

FY21 City Council Budget Update

January 21, 2020





The mission of the Burlington School District is to graduate students who:

- Value different cultures
- Engage with the community
- Communicate effectively
- Think creatively
- Skillfully solve problems
- Achieve at their highest academic, intellectual and personal potential

Budget Landscape

- Structural budget challenge
- Rising wage and benefits costs
- Labor negotiations
- Special Ed legislative environment
- Inflation rate increase
- Capital investments
- New investments identified but not supported in last cycle



The Budget Process

- Public and staff input
- Analysis and prioritization
- Project revenues and expenditures
- Board review and feedback
- Tax impact analysis
- Board decision
- Community education
- Town Meeting Day vote



Budget Process Highlights

- Input process resulted in a list of possible new investments.
 - \$4.6 million worth of ideas considered (over 46 FTEs).
- Scenarios were developed and reviewed for various investment levels, and the tax impact of each scenario was estimated.
- High tax impact due to multiple factors resulted in smaller list of new investments, numerous reductions, and application of surplus funds to mitigate tax impact.

Budget Trends

Recent Budget and Tax Changes

Year	Total Budget Change	Ed Spending Change	Tax Rate Change
FY17	\$2,597,468 (3.3%)	\$304,335 (0.5%)	4.2%
FY18	\$3,547,523 (4.3%)	\$3,194,008 (5.5%)	3.9%
FY19	\$-547,237 (-0.6%)	\$469,236 (0.5%)	3.3%
FY20	\$3,708,783 (4.4%)	\$3,424,591 (5.5%)	4.7%

New Investments

Cost of programs and positions added in recent budgets

Year	New Investment Amount
FY18	\$1,760,000
FY19	\$ 852,000
FY20	\$2,300,000

Budgetary Assumptions

Baseline budget growth of \$3.5 million driven by 4 factors

Wages: Increased at the rate identified by the Board during executive session

Health insurance: 13% increase in premium rates based on VEHI projection

Special Education: Increase in tuition and inclusion service costs

Debt Service: Based on known and projected borrowing for capital plan and BHS

- Collectively, these items accounted for \$3.4 million of the projected \$3.5 million baseline budget increase.

Tax Rates

Tax rates are the result of multiple variables

- Education spending: amount of Education Fund support a district's budget requires - something a district controls!
- Equalize pupils: a weighted number of pupils that considers factors such as poverty and English Learners
- Dollar yield: a state variable reflecting the amount of money in the education fund
- Common Level of Appraisal: a measure of property values in each community

Tax Impact of Baseline Budget

Total New Spending Increase:	\$3.5 million
Total Budget Increase:	3.96%
Homestead Property Tax Rate Increase:	10.5%
Income Cap Increase:	6.19%

Represents the estimated impact of \$3.5 million of baseline budget growth, combined with changes to the various variables that impact tax rates.

Surplus Reduces Tax Impact

Baseline Scenario Tax Impact of Using Surplus

	Before Use of Surplus	After User of Surplus
Total Budget	\$92.2 million	\$92.2 million
Surplus Used as Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 1.3 million
Education Spending Change	\$ 4.8 million	\$ 3.5 million
Tax Impact	10.50%	8.52%

Tax Scenarios

Putting potential new investment amounts in context

Homestead Tax Increase	Ed. Spending Growth	Difference from Baseline
Baseline 8.5%	\$3.5 million	\$ 0
7%	\$2.6 million	\$950,000
6%	\$1.9 million	\$1.6 million
5%	\$1.3 million	\$2.3 million

Every 1% reduction to the tax growth rate requires \$650,000 in spending reductions.

Budget Reductions Adopted

City Retirement estimate reduced	\$150,000
In-house counsel position eliminated	\$125,000
Business office financial system savings	\$25,000
Special Education cost estimates reduced	\$200,000
Various non-instructional operational reductions	\$120,000
Funding reallocations	\$70,000
HRA & health insurance cost estimates reduced	\$240,000
District Lead Principal position eliminated	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$1,055,000

Budget Additions Adopted

Safe & inclusive schools investments	\$40,000
BHS computer science teacher 1.0 FTE	\$90,000
Early literacy professional development	\$25,000
Hunt Middle School field trip funding\	\$5,000
Contingency Increase*	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$360,000

*Note: Contingency increase designed to mitigate the risk that the budget reductions adopted will be too optimistic. By increasing the contingency, BSD reduces the likelihood of budget deficit.

Summary of Board Changes

Putting potential new investment amounts in context

Reductions	\$1,055,000
Additions	\$360,000
NET REDUCTIONS	\$695,000

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Tax Estimates

Key Variables

Status

Education spending	\$68,213,778 (4.34% increase)
Equalized pupil count	4,031.42 (1.25% decrease)*
Homestead dollar yield	\$10,883 (2.21% increase)**
Common level of appraisal	74.77% (3.71% decrease)*

*A decrease in these variables increases the tax rate

**An increase in the dollar yield decreases the tax rate

Estimated Tax Implications

Property Payers	Property Tax Impact
Property rate increase	7.36%
Tax on \$250,000 homestead	\$5,199
Tax Difference from current rate	\$357

Income Payers	Income Tax Impact
Income Cap increase	3.18%
Tax on \$50,000 household income	\$1,263
Tax Difference from current rate	\$38

Figures reflect rounding. For education taxpayers who pay based on income, the impact will be reflected on the fiscal year 2022 property tax bill. Existing law provides additional property tax relief for households with incomes below \$47,000. This is known as a “circuit breaker.” Once a taxpayer qualifies for the circuit breaker, additional school district spending does not increase the taxpayer’s tax liability.

How the Property Tax Impact Changed

Property tax based on baseline budget:	10.5%
Property tax after use of \$1.3m surplus:	8.52%
Property Tax after Board changes:	7.36%

Estimated tax impact decreased by 5.86 percentage points (almost 30% less than baseline estimate)

Ballot Language

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$91,525,288 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,920.53 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.66% higher than spending for the current year.

Budget Development Timeline

- 1/21 City Council budget update
- 1/21 School Board meeting
- 3/5 Town Meeting Day budget vote



Full budget timeline available at: <http://www.bsdt.org/district/budget/>

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courageous people. Join the journey!
