

Addendum 2
Board Meeting
February 23, 2023

On Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 6:39 PM James Carpenter <jcarpbte@buusd.org> wrote:

Hello Sonya,

Depending on the outcome of our middle school team's basketball game, I may not be able to be at our next school board meeting. If I am not there would you please read the following?

I wanted to add some context to why I believe the conversation around the 1.5% budget has gone off course. Whether or not 1.5% is enough to fund the status quo is not the question we should be asking ourselves.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

James Carpenter.

"I am a teacher, community member, and parent of two Barre students. When I started at Barre Town almost 20 years ago our budget funded a very different school. Students had many opportunities in 2004 that they do not have today.

2004 middle school students at Barre Town had Art as a stand alone class. They learned about art history and created wonderful art. --2023 students do not have this class.

2004 middle school students at Barre Town had a one of a kind reading enrichment class. Problem Solving Through Literature offered our most gifted readers and writers a chance to be pushed farther than they thought they could go--2023 students do not have this class.

2004 middle school students at Barre Town had a dedicated service learning teacher to help facilitate community service in our community. This position worked at Spaulding as well to create authentic and rich service learning opportunities--2023 students do not have this teacher. Community service in Barre is no longer supported, it is little more than the honors system.

2004 middle school students at Barre Town had band and chorus 5 days a week during the school day. We had a vibrant program with a talented and deep jazz band that regularly performed at the Vermont Jazz Festival in Burlington and a select chorus group that helped win our own Peg Muheuron Walmart Teacher of the Year. --2023 students squeeze in music twice a week and our uber talented teachers Peg and Ally Tarwarter are stretched thin over 9 grades.

2004 middle school students at Barre Town had the choice of French or Spanish as a foreign language elective. And both classes were so rigorous and complete 8th graders could take a test to qualify for Spanish 2 or French 2--2023 students have Spanish twice a week and do not have the opportunity to test into Spanish 2 as they do not have enough opportunity to grow.

Our 2004 students regularly out performed the state on standardized tests. Our NECAP scores were top notch and a point of pride.

Our students regularly won accolades at music competitions in and out of Vermont.

Our students performed plays to our whole community and our school bused in the elderly Barre community members from local retirement homes to enjoy the performance.

As part of PSTL, 8th graders hosted game nights at the Lincoln home for the elderly each Wednesday

Our 8th graders built bridges out of popsicle sticks that held over 700 pounds and won state competitions.

They flew in cessnas piloted by volunteers over their community to cap off an aeronautics unit in science.

Students in an 8th grade WIN planned and executed a 2 day overnight camping trip. They determined everything from what to bring to where to camp.

They planned, advertised, and pulled off a Family Fun day that saw staff getting dunked in a dunk tank and thousands of dollars being raised for the Vermont Food Shelf.

They competed in the Vermont debate tournament at our State House.

We had a student place in the top 3 in the Vermont Spelling Bee.

In 2004 our Barre Town School was the envy of central Vermont and rivaled the largest schools in Chittenden County. Our 2023 students literally have none of these opportunities.

Our 2004 students were not more motivated than our 2023 kids. They were not smarter or harder working. They were not more deserving.

But, our community looked differently at our school. They saw it as an investment. Much like retirement, our community members realized that to reap the benefits of our hard work we needed to invest in our future today.

So our question should not be is 1.5% enough money to fund the status quo. It is clear to me and many others that the "good enough" mentality is not good enough for our kids. Our schools are the cornerstone of our community, and we need to invest in them like our entire foundation depends on it.

We need to ask, what is the investment of our hard earned tax dollars getting us? What role does our school play in our community? Do we have the school our kids deserve?

So when you go to the polls on March 7th- do not look at the school budget as a price tag, rather an investment. An investment into our kids, our community, and our future. And then ask yourself--are we putting enough into today to get the future we want for Barre tomorrow?"

Sarah Pregent

Feb 19, 2023, 8:07 PM (4 days ago)

to Terry, Paul, John, Chris, Lisa, me

Hi Nancy,

Sorry, I thought I had been detailed enough during the meeting.

We can take \$91k from the SHS lighting line, \$15k from the RAN, \$15k from board insurance line and suggested \$30k from the jrotc line (understanding if contracts have already been made this may not be possible).

My recommendations are to place the funds back in the SROs for both schools (\$45k), \$15k to cameras in each of the schools, \$25k to bus riders, and the balance back to the k-8 sports and activities.

Sarah

Or

Line by line reductions to include:

- Energy – Cut ^{150K} \$100K set to \$738800 electricity, fuel oil, propane, woodchips
- SHS Telephone – Cut ^{76K} \$1450 set to \$8000
- BC Facilities Telephone – Cut \$4000 set to \$2000
- Course Reimbursement – Cut \$94500 set to \$250000
- (Principals – Cut \$96297 set to \$860462/Flat
- (Principal admins – Cut \$144111 set to \$770719
- (District Directors – Cut \$56864 set to Flat
- District Electrician – Cut \$5103 set to \$59999 (5% Increase)
- District Curriculum Staff – Cut \$2750 set to \$47250 (5% Increase)
- District SI Staff – Cut \$8291 set to \$68958 (3% Increase)
- District Early Ed Admin – Cut \$3189 set to \$9619 (11% Increase)
- BUUSD Sped Staff salaries –
- District Tech Staff salaries – Cut \$75816 set to \$379506 (5% Increase)
- District HR Staff salaries – Cut \$22193 set to \$100114 (5% Increase)
- District Curriculum Coordinators (2) – Cut \$165K or \$225K???
- District Food Service Director FT – Cut \$??? (\$50K)
- District Transportation Coordinator – Cut \$14228 set to \$113857. How many
- Bus Staff salaries – ⁷
- Bus riders salaries – Cut \$74650 set to \$263436
- X Contracted services – Cut's here or in Behavior Support. This is all in SPED and
- YOY.
- Behavior Support – Cut here of in Contracted Services. \$102K increase 52%

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Terry Reil** <treil@buusd.org>

Date: Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 1:18 PM

Subject: Additional Reductions

To: Lisa Perreault <lperrbsu@buusd.org>

Cc: Chris Hennessey <chennbsu@buusd.org>, Nancy Leclerc <nleclerc@buusd.org>

I know we discussed not reducing any more Para positions, however if my math is correct, those lines will likely significantly underspend again in this current year. As I understood from our discussion on Monday, the 15 open positions are net of the 6 already reduced. I think if we pull 4 more positions from that line and leave 11 open positions we are still budgeting far more than we've been able to hire annually over the last two years. This would be approximately \$160K savings.

With the student numbers at SHS in the range of 250 less than the two elementary schools, I believe it is appropriate we should reduce a co-principal (Marlon Maylor's position) and move forward with a single principal and a single assistant principal. This would be approximately \$100K plus benefits in savings.

Lastly, after reviewing teacher salaries with the parameters you informed us about Monday, it appears we may underspend those lines by \$726K. I would like to propose we pull \$100K from those combined lines for another \$100K savings.

With those adjustments we should be able to reinstate the items Paul Malone had outlined which included, IT Technician, IT Clerical, the three Tech Integrationist, the sports programs, sports transportation, clubs & co-curricular, and the board secretary. I think those are all the ones he had listed. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks.

Thank you,

Terry Reil

BUUSD Board Member for Barre Town

treil@buusd.org