



Brookfield Public Schools



"Create Your Tomorrow"

January 18, 2018

Dear Brookfield Public Schools Community,

On December 6, 2017, I proposed a spending plan to meet the needs of our students for the 2018-2019 school year. The spending plan included a 6.4% increase over the current year's budget. My proposal included several initiatives and improvements aligned to the Strategic Coherence Plan, in support of our learners. The cost of these initiatives represented an increase of \$305,775 or .8% of the proposed budget. Included in this plan was an examination of school start-times and enrichment programs, a World Language Lab for Whisconier, a new science teacher at the high school, an English Language Learner teacher and a part-time occupational therapist assistant. The majority of the proposed 6.4% increase centered on an increase to the special education budget of \$1,170,172 or 2.9%. This figure represents the actual cost to educate our most vulnerable learners. Please follow the links to the [budget power point \(slide #2\) for a simple breakdown of costs](#). Additionally, please follow the link to a [6-minute explanation of the proposed budget increase from the January 3, 2017 Board of Education meeting](#).

Since early December 2017, the Board of Education and administrative team has deliberated and the public has contributed to the budget discourse regarding what should be included in the budget.

Last evening, after painstaking consideration, the Board of Education voted 6-1 to adopt a budget for the 2018-2019 school year. Next year's total adopted budget is \$43,203,151. This represents an increase of 5.7% or \$2,319,143 over the current budget.

Based upon new data showing steady enrollment for next year, the BOE agreed to maintain eight sections of kindergarten. Additionally, while the majority of the proposed enhancements were approved and existing high value programs remain in place, the BOE did make several reductions to the superintendent's original budget proposal. The reductions to the proposal include postponing the school start-time study and the purchase of the Whisconier World Language Lab. Furthermore, the Board elected to reduce several positions. Three part-time clerk positions, the monitor/greeter position at BHS and one administrator position have been eliminated in the Board's adopted budget for next year.

The Board of Education's adoption of the education budget for the 2018-2019 academic year is only the beginning of the Brookfield budget process. Next, the Board of Selectmen will review the Board of Education budget and make their recommendations to the Board of Finance. The Board of Education will be discussing its adopted budget for next year with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on February 6, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Brookfield High School.

Should you desire to be heard regarding the budget, please share your opinion with the elected Boards and administration in writing and/or with your presence at upcoming meetings.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent