

Town Meeting Day is March 3rd!

Visit <https://www.bsdrv.org/district/budget/> to find complete budget and voting information.

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

PROPOSED BUDGET AT A GLANCE	
FY 2020 Total Budget	\$88.7 million
Increases to Health Insurance, Wages, Debt Service, Special Ed	\$3.5 million
Subtotal	\$92.2 million
New Investments	\$360,000
Non-instructional reductions	-\$1.1 million
TOTAL FY 2021 Budget	\$91.5 million
Increase from FY 2020	3.18%
<i>See reverse for full list of reductions and additions.</i>	



TAX IMPACT ESTIMATES*	
Property Tax Payer	7.36% Increase
Impact on \$250k homestead	\$357 per year
Income Tax Payer	3.18% Increase
Impact Tax \$50k income	\$38 per year
<i>*Estimate based on Vermont Department of Education data at time of publication. Subject to change.</i>	



Cultivating caring, creative, and courageous people. Join the journey!

Town Meeting Day is March 3rd!

Visit <https://www.bsdt.org/district/budget/> to find complete budget and voting information.

What is the story behind this budget?

Entering into our budget planning, we knew that BSD's baseline budget was predicted to go up \$3.5 million **without adding programming**. This is because of projected increases to health insurance rates (13%), wages, and special education costs, as well as anticipated borrowing related to the first phase of the BHS/BTC ReEnvisioning Project. In addition, we have begun to pay back debt associated with our voter-approved capital plan (Thank You, Burlington!).

A budget increase of \$3.5 million would have resulted in a 10.5% tax increase. Because of careful financial management over the past five years, we were able to use a \$1.3 million surplus to bring the tax impact down to 8.5%. Our District leadership then went line-by-line to try to identify additional savings. These Board decisions resulted in further reductions totaling more than \$1million, which allowed the board to make few key investments while still bringing the estimated tax rate increase down to 7.36% for property payers and 3.18% for income payers.

Reductions

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. City Retirement estimate reduced | \$150,000 |
| 2. In-house counsel position eliminated | \$125,000 |
| 3. Business office financial system savings | \$25,000 |
| 4. Special Education estimates reduced | \$200,000 |
| 5. Non-instructional operational reductions | \$120,000 |
| 6. Funding reallocations | \$70,000 |
| 7. HRA & health insurance estimates reduced | \$240,000 |
| 8. District Lead Principal position eliminated | \$125,000 |

Total Reductions

\$1,055,000

Additions

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Safe & Inclusive Schools Investments (E) | \$40,000 |
| 2. BHS computer science teacher 1.0 FTE (I) | \$90,000 |
| 3. Early literacy professional development (I) | \$25,000 |
| 4. Hunt Middle School field trip funding (I) | \$5,000 |
| 5. Contingency Increase (S) | \$200,000 |

Total Additions

\$360,000

Development of the District budget is informed by the District's Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs. As in past years, BSD solicited feedback on potential additions and reductions to the budget from board members, principals, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. Suggestions for additions were narrowed to those investments which could reasonably be implemented in the coming year and most-aligned with the three main Focus Areas of the District's Strategic Plan:

Equitable Climate & Culture (E)

Inclusive Teaching & Learning (I)

Sustainable Finance & Facilities (S)



Cultivating caring, creative, and courageous people. Join the journey!