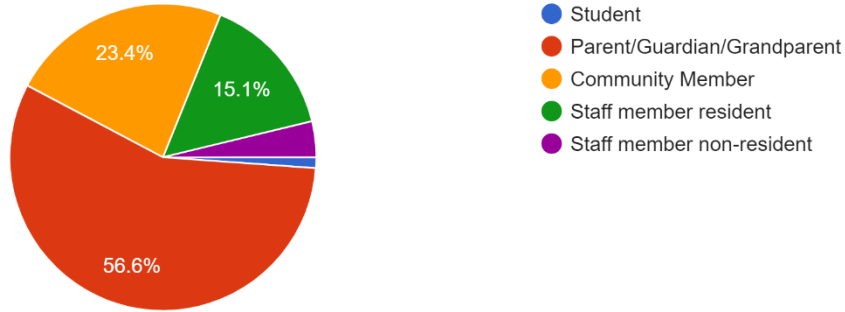


BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

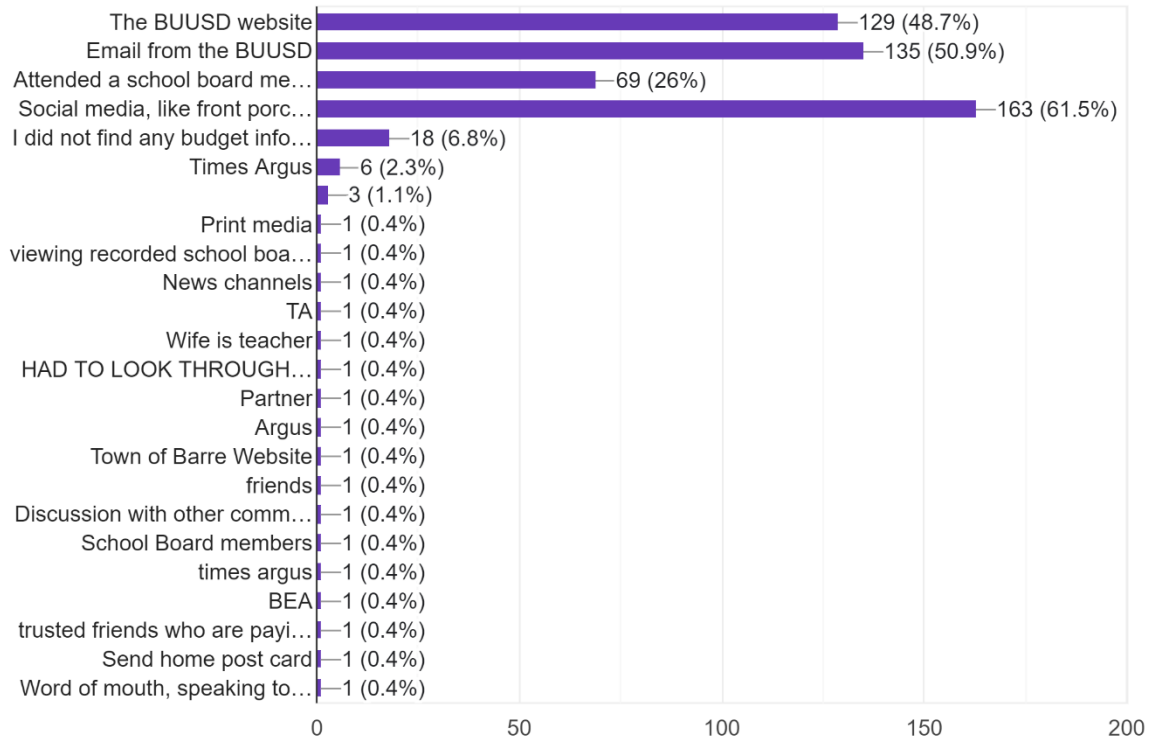
1. Please select the group which you feel best describes your involvement with the BUUSD:

265 responses



Where do you find information about the BUUSD Budget? Check all that apply.

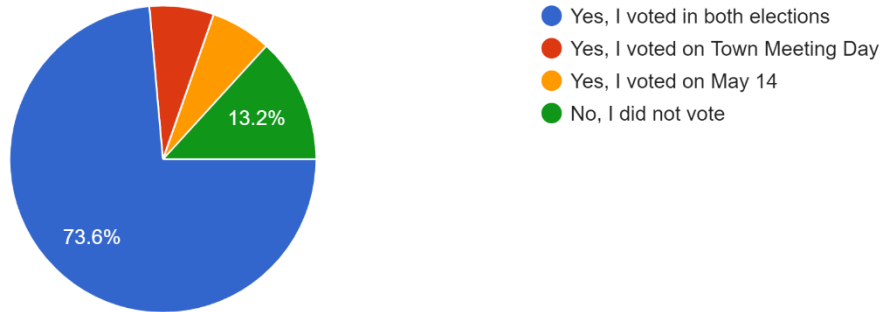
265 responses



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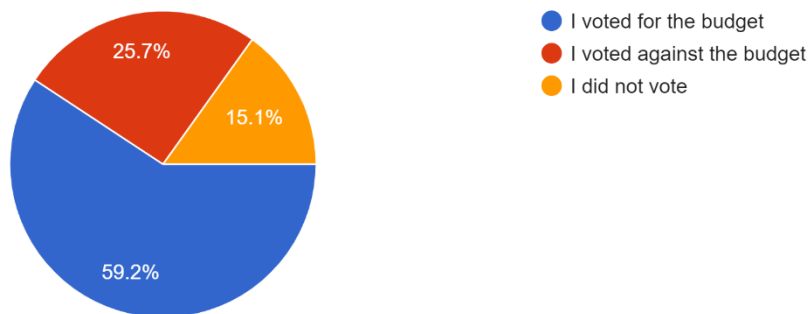
Did you vote in the past elections?

