. The town in which they raised their families. The community they shaped. If taxes continue to rise, these are the people that will be forced out. Not those with 8,000 sq. ft. homes. Those are the ones who will be forced to move or will face foreclosure of their homes. Any increase will tell the community you don't care about them or their opinion.

Now is the time to reduce the budgets. Time to go negative with each individual budget. Please listen to those who took the survey. Please listen to those in town who can't afford an increase. Do the right thing and do not allow any single budget to show an increase. Redding cannot afford any increases in taxes or expenses in general.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Gagnon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Gagnon



Message

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 9:49 AM

From: Budget 2021  
Trisha Sorrells Doyle <trisha@upperwestsidemedia.com>  
To: Steve Gniadek Krista Gramer Zachary Smith

Subject: Fwd: FUND OUR SCHOOLS

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Dear Board of Finance:

I am asking you to strongly consider increasing our school budget this year. As this pandemic has shown, our children are NOT benefiting from the chipping away of our school budgets. In talking to friends around the country, I realize that our children – due to cuts in technology – are not able to have the one-on-one instruction that children in places that value education are during this unprecedented time. I understand that teachers are doing the best they can with the tools they are given, but it is beyond sad that due to the fact that the school district can't guarantee every child has technological access, that our children are not getting the benefits of group learning. Instead, they are being fed youtube videos on subjects from people they have no connection to. **We need to fully fund our technological preparedness.**

Moreover, underfunding education over the years has meant that children who may need additional stimulation cannot get it. Ripping away reading and math specialists and teachers that can provide additional classroom support has meant that many children have grown bored and complacent at a time when – with just a little bit of encouragement – they might have blossomed. Those resources could have been incredible assets during this online learning time. We have failed our children by cutting these services over the years. **We need to fully fund the reading, math, and gifted and talent line item.**

My husband and I moved to this town because of the excellent reputation of the schools. I know budgets are going to be tight, but asking our young people to bear the brunt of the pain is not the way to run a town.

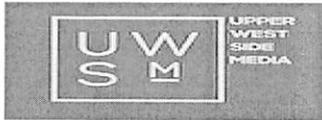
Regards,

Trisha Sorrells Doyle

12 Church Hill Lane

Redding, CT 06896

Trisha Sorrells Doyle  
Upper West Side Media  
1.917.291.1197  
[trisha@upperwestsidemedia.com](mailto:trisha@upperwestsidemedia.com)  
<http://www.upperwestsidemedia.com>



From:  Budget 2021  
Seana Bedard <seanabedard@yahoo.com>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 10:17:31 AM 

Subject: Fwd: Budget Vote

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File

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Dear Board of Finance-

My name is Seana Bedard 16 Winding Brook Lane

I urge you to support all of the school budgets. Given the current situation it is more important than ever to provide the students with as many teachers and access to additional support and technology than ever. We cannot have cuts to teachers, staff or any supplies! I would like to see an increase in teachers or aids for math and reading, as the current online learning is a struggle and most (if not all) students will be entering the next grade level behind their full capabilities.

As we all know the real estate market is DIRECTLY affected by the school district. The market has been strong and I am hoping it continues through this year, despite the current pandemic. Supporting the schools will help.

Please make the right decision.

Thank you  
Seana Bedard

Title:

From:  Budget 2021  
amb1288@aol.com

Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:39:45 AM



Subject: Fwd: the board of finance

To:  Steve Gniadek  Krista Gramer  Zachary Smith

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File

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Please support our schools during the budget season. My name is Amy Bloom, 203 Redding Road. I had a child who went to Redding elementary and now I have two in middle school at JRMS. Education is so important and a reason while we bought in this town.

Thank you,  
Amy

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Get the new AOL app: [mail.mobile.aol.com](mailto:mail.mobile.aol.com)