

ADDENDUM
BUUSD Finance Committee
Meeting
April 15, 2024



**Spaulding High School
Barre City Elementary and Middle School
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**

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Superintendent of Schools

A rock-solid education for a lifetime of discovery.

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April 12, 2024

Dear BUUSD Finance Committee,

We would like to share the following message with the community next week after the Finance Committee meets Monday night. We will format it in a "social media-friendly" way when it is shared. We would welcome your feedback. The message:

We wanted to share some basic information and answer some "Frequently Asked Questions" to prepare you for the BUUSD FY25 Budget Revote on May 14. The BUUSD was one of 30 school budgets that were voted down by communities on Town Meeting Day, and the administration and school board have gone back to the drawing board to present a fiscally responsible budget that reduces our tax burden without directly impacting students or programs.

For those of you who want to dive deeper into the details, please visit the BUUSD budget page on our website here:

[BUUSD Budget Page](#)

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

WHERE CAN I VOTE?

Barre City residents meet at the Barre City Municipal Auditorium and Barre Town residents meet at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School gymnasium; on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 between the hours of seven (7:00) o'clock in the morning (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening (p.m.) at which time the polls will close.

Here's the language you will see on your ballot:

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$58,160,337, 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 \$11,415 per Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM) per pupil spending.

WHAT AM I VOTING ON?

The BUUSD FY25 Budget = \$58,160,337. This figure includes grant funds, and it will represent an increase to the general fund of 10.17% . Some very important information to consider (definitions and explanations of all terms used below can be found in our [Let's Learn About Education Finance Terms](#) presentation on our website):

- **Our Education Spending increased by 6.63% with this new budget.** Education spending is what we can control, and the state-wide average for education spending increases in all districts is 11.2%.
- **Our per Pupil LTW ADM (Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership) is \$11,415.** The state-wide average for Per Pupil LTW ADM is \$13,326.
- **Our district tax rate is \$1.138.** The state-wide average is \$1.33. Unfortunately, the Common Level Appraisal (CLA) had a significant impact on tax rates across the state, including Barre.
- **Based on the CLA, our adjusted tax rates are \$1.485 for Barre City and \$1.309 for Barre Town.** Both of these adjusted tax rates are significantly lower than the state average.
- **The Tax Rate Increase for Barre City is 8.4 cents, or 6%; For Barre Town it is 9.4 cents, or 8%.** The average tax rate increase for districts across Vermont is currently at 17%. **Barre's increase is less than half that figure.**

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT MY TAX BILL?

The chart below shows what the education tax bill will be for homeowners who do not receive a property tax credit with our revised budget. Please note that the figures and increases in this chart are for the *whole year*.

FY25 Education Taxes (Next Year)		
	Barre City	Barre Town
100K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$1,485 + \$78 more than FY24	\$1,309 + \$95 more than FY24
200K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$2,970 + \$157 more than FY24	\$2,618 + \$189 more than FY24
300K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$4,455 + \$235 more than FY24	\$3,926 + \$283 more than FY24
Taxes are Displayed as an Annual Amount		

IF I QUALIFY FOR AN INCOME SENSITIVITY TAX CREDIT, HOW DOES THAT IMPACT MY TAX BILL?

Please note that 67% of BUUSD homestead owners pay a lower rate by receiving a property tax credit based on household income and home value. (To apply for a tax reduction, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes at www.tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit or call 802-828-2505)

The chart below will show you how this tax credit can significantly impact how much you pay.

Income Sensitivity

	Household Income					
Homestead Value	\$47,001	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$90,000
\$50,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$100,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$150,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$200,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$225,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$250,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$300,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$350,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079
\$400,000	\$1,086	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,617	\$1,848	\$2,079

Property Tax Credit Overview

- The homestead tax property tax has a credit based on income.
- About 70% of Vermont households receive a property tax credit to their homestead property tax based on their income.
- The credit is applied to the following year's tax bills.
- The credit is limited by the taxpayers' income.
- Speak to your tax preparer about this credit.

