

## 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget Frequently Asked Questions

RSD 17 Community Members,

Over the last few weeks since the Board adopted its proposed Budget for 2017-2018 we have received and answered a variety of questions related to the budget. Below is a list of the frequently asked questions along with answers.

1. What is the proposed increase for the 2017-18 BOE Budget?  
The BOE Proposed 2017-2018 Budget is a 0.37.% increase over the 2016-2017 Budget.
2. When is the referendum? What are the voting hours and locations?  
The Budget referendum is on Tuesday May 2, 2017. Voting hours and locations are as follows:  
  
Voting Hours: 6:00 AM- 8:00 PM  
  
Town of Haddam:  
District 1 - Higganum Firehouse Complex,  
439 Saybrook Road, Higganum  
  
District 2 - Central Office, 57 Little City Road, Higganum  
  
District 3 – Haddam Neck Firehouse, 50 Rock Landing Road, Haddam Neck  
  
Town of Killingworth:  
District 1 - Killingworth Elementary School 340 Route 81, Killingworth
3. What programs does the budget support?  
The Proposed BOE Budget supports all of the services and programs that were offered in the 2016-2017 school year. No courses, programs or services were cut. The budget supports all the strategic initiatives currently underway in the District schools including the continued implementation of readers and writers workshop grades K-8, the new math curriculum grades 5-8, development and implementation of new world language program grades 5-12, maker spaces in grades K-12, development of new math and science programs to meet the new state standards.
4. What programs or services does the budget cut?  
The proposed BOE Budget does not cut any services, courses or programs that were offered during the 2016-2017 school year.
5. How many teaching positions does this budget cut and why?  
The proposed BOE budget cuts 8.5 teaching positions. These reductions are due to a decline in enrollment over the last 9-10 years. Five of these reductions are at the Middle School where the number of students will have decreased by more than 130 students over the last four years.
6. How many paraprofessional positions does this budget cut and why?

The proposed BOE budget cuts 6 paraprofessional positions. These reductions are based on anticipated special education caseloads next year. The number of students requiring special education paraprofessionals is projected to be reduced by six next year.

7. What are the class sizes at the three elementary schools projected to be with this proposed budget?  
Elementary class sizes will average 16 students per class. (BES avg. =16; KES avg. =16; HES avg. =17)
8. What are the class sizes at the Middle School Projected to be  
Middle School class sizes for core classes will average 21 students per class (grade 5 avg. =19; grade 6 avg. =23; grade 7 avg. = 23 and grade 8 avg. =21)
9. What is the effect of the state budget proposals on the proposed BOE budget?  
At this point no impact from any proposed state budgets has been taken into account due to the uncertainty at the state whether there will be any reduction in municipal and education funding. The BOE and Administration will work with the Town leadership to track the state budget and if necessary will meet to determine how to deal with reductions in revenue if they happen.
10. Does the High School Renovation impact the proposed 2017-2018 Budget?  
No, the bonding for the high school renovation project will not take place until early in 2019 so there is no impact on the 2017-2018 budget.