



January 27, 2023

Dear Ellington Family -

While every budget cycle is challenging, the 2023-2024 budget is set to be atypical in the scope of need. A confluence of different elements, from the growing needs of our students, to stagnating budget lines, aging facilities, and record inflation in key areas, put additional pressure on next year's budget request.

Therefore, in keeping with our partnership with parents, a [Transparency for Trust-esque](#) approach, we will provide timely updates complete with opportunities to become involved to the extent you decide.

On January 18th and 21st, I [presented](#) my Superintendent's [Proposed Budget 2023-2024](#) to the Ellington Board of Education (BOE) for their consideration. The proposed budget of \$45,319,579 represents a 5.38% increase over the current year. While we proposed adding a Social Worker/School Psychologist, we also restructured other positions to keep the overall budget position neutral.

The BOE, through its Finance Committee, has reviewed the budget and made recommended cuts. The cuts total \$210,250, with most being in non-programmatic lines. However, the proposed budget would cut programs by limiting additional electives at Ellington High School. Ultimately, no positions were cut from the budget. The full board will consider the BOE's Finance Committee's recommendations at the January 31st rescheduled meeting.

With formal approval, the BOE will submit its budget to the Town's Board of Finance (BOF). The BOE has always worked collaboratively with the BOF to set the final budget, as demonstrated by BOF Chair Michael Purcaro's participation in the January 21st workshop. Although the BOF does not have line-item control, they will set the final amount for the education budget.

How do you become involved?

- Voice your opinion to the BOE at its January 31st meeting
- Attend the BOE's presentation to BOF on March 8th
- Participate at the Town Budget Public Hearing on April 11th
- Send emails to [BOE](#) members with your thoughts

For a decade or more, the Ellington Public Schools has maintained one of the lowest per-pupil expenditures in the state, ranking 3rd lowest in 2021-2022. Despite this, we have strong achievement scores, yielding one of the top Returns on Investment in the State year after year. We are proud of this record and our collaboration with the Town to ensure the Ellington taxpayers' dollars are well spent.

We welcome your input on the budget and look forward to seeing you through the budget process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Nicol
Superintendent of Schools