265 responses



Can you share how you voted in the most recent budget revote and why?

265 responses



If you voted for the school budget...

Please feel free to explain.

I work in the district and I also have a son in the district. As a parent I don't want my child to lose out on opportunities that all the other students of Barre have had from class options to sports. As a tax payer I feel the school budget is a reasonable price compared to the blown out municipal budget.

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Education is an investment. If you don't properly fund schools you will not have a successful school, which will in turn, not produce successful, functioning members of society.

What kind of statement is this? I will vote yes.

Good concessions made. Would like automatic increases for administrators cut.

Teachers need to be supported - if we deduct anything it should be from administration
I am against additional taxes, or raising taxes, but i will always vote for the school budget regardless.

Our budget is bare bones as it is and our students (and my children) deserve better. Our programs and supplies are lacking, our fields and buildings need updates, we need resource officers to deal with out of control behaviors,our teachers are leaving because of the poor conditions. etc etc.

as a parent i always voted in support of the school budget i understand my tax dollars are an investment in my child's future

I feel it is important to keep the schools fully funded. There cannot continue to be cuts that impact students and staff in any way.

School needs to be well funded. Public education is a foundation of being an informed citizen. We need informed citizens more than ever. We need string music programs, monies for supplies, field trips, enrichment programs.

We are short staffed. We are making positive changes in the right direction, however we do not have adequate staffing to provide the MTSS model as it should be. Intervention is often providing special education services, leaving tier 2 needs unmet. Special Education services are often interrupted to fill other roles, leaving already sparse services (services should be at LEAST 4 days a week and they aren't because there isn't enough staff to meet those needs) unmet. If we want to see positive change, if we want to have MTSS implemented in the way in which it was meant to be, and see increased student performance, we NEED to increase tier 2 and tier 3 services to meet the needs of the at risk and special education population. While I don't want an increase in my taxes, staff is burning out trying to fill in too many roles, and not being successful due to not enough staff as it is. Cutting from the budget, reducing salaries and/or benefits will only drive more staff away, leaving new untrained teachers to fill those roles without adequate background and skills to meet the needs of a very high needs population.

I voted for the budget because I always feel that are students do not have the opportunities that our neighboring districts have. U23's 7th and 8th grade goes to Washington DC every other year.

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Montpelier goes to Montreal. We do not teach our students life experiences or life skills. I think travel and thinking outside the box of Barre Vermont is really important. I think when you take a foreign language like Spanish in high school and there's no trip for the upper levels of Spanish, I think that's a disappointment because we hear of other high schools doing things. This year our own Middle schools at Barre Town hired a new band teacher, who seems nice, and he declined to take the students to the Great Escape field trip that happens every year because he's new and figuring things out. He wants to go next year. But....kids rarely go anywhere in our district. I think it's important to start thinking outside the box and figuring out how we can make things happen. Band at SHS used to play for Myrtle beach. That's no longer. But other districts do it. Why can't Barre? The other thing is that when I constantly vote yes. Because my kids aren't on IEP's or 504's....I think a lot of time, the people we hire like social worker or an extra counselor...those people do not work with everyone. They work with a certain group, who yes need it., but what about my kids needs for being pushed? Or excelling? I actually asked for a lunch bunch group for my middle schooler and got denied because everyone is stretched thin. I think that certain groups of kids take over the needs and what other kids want. I vote yes because I hope one day that my money goes towards something my kids want or need. And the first things to cut are always things that are "extra's" . So, I vote yes constantly. But I am hopeful that our district will make changes. And I'm hopeful that we can think of all kids needs and not just a certain group. It's hard.

You have already cut everything there is to cut and are reducing the quality of education our kids receive, limiting access to opportunities to thrive in the modern workplace.

I know the schools offer many forms of support for our youth.

I wanted to see continued investment in school and students

Generally speaking paying for public school is a cost of society. We all want our towns to be lively and grow with good jobs and development and that all starts at the school level. The school operates on razor thin budgets as is, the request was not unreasonable. Cost everywhere are up.

We as a community need to do our part.

My children go there i want them to get the best education as possible and i pray they use some of budget on feildtrips cause im sick of sending my kids to the same farmbut mostly it sent on other things not the kids .

I think the school funding issue needs to be solved by the legislature, and I find it highly annoying they haven't addressed it. I am very worried about our schools, retaining staff, boosting morale and giving students a quality education with diverse programming to meet the needs of different

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

kids. So I will always vote yes on the school budget even as property taxes get more challenging for us to pay.

Barre is among the lowest per pupil spending. It cannot be fair to further reduce.

Barely adequate to provide ALL our students with a quality education, but the first budget fail was a grave disappointment. I want to see us increase services and improve education, n to barely fund the bare minimum.

I could not abide by the suggested list of cuts (and the manner in which they were prioritized) that continue to erode offerings and supports for students.

