

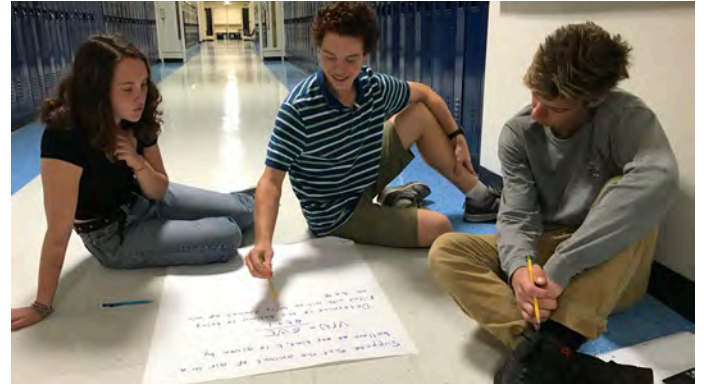
**Town Meeting Day is March 2nd!**

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

## BALLOT LANGUAGE

*Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$95,105,000 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 \$17,069.13 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.89% higher than spending for the current year.*

<b>PROPOSED BUDGET AT A GLANCE</b>	
<b>FY 2021 Total Budget</b>	<b>\$91.5 million</b>
Increases to Health Insurance and Wages, Debt Service, Minimal Strategic Investments	\$2.8 million
Increase due to Downtown BHS	2.4 million
Increase due to BTC Relocation	\$460,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$97.2 million</b>
Non-instructional Reductions	<b>-\$1.36 million</b>
State Support for BHS Relocation	<b>-\$720,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>\$95.1 million</b>
<b>Increase from FY 2021</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<i>See reverse for full list of reductions and additions.</i>	



<b>TAX IMPACT ESTIMATES*</b>	
Property Tax Payer	6.88% Increase
Impact on \$250k homestead	\$353 per year
Income Tax Payer	6.47% Increase
Impact Tax \$50k income	\$81 per year

*\*Estimate based on Vermont Department of Taxes data at time of publication. Improving economic conditions and changes being considered by the Vermont legislature suggest Burlington's actual tax impacts may be lower than what is projected here.*



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

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## What is the story behind this budget?

Entering into budget season, we learned increases in health insurance rates (10%) and wages, and repayment of debt associated with our voter-approved 10-Year Capital Plan would likely cause BSD's baseline budget to go up by \$2.8 million without adding or reducing programming. In addition to these increases, we were also facing unprecedented challenges associated with the closure of Burlington High School and Burlington Technical Center due to the discovery of airborne PCBs on the campus. The added costs associated with relocating students (\$2.4 million for BHS and \$460,000 for BTC) plus the increases in wages and benefits, which are typical, resulted in a projected tax rate increase of nearly 13%.

Our team felt a 13% increase in taxes was an unfair ask of taxpayers in the current environment, so we began pursuing new revenues and cost savings. We approached Governor Scott for support, and he proposed \$3.5 million in state funding to cover the cost of transforming the former Macy's building into a temporary high school (Downtown BHS!). This will save Burlington taxpayers \$720,000 in FY22 and will continue to save taxpayers money in future years. To further reduce the pressure on local tax rates, BSD leaders identified \$1.36 million of reductions (below) that will not impact services or instruction to students. In January we learned that because of disciplined financial management and cost savings associated with the impact of Coronavirus, we operated with a surplus for the sixth consecutive year. We were able to apply more than \$4 million of FY20's surplus to reduce the budget's impact on taxpayers.

As a result of this work, BSD's budget will increase just 3.9% despite the costs necessary to relocate BHS and BTC. Due to variables outside of our control, this small increase translates to a property tax impact of 6.88%, which is still well below our original projections. It is important to note that these tax estimates are based on official communication sent to school districts in December 2020. However, the actual tax rate is likely to be lower due to improving economic conditions and changes being considered by the Vermont legislature.

### Reductions

1. Health Insurance Utilization	\$225,000
2. HRA Utilization	\$400,000
3. FICA	\$100,000
4. State Health Fees	\$25,000
5. Water, Electric, and Gas	\$70,000
6. Copier Costs	\$5,000
7. Building Maintenance Costs	\$30,000
8. Professional Services	\$7,000
9. Contingency Reduction	\$138,000
10. Eliminate Historically Vacant Para Positions	\$250,000
11. Central Office and Department Reductions	\$100,000
12. Reduce Elementary Lunch Supervision Budget	\$10,000
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>\$1,360,000</b>

### Additions

1. Communication and Support for Multilingual Families	\$120,000
2. Strategic Plan Implementation	\$100,000
<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>\$220,000</b>



*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 and reductions were considered alongside the District's strategic plan priorities and six equity-focused goals, with a focus on equity, engagement, and deep learning.*