WHERE WERE THE CUTS TO GET TO THE NEW FY25 BUDGET?

In addition to using \$1,386,450 in tax stabilization funds toward revenue, the proposed budget for the revote on May 14 has an additional **\$720,195** in reductions from the previous FY25 budget. **No currently filled positions or programs impacting students were removed.** How did we make those reductions?

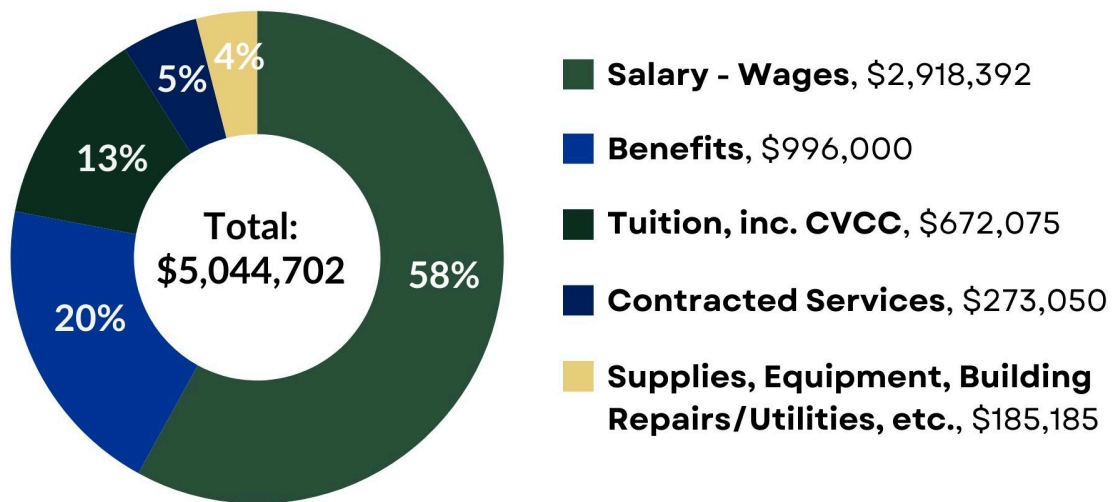
- We removed the proposed BUUSD Director salary increases (aligning them with our principals and administrators from neighboring districts) from the FY25 budget. This was **\$43,000** in total for seven administrative positions.
- Facilities maintenance funding based on square footage was reduced from the proposed \$1.00/sq. ft. back to \$.75/sq. ft. Estimated savings: **\$123,000.**
- We removed the proposed contracted services to study improvements for the SEA barn. Estimated savings: **\$20,000.**
- Our anticipated Central Vermont Career Center Tuition is reduced by **\$31,639.**
- We removed one leased vehicle expense estimated at **\$20,000.**
- **\$62,100** in district travel/conference funding was removed.
- A proposed second district electrician has been removed. Estimate: **\$80,000.***
- A proposed SHS School Resource Officer has been removed. Estimate: **\$50,000.***
- A proposed additional Special Educator has been removed. Estimate: **\$100,000.***
- A proposed additional SEA teacher has been removed. Estimate: **\$100,000.***
- A proposed addition in responsibilities to our Grant Coordinator position was removed. Estimate: **\$30,000.***
- A proposed additional SHS Behavior Interventionist was removed. Estimate: **\$60,000.***

*** All figures presented for proposed positions are estimates based on average education and years of experience, and they include salary and benefits.**

WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE \$5 MILLION INCREASE TO THE FY25 BUDGET?

The FY25 budget represents a 10.17% increase to the general fund, or \$5,044,704 higher than the FY24 budget. Many factors contributed to that increase, most of which are outside the district's control. This chart shows the monetary and percentage increase over the previous year's budget.

FY25 INCREASES TO BUDGET



These percentages are estimates

We hope the information shared here has been helpful! We urge you to reach out if you have further questions, and we thank you for your support.

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The Barre Unified Union School District Board of Directors
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