Our school's need the money for the upgrades, supplies and most importantly the children, they are our future!

I initially voted "no" on Town Meeting Day after hearing the excessive raises some district employees were getting. I didn't see this as fair considering the limited resources the teachers must contend with.

I feel like investing in our kids is important.

Education is important to improving our community over time. Costs are increasing, but that also means costs for educating our students are increasing as well. It is worth investing in, and any fixes will need to be advocated for at the state level, not solved by the local level due to the long term ongoing austerity measures the district continues to take at the community's urging. I want to support our public education, the long term effects are measurably beneficial to the greater community. It doesn't need to be more complicated than that.

It was fair.

form won't take narrative. academic recovery and growth, fair wages and retention including condition of schools,(addressed hazzards!), sorry to lose electrician, expanded CC home here, retention of interventionists as well as EE, May 1 report from Curriculum director, lower increase than many schools across VT, NOT time to defund school, but advance better school funding mechanism. Stop infighting between towns and move on.

Our taxes are too high but it is not the fault of the kids or our staff.

I know many in our community are under tremendous stress when it comes to property taxes - I am, too. With inflation, broadbased taxes, etc., I often find I am not able to provide all the opportunities I wish I could for my children. However, school is their second home, and there will

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

be no "re do's" for their education and brain, and social skills development. To be clear, I think there are many things that could be done better in the school, and we need to transform and evolve how we are delivering education and reinvigorate enthusiasm in to the staff, and do more to welcome parents and the community in to the school on a regular basis, but until that work is done, we have to fund the status-quo, and I don't want my children to have less than they currently have right now. I wish there were MORE enrichment activities, field trips, STEM labs for grades PK-3 (and no waitlist for PreK plus full day), potential investment in literacy and numeracy curriculum that is data driven (science of reading) with comensurate training for teachers if needed, having the K-3 students put on spring concerts, etc., etc., and I am willing to pay for that. I just don't want my kids to have less, and I am worried that some of the cuts made will result in less.

Our students need everything and anything they need to be successful.

I trust our elected representatives to build a Budget that accurately reflects the needs for educating our children.

I voted yes for both budgets because I don't want to see any further cuts for my children. However, I do struggle with the unecessary spending and money going towards administration in the central office versus more going towards offering greater opportunities for our students. I totally understand and agree that kids are costing more due to their needs. It is frustrating as a tax payer to see other schools in our community offering so much more (albeit that their communities are voting yes on budgets), but we keep offering the absolute minimum. The children in our community and our schools deserve to have everything they could possibly need. Voting down the budget only hurts our kids!!!

I am concerned about not investing in the future. It is time to look at consolidating schools because the vocal Barre Town people no longer care about education but about the bottom line. I am concerned about the tax increase but am more concerned about cuts to critical programs in our school.

We need to do better for our students. The pandemic caused a drop in scores and an uptick in behavior issues. These are not going to be fixed quickly. Even though the pandemic is over the student needs have not ended. It is important to invest in our students as they are our future leaders.

While I agree that our taxes are higher than needed and the spending per pupil is astronomical I feel that the things that would get cut would be to the detriment of my child.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

I voted for the school budget because I think it is crucial to properly fund our schools. I consider education an investment. I also feel like it is essential to pay competitive wages to attract the best possible educators, administrators, and central office staff.

I believe we need to support our schools. So much was lost when covid hit, we need to be adding resources not cutting them.

Because I feel that the future of our children is worth investing in and I don't want important cuts to be made.

We have one of the lowest per pupil spending in the state. Our schools are already underfunded compared to neighboring schools. We have been making cuts for well over a decade and there's no more fat to trim. I'm worried about what my daughter will be missing in terms of resources and opportunities even with the budget increases. So much is outside of the control of the schools and district when it comes to how the state allocates money and healthcare premiums. We can only control so much and we, as a community, ask our students to do without or do with less while other districts spend more and get more. By keeping our budgets so low for so long we have inadvertently been subsidizing districts like Montpelier and Stowe. We fail to make investments in our schools and then wonder why things aren't better. We're not going to cut our way to better teaching or test scores. We also need to stop thinking a public school should be operated as a business. It's not it's a public service and one where a poorer community like ours needs more investment, not less. We hear these cries of too much in taxes but compared to what? Many of our poorer neighbors are insulated from increasing property taxes. I know things are more expensive but that's true for schools too. I'm also tired of hearing massive property owners like Paul Malone complain about taxes and the schools. He's not longer an elected official yet the board lets him back seat drive constantly. I'm sorry but just because you're impacted by being massively wealthy doesn't give you more say in how things are done. Why are we letting him and others let their properties rot so they can collect tax rebates while our kids go without? For all those reasons, I vote yes and if I could raise the budget more, I would. If we continue on this path, I am seriously considering moving to a new school district where I know my kid will be afforded all the educational opportunities and resources they need and deserve. Our per pupil spending is in line with and/or lower than other districts in Vermont. The increase in tax rates is a problem created by the State and decisions about health care.... how school is funded is a separate issue that VT politicians need to figure out. Barre schools need the funding that was determined by school admin and the board. It is a fiscally responsible budget in terms of per pupil spending.

