



## Ellington Public Schools

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To: First Selectman Lori Spielman  
Mr. Matthew Reed, Town Administrator  
Ms. Tiffany Pignataro, Town Finance Officer  
Members of the Board of Selectmen, including BOE Liaison Mary Cardin  
Members of the Board of Finance, including BOE Liaison Dan Kuene

From: Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent, Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations  
CC: Members of the Board of Education  
EPS Administration  
Date: January 9, 2025  
Re: INVITE & IMPORTANT DATES - Ellington Board of Education Budget Process 2025-2026

Happy New Year! Preparation of the 2025-2026 proposed budget is in full swing with principals and department heads first meeting in December 2024.

All individuals receiving this memo **are formally invited** to two Board of Education budget meetings in which I will present my 2025-2026 Superintendent's Proposed Budget to the Board of Education for their consideration. Both of these meetings will be held in the Ellington High School Library/Media Center.

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:45 p.m.
  - An approximately one-hour meeting with a high-level presentation. Board members will receive their budget booklet at this time.
- Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
  - An approximately 90-minute to two-hour meeting with a more detailed presentation and significant time for Board members to discuss and ask questions. An early lunch will follow.

Preceding these meetings, a Board of Education pre-budget workshop with faculty and administration was held on January 8th at 5:45 p.m. in the Library/Media Center at Ellington High School.

This workshop was a public meeting and lasted approximately 60 minutes covering the following topics:

### **Paraeducator Absence Phonemeon**

- An Overview of Paraeducator absences across the district and the impact.

### **Paraeducator Hiring Phenomenon**

- An overview of the hiring challenges and possible remedies to mitigate challenges.

### **Paraeducator Salary and Benefits Market**

- An overview of current hourly rates and benefits offerings and cost analysis of changes to these.

Minutes and materials from this meeting and all future budget meetings can be found on the Ellington Public Schools [Budget Information Page](#).

Additionally, there are other important dates associated with the Ellington Board of Education budget process resulting in an Ellington Board of Education adopted budget to be submitted to the town by February 10, 2025.

Meetings to be held at the Board of Education

- January 22nd, 5:45 p.m. - Finance Committee
- January 27th, 5:45 p.m. - Finance Committee (if needed)

Meetings to be held at the Ellington High School Library/Media Center

- January 29th, 6:00 p.m. - Monthly Board of Education Meeting to Adopt Budget

As we progress through the budget process, there will be an effort to communicate targeted press releases to keep the community informed. This may include joint press releases with the Town.

We look forward to a productive budget process in partnership with the Town to ensure student needs are met, Town services continue to progress, and taxpayer monies are responsibly spent.