

**Addendum 2**  
**Board Meeting**  
**February 9, 2023**

On Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 3:15 PM Josh Howard <[jhowardpainting@yahoo.com](mailto:jhowardpainting@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Unlike many people, I have attended nearly every committee and Board meeting. I have listened to the budget discussions from the beginning of the process.

This budget is sound, the decision to cut, hurting/ harming our schools, is not of the Finance Committee but of the Superintendent. These proposed cuts are purely retaliatory and quite frankly a political ploy by the superintendent and a group of local politicians. There is no need to cut anything given the surplus money that is available. Remember this budget is 9.7% higher than last years actual spending. I am voting for this budget and I hope you will as well. This budget has enough money in it to keep everything in place today plus another \$4.2million more for increases in pay and additional staff. If that's not enough there is still \$700,000 of already approved tax stabilization funds that have not been used ( and almost a million left in the tax stabilization account after the 700,000) and \$6.9 million in surplus reserve accounts. Our current budget is already building another large surplus further proving we are over budgeting way too much and receiving nothing in return with that surplus money. How much surplus is enough? I recommend the board vote to disallow these cuts and direct the superintendent to come forward with better priorities.

Respectfully,  
Josh Howard

Good Evening Barre Unified Union School District School Board,  
I am Aidan Munding a Junior at Spaulding High School. I feel the 1.5% decrease around (\$2.5 million) of our budget is disgusting. It is coming down to your kids, teachers and staff's safety. On January 12th I watched the meeting when my math teacher Erin Carter mentioned our math department lacks so much because of funding you guys as a board take and take away our textbooks. Honestly, they are falling apart. They have the lowest budget in the school. They can not afford this we as students and staff can not do this. On January 12th there was a lot of disrespect going on across the school board norms and rules are set for a reason they are to be followed. We even do these when new classes. As I mentioned it is coming down to our safety this is ridiculous at Spaulding High School we have had issues with teachers being shot with bb guns and bathrooms being vandalized and vaped in and then closed for the day it is coming to the point where I can't go to the bathroom at school these are things that if you guys were worried about you would try to fix. Spaulding High School cannot even afford a school resource officer. You guys can only take so much from us. We as students, staff and teachers deserve better than this. Barre town is trying to take themselves out of our district because they do not want to deal with this and we are going to fall apart. A question I have is what happened with all the surplus money you received? What is and or was done with this money? As a student it hurts having my teachers fight for their jobs. They do not deserve this and neither do we as students or parents or taxpayers.

Yesterday we had another incident with schools having issues. This is ongoing and we need a school resource officer.

I beg you not to pass the budget as our lives will fall apart and it will not make you guys and the citizens happy.

Aidan Munding