I'm an educator who values consistency in staff and the only way to do that is compensation to prove our staff is valued

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

As a teacher and a parent, I see the good and the bad. I see the things we ARE able to offer students that I don't want to lose. I am willing to pay a bit more to ensure that the children in my community have what they need to thrive, and what the teachers need to do their jobs. We have the 3rd largest school in the state and we're still at or near the bottom of cost per pupil. Sad. I hear from the school board that "people need to see results from their investment". Wtf is this!? They're kids, not Apple stock. If you won't pay teacher's or at least the minimum amount of teachers required for the school how will anything get better? So much talk has been about \$ and not the quality of education that kids deserve. There is a reason why people have lost respect for teachers and it starts with the school board. If they won't respect them, how will the public? It seemed reasonable given the various constraints placed upon Barre right now and given the challenges facing education

Want to support education, but very frustrated because the funding formula is broken.

Education is an investment that has an immediate impact as well as a long-term return. Since much of this community remains local and within the state long-term, if Vermont would like well-educated citizens and workers, the investment needs to start when schooling starts. It cannot be postponed only until HS or College because youth won't get that far without a solid base. Educating responsible, accountable youth means having educated, responsible, and accountable adult workers in the near and long-term future.

As a parent of children with disabilities at BTMES, we need more resources. Resources are disproportionately dispersed so that Barre Town students have to go with less. My children have been asked to stay home because they don't have support substitutes. This denies them the right to FAPE. Staff need to be trained and not by in house employees. We need money for that. There needs to be a huge culture shift within the district supporting and including neurodivergent and disabled students. Without, bullying will continue and teachers will leave and para positions won't be filled because students needs aren't being met. It's time to collaborate. It's time to realize that teaching has evolved into so much more. Teachers who had their training 10 years ago, even 5 years ago need more and better training to support the students of today. Find creative solutions. Most schools in other states ask parents to provide school supplies, have a school supply drive over the summer, involving the community to find supplies that way. The more you involve the community the more they will see the need.

Schools need resources to function. Our students deserve full staffed, fully funded schools for their education.

I know that the school budget being voted down will ultimately not affect my tax rate too much but will adversely affect everything about the school. Much of the rise in rates is due to factors beyond local control.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

Despite my frustrations with increasing taxes and displeasure in BTMES, my kids need quality education and not supporting the budget is not the way to get the message of frustration across. I am hopeful that a new superintendent and a new principal will bring about the changes many of the Barre Town families are looking for.

I think schools are hamstrung by the state and it's unfair to punish staff and students by not passing a fair budget

I hold education in high regard and know that costs will continue to rise. I don't agree however that certain levels of the budget are not detailed out. Like why does BCEMS and SHS not have AC when BT does. This was part of the BCEMS budget years ago and was not used for such. I think that is why people don't trust voting yes on budgets. The SRO and sports should not be cut. I voted for the budget because I work in schools and understand where some of the funds go. As a parent and tax payer though, I hear from many other parents and tax payers that they are frustrated with funds that are being paid out towards administrative assistants and central office employees. They are also not pleased with the discrepancy between teacher salaries and principal/ superintendent/ director salaries and they don't understand why these positions call for the salary that they do.

I support the schools and do not live in a fantasy where costs and taxes never go up.

I trust the budget committee to recommend the best option for our community

As a teacher and a mom in the district, I know how much we need that money.

I want to support full programming and attract quality staff

I believe we have to provide the best education possible for the children in our care. I trust the experts who are employed in the district to propose the most appropriate budget. Services for the best and brightest has been cut over the past years, to everyone's detriment. It is time to take pride in our schools and our community. We will all reap the benefits.

First and foremost, this budget is an investment in our children's future. Our schools are the foundation upon which we build our community's success, and a well-funded educational system ensures that our students receive the quality education they deserve. By voting yes, you are directly contributing to smaller class sizes, better resources, and enhanced educational programs that will equip our children with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an increasingly complex world. Furthermore, this budget addresses critical infrastructure needs. Many of our school buildings are in dire need of repairs and upgrades to ensure they are safe and conducive to learning. From updating outdated facilities to improving technological resources, these enhancements are vital for providing a modern and effective educational environment. A yes vote

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

is a vote for safe, well-maintained schools where students can focus on their studies without concerns about their physical surroundings. Additionally, supporting this budget means supporting our dedicated teachers and staff. It includes provisions for fair salaries and professional development opportunities, which are essential for attracting and retaining the best educators. Our teachers are the backbone of our educational system, and by voting yes, we acknowledge their hard work, dedication, and the pivotal role they play in shaping the future of our children. Moreover, a well-funded school system positively impacts our entire community. Quality schools enhance property values, attract families to our area, and foster a sense of pride and cohesion among residents. Investing in our schools is not just an investment in education but an investment in the overall prosperity and well-being of our community. Finally, this budget has been carefully crafted with input from various stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and community leaders. It reflects a balanced approach that prioritizes essential needs while being mindful of fiscal responsibility. By voting yes, you are endorsing a budget that has been thoughtfully considered and designed to maximize the benefits for our students and community. In conclusion, I encourage you to vote yes for the school budget. Let us come together to support our children, our teachers, and our community. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for all.

Thank you.

Yep

Because I care about our children but I don't think the budget was unreasonable. The new budget was a 4.6% increase from last year and last years budget that passed was a 4.4% increase from 2022. The 2022 budget was 5.7% higher than 2021. The average inflation rate is around 4%, so it is really level funding.

We as a community need to give the children the very best education we can. That is done by supporting teachers and children interest. If they dont have any interests school becomes boring and they disconnect making it harder to educate them. I support more for the student and less for the administration salaries honestly.

Felt the changes and final overall budget were reasonable.

We are retired. Our oldest daughter is a teacher in Boston. We know how important a good education is, as our children got into the first choice colleges and got the exact jobs they wanted, after graduation 12 & 14 years ago. We believe BUUSD children deserve the best we can give them, and will help pay for that. We live in the City, so we need to help the town folks understand that we are a unified school district now, what that means, and what their responsibilities are to the unified school district.

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I don't want the district to have to make further cuts. Our students need all of the support they can get.

Our children deserve funded schools and so don't teachers.

I support youth AND education. The small, petty minds that reside in Barre Town are trying to prove a point at the expense of the youth and that is just plain ignorant. And having board members from that area who want to defund schools and turn communities against people doing the real work is a disgrace.

We have to fund social programs and services to have a healthy community.

I am willing to pay my share to ensure that we have well funded schools that pay teachers what they're worth so that they can provide the best learning environment for the next generation of engaged citizens.

Personally, i can afford a tax increase and i want to support our my son in school as well as making sure the teachers and staff are paid fairly.

I figured it was cheaper to educate someone than to incarcerate them. I want our population educated. I want them to be able to see through lies and misinformation. The schools should really work on PR - pushing the positive things into the narrative.
Increase seemed reasonable

We need to fund a functioning school system.

I votes yes to both budgets

I strongly believe in public education and I think it's vitally important that we support our schools. Our schools should be well-funded. They're the most important thing in the community.

I believe in supporting our students and teachers and investing in the future. A generous and fair school budget is one of many ways to do that!

We need good schools for our children. I some of the information on FPF doesn't seem accurate. I used the information on the school website. The state did not help school systems by changing the formula for student equivalents.

We want this school district to be among the BEST in the state. That requires funding and a community-wide commitment.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

The budget change from the first to second vote made sense after attending the school board meeting and learning that the tax increase isn't that much. I do think the VT state (gov/AOE) needs to step up and come up with better long term solutions though. It feels like the local district is getting thrown under the bus when it's a statewide Ed funding issue.

I support our schools. Our school district spends less than the statewide average per pupil spending. If anything the budget and employee compensation are too low.
time to move on

As a community we are responsible for educating the next generation. The people that work in our schools are our employees. The buildings and schools infrastructure are our responsibility. We need to support our professional staff as well as everyone involved in the school system. I believe in the value of a top notch public educational system. Not one that pats itself on the back for being good enough.

I believe investing in our children is investing in our future. Additionally, once the numbers were broken down in the predicted actual amount we would need to pay, I realized we could afford it.

I have a kid starting this year in kindergarten

I would vote no if the budget is lowered.

As a parent and a teacher of children in our schools, I understand the importance of a fully funded school system. This goes beyond the basics of teaching students the curriculum, and the children in our community deserve our support.

I am a parent and a teacher in this community. I want my students and my own children to have equitable learning opportunities and to have the resources to meet their challenges or enhance their strengths. I also want to retain and attract good teachers, staff, and administrators, which is getting harder and harder to do with the climate and negative publicity of the school board.

I voted for the budget because we need to stop cutting programs for kids. If we are going to make further cuts they need to also be looked at in central office where we're have a significant number of employees making substantial raises and stop cutting the areas that effect our kids. Print back PISTOL. Support WBL and Sports. We desperately need an SRO at the high school. The drugs are out of control there! This needs to be about our kids having a safe environment to learn and opportunities to enhance their education, not just receive the minimum.

Our public schools must be funded for Barre to have a thriving community. They cut the raises directors at central office were getting so the majority of the budget is going to teachers, paras, and programs for students. Costs are increasing but the district isn't the only reason why. We already spend so little as a district compared to others in VT. Also some of the board compromised to get the last revision.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

In order to best support our students, the Budget was a fair representation of what was needed in order to do that.

The need is there!

We already run our schools on a shoestring budget. Our kids deserve better. Budget seemed to maintain necessary positions/resources while mitigating the rising costs that were out of the districts direct control.

We need to invest in our kids. I work inside the school and see every single day the needs the kids have right now. Making cuts will not serve their needs the way some people think it will. I support strong public schools and trust the guidance the educators association shared. The per-pupil cost is low and the need is high; education is critical.

If you did not vote or voted against the school budget...

What would it take to make you feel positive about the budget and vote "yes" on the next revote?

I would vote yes

I don't want higher taxes

If the education wasnt an indoctrination of the students. Too many teacher are interested in pushing personal political agendas. That is not what education is about. Children should be learning the actual subjects that school was intended for, not trying to groom the next class of voters. We are forced to vote on a budget for a sub par education for students all the while the cost are skyrocketing.

Property taxes not going up

Nothing

I would vote "yes". I just didn't get a chance to go vote

The work I wanted to see has now been done by the finance committee. Please stop just voting yes yes yes to support the administration without questions. There is a reason our current superintendent hasn't been hired elsewhere it's because he is untrustworthy.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

I did not vote because I knew that it was going to fail. I also did not vote because of the dialogue from our board and because I do not trust the admin to spend the money appropriately. For example, with a fully funded budget, the current superintendent and principals cut all reading enrichment at Barre Town as well as other fully funded positions. So when they claim they need it for the kids, it is clear that they cannot be trusted to follow through and are more likely to give huge raises to non-teaching staff and administration.

I am intimidated to vote, not clear when and where to do so.

The budget is too high. The return on investment is not there. Academic success of the students will not improve by throwing more money into the budget.

The budget is bloated. Let me be clear, voting no is not a reflection of the caliber of teaching staff. They are phenomenal. But are you paying them more with this budget increase? No. Find the waste and cut it. Free lunches? Other handouts? Are all of your programs running lean? Are the contracts fair? Please tell me why our student test scores are so abysmal despite having a healthy budget. I was always taught not to throw money at a problem. I will vote yes once a lean budget is proposed that cuts the WASTE. You have an obligation to the tax payers to do the best with the money given each year and you are failing. That is why your budget will keep failing in Barre Town. Because our generations were a part of the well-educated group of students of the past.

Increase is way too much. Move moneys around. Less enrollment should lessen costs.

I would feel confident in Barre, and its budget, if the members of the School Board resigned, along with the Superintendent, and an entirely new crew took over to create a reasonable, function group of adults who could leave the BUUSD. As it stands right now, I have zero confidence that those in charge have the best interest of our students at heart. The mass exodus of teachers from the Barre school system is not normal, and it should not continue to be ignored. The Board regularly tears down the teachers, coaches, and others influential in the education of our students. The cuts being asked for are too steep, but the Board is only hearing the angry voters who don't want to pay to educate the children of Barre. I would not support a budget that cuts even more funding from our schools.

If the money was truly going towards improving my childrens education. Taxes raise almost every year but the quality of academic and test score continues to drop. Student enrollment is down. Schools curriculum changes and addressing the grading process. More efficient teaching and no phones in school. Even teachers.

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For my children to be getting an education. They need to teach everyday skills like telling time, addressing an envelope, making change, go back to teaching with text books and pencil and paper. These kids can't manage life without a computer.

Providing more money to people who are failing to provide a service to the community is not apt to fix the problem. So, I guess, creating a learning environment and teaching kids would help. Having kids who are advanced teach the rest of the class they are in amounts to child labor and teachers without license in your facility. Failing to provide consequences for poor behavior also creates a mental health crisis for the kids who are trying to learn.

Household costs stay the same or decrease. With everything else increasing, affordability is key. Actual fiscal responsibility and transparency rather than handwaving and 'why won't you vote to support the children' nonsense. Both my parents were public school teachers and I've never voted against a school budget before. But this was a blatant cash grab. I'd recommend starting with last year's budget, add the specialists that work on resolving academic weak areas and then perhaps a COLA (2-3%) for all staff. Total budget increase of maybe 5% or so. This would get a yes vote from me. Another token cut to the massive increase and I'll vote no again. That effort has been taken to go through the budget line by line. I do not have complete confidence in BUUSD CO leadership to provide a budget that meets the needs of both the community, students or staff members. Also, the Board needs to be able to figure out how to work together to come up with a plan that can be accepted versus openly arguing with each other. A compromise needs to occur to meet everyone's needs.

If there was a proposal to revamp resources. There seems to be wasted money on unnecessary things such as chrome books for every student, and promethium boards. Seems we need to pool resources so there is more staff support in schools. The lack of teachers and sustainability for the school system needs to be a focus. Everyone is burnt out, which trickles down to the kids. If I knew voting yes to the budget meant the money was going to the kids and classrooms, not for raises in central office.

To be perfectly honest I do not know. Right now I'm afraid of my taxes going up for any reason. I wish this weren't my reason otherwise I'd say yes without hesitation.

No reduction in staff.

A budget that only increases with the current rate of inflation

Less administrative costs, more student facing support.

I can't vote. But I believe that we need to prioritize the wellbeing and safety of all students and staff.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

NO SALARY INCREASES FOR CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Significant budget cuts, this budget has ballooned way too much under Chris Hennessey's tenor. Where are the savings of combining schools?

I am not registered to vote in Barre, but as a retired teacher, I support the school system and would vote Yes if I could.

Hire actual teachers that teach our kids. The school has gone downhill so badly since the pandemic. The kids aren't learning anything.

In all honesty, it boils down to not increasing property taxes. As it was, my family of five, who earns a six figure income per year, struggled to survive the past tax period. We fell behind and had to pay interest and late fees in top of everything. This last proposed budget would again increase taxes and make it even more challenging to afford to live here. Taxes keep going up, but our income does NOT. These constant increases are driving families out of Vermont. We have a student to teacher ratio that is much higher than the national average. Change that. We are losing more and more students in this state each year, yet the cost per pupil is higher? Look at any of the Governor's suggested educational budget revisions - which were all exceptional yet rejected - and find something that will work.

I'm not a resident, but if I was I would have voted yes both times. In fact I feel the budget is too low

Funds actually going to students and teachers

The school is NOT meeting my child's needs. There are too many people working at central office that are not impacting student learning. We use to have twice the students with a quarter of the people in central office. The admin at BT are not addressing behavior issues to the point that my child did not feel safe there, and it was significantly impacting his learning. How can you expect people to vote yes to support when our students are not being supported as it is?

Lower the board members pay - pay the teachers more

The increases over the past several years are unsustainable. We bought in Barre town because of the school and liveable tax rates. Since then, we have seen several double digit increases and our taxes are now doubled. In 8 years. I also am concerned about the technology use. Please take my child on a field trip for some real world experiences instead of looking up the life cycle of a frog on the promethium boards. My daughter is in 3rd grade and has had one friend trip to the Barre Opera House. I also am very concerned about the liberal agenda making its way into curriculum.

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And as a parent I have had trouble with clear communication when my child has needed behavioral intervention in the past. Until a child is 18 years old the parents and schools should have open communication and instead I get little to none and feel that the Christian values I try and teach in my home and constantly being undermined by a "woke" agenda that I do not agree with.

I can't afford to increase my property taxes especially when I hear about 3 million dollars slush funds and constant school vacancies. There should be a surplus of funding.

I am in favor of the budget but I found it difficult to attend in person voting.

Have the budget broken down to explain exactly what the funds are used for AND WHERE THE 'EXTRA CUSHION' is being used. It clearly doesn't go toward the teachers NOR supplies for the schools so where is it going? Why do we have to BUDGET FOR YOGA ? WHY DO WE HAVE EXCESSIVE SPENDING for things that aren't 'worth it'. Teach the kids TAXES. HOW TO COOK. LIFE SKILLS. not Yoga!

As a former staff, have family in special Ed, and employed now in the district there needs to be an in depth look at ALL spending outside of educating in the classroom. That should be the focus. Stop trying to micro manage teachers. They know their jobs. Wasted money on trainings that are not used or implemented. Let them teach. Outsourcing for Special Education costs is ridiculous. Get a program that works in our school. Pay the paras what they are worth. Invest in human resources for your staff. Stop hiring from out of town, out of state when you have locals in house to fill those jobs. You are losing good staff. Our turnover is ridiculous! Line by line cuts. Stop looking at the classrooms and start at the top.

Full transparency on everything

Reduction in administrative salaries/administrative salary freeze. Why is a new admin hire making \$118k for a position that doesn't warrant that type of pay? Admin raises should come behind staff and funding for the children.

To cut the \$70,000+ technology specialist position. What a waste of money to post on Instagram. Better allocation of funding so that it is going to Teachers and Students
Confidence about the details of the budget and how receptive others in the district are towards it.

My concern is for property tax increases

A full outline of the why funds are going where they did and how you reached that determination. I am a non-resident staff member, that's why I didn't vote. This survey does not allow me to say why I did not vote.

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Making sure all parents are involved even if their not on the school board.

Submit a thorough reviewed budget recommendation based upon itemized changes year to year. Submitting a \$800K decrease on a 48\$M budget is pathetic. Address historical changes, select the easiest cuts such as vacant positions of 9-15 months, just do not "plug and play" budget proposals from year to year. EX: If a certain budget was 50% of the current year"s spend, use 50% increase, not 100%. Sloppy work is my opinion...

Quit wasting money

I have not looked at the new proposal yet.

More cuts and less use of the surplus fund

A tighter budget I am sick of seeing a large surplus every year! Is there any benefit merging the two elementary schools, maybe one true elementary school and one true middle school. As a former SHS School Board member I can envision many advantages but somebody needs to do a Cost Benefit Analysis.

The 10% impact to property taxes is significant. The state budget was less than 3%.

Reasonable and realistic adjustments to budget that don't increase property taxes above 3 - 4%. Confidence in the budget development process; knowing that the funds are well spent and truly needed; no surplus built in; no misuse of tax stabilization funds to cover expenses that will be baked into next year's base; a demonstrated realization on the part of some board members that we have a spending problem and not a revenue shortage.

0 increase - live within the means and not pad the budget

Find a way that the entire burden of education expense is not place solely on the homeowner. Is you li e on the district whether a home owner or a renter you should share the burden.

Explain why you need more money when there is such a big reserve.

Lower cost, less assistant's, putting kids in an appropriate setting, not all kids are equal (that is just a fact of life). Teach kids life lessons that will help them, reduce the Insurance "PLATINUM PLAN"

I don't need my taxes to increase again

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making real, significant actions to reduce spending, stop blaming the projected high tax rates on the state, and own up it is the boards inflated budget that is driving the higher tax rates cuts to the budget,

Common sense budgeting..reduction in benefits...nobody gets 100 percent health insurance
Realistic budget. Reduction in benefits no one gets huge pay raises every year or 100% insurance cost. The tax payers should not be put into a situation where they could loose their homes because the school budget is outrageously high and increases our taxes to the amount they are.

You need your community to support the school and right now the school board is out of touch and not listening to their community members.

Significant budget reduction and/or plan for improvement in student outcomes

Show how you're prioritizing the kids via evidence backed progressive education curriculum and school structure as well as front line teachers via continuing education and evidence backed supportive classroom structures and materials.

I can't afford to pay anymore taxes .we are at retirement age and would like to stay in Vt. But are prepared to Move out of State.

The money grab needs to stop. Stop over budgeting line items and creating a large surplus every year Picking taxpayer pockets when test scores are not improving

Must be considerably lower. I understand the importance of a good education however it's not reasonable or affordable as a taxpayer. I would feel exactly the same way if I had school age children. The administrator salary's are a huge sticking point as well.

Lower the budget to a 3% increase

More funding for the school district

I would like a breakdown of how much PD os spent on training teachers on the Science of reading vs. Social Emotional Learning. How many paraeducators are one one vs. Academic paras to support teachers in the classroom. If the budget is passed what is the PD plan to support teachers in gaining a deeper understanding of the curriculum they are implementing and how much time is being spent on in person coaching for teachers from paid coaches. These are not other classroom teachers ask to mentor. The coaches are "expert teachers " with no other responsibilities except coaching teachers to improve student's academic performance.

The school board needs to make a valid attempt to present the voters with a responsible budget.

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Just shaving a little bit off the last failed budget and putting it out for a new vote is lazy, insulting, and irresponsible.

A budget less administrative heavy and more student focused

Truth in how the school budget is spent and what steps are being taken to save the taxpayers money instead of crying poverty every year.

Make a budget so the average person can actually afford the property tax. Cut out the senseless teaching and get back to common core education.

I had intended to vote 'yes' on the revote but had a minor emergency and did not have a chance. I will be voting to pass the budget the next time.

Cut back on administrative expenses and minimize impacts on property taxes

Fully funding our students and schools as best we can. As a non- resident, but a staff member, I want to ensure all students have access to quality education.

Concerns I have about the budget being voted down: -classroom budgets and how teachers already spend so much out of pocket - losing SRO or police presence -losing clubs and afterschool programs, and I am sure much more but these are the top three concerns that I currently have and that is without feeling like I have all the information around what this budget cut will actually entail for us on a day to day basis.

No tax hike

We need to prioritize the needs of the students, including those who partake on extracurricular activities, for instance athletics... Recently we were able to put in place a school baseball program. However, these kids do have access to any facilities or necessary resources to give them a chance to grow and develop. Not only do we lack an actual baseball field, which could be created for very little cost (potential grant money) on the North Field, while still allowing lacrosse and soccer to access the space but, we can't even provide funding for them to have a batting cage and pitching machine. These are items that individual families can afford to install on their own property, but as a community we can't find for our children... additionally, the lack of busing transportation for athletics puts parents in an unreasonable situation. Baseball games begin at 4pm, all over the area, players need to arrive no later than 30 minutes early, and sometimes games are more than an hour away. The majority of families have parents who work until 4pm. Asking them to be responsible for transporting their student athlete is unreasonable, and in many cases not possible. Surrounding communities have no problem providing athletic facilities and transportation. If this is made a priority, to be put in place by next spring, you will get my vote. If

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it's not, you can count on not only failing to get my support, but also the support of at least 60-85 other voters that have pledged their allegiance to vote no, until they see that this items are prioritized for the 2024-2025 school year... My suggestion, start building a Babe Ruth size field on the North Field at Barre City. It doesn't need a permanent outfield fence, the costs should be minimal. And make sure players are bused to games

I would to make the school better

The board must demonstrate that they themselves actually support the budget. Speak to the public positively about the schools and the staff and what the budget is supporting. Believe in what you are doing and not just paying lip service. You are the voice. If you believe it and vocally speak it loud and proud, the community will hear you. Currently you do not, and that is what the community hears.

Responsible spending. A budget that actually benefits the students and teaching staff. A realistic plan.

Removing bonuses and keeping raises at no more than the State of Vermont employees.

Decrease the percentage to about 6%. Eliminate the over inflated administrative costs.

A 6.5% increase cap and slimming down the amount of directors we have. No raises for admin and find solutions to the growing behavior problems as what we are doing is not working, time to abandon that. Also an increase in test scores and homogeneous classrooms

ldk

I expect to vote yes to support kids in school.

Complete overhaul and rethinking of what is the purpose and point of education and what is the role of public schools. I would like to see major out-of-the-box thinking about education

Don't re-vote until the budget is passed.

More academics, go back to previous grading system so students are challenged in clear increments instead of proficient/developing/excelling. There's too much room between each category to give up or for students to just do the bare minimum. Consistency from teachers, some are really good and others just aren't and seem to constantly be looking for trouble instead of teaching, hold students accountable, the schools seem to be catering to kids who are emotionally unstable which interferes with the majority (maybe school is not where these kids are best served, gm credit for students who play 2-3 sports,

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I would vote yes if I felt the staff and students were both being equally supported by funding and being provided what they need to succeed.

Wish you could vote online, was not able to get there with children

I am not a resident of Barre

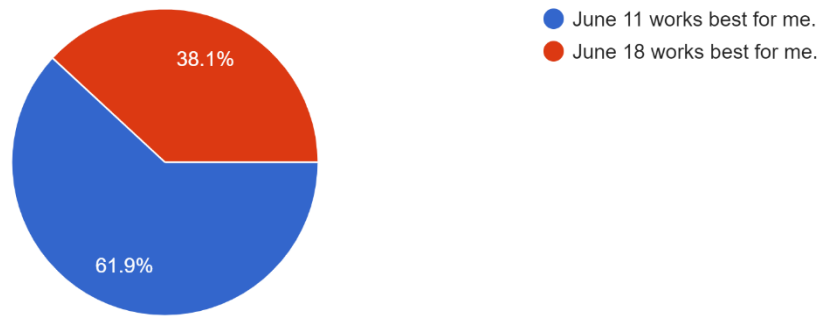
valuing the students and staff

I am glad to see that taxes won't gonup as much as we were told by the governor. I looked at the cuts being made and feel the schools are bare bones.

Other Helpful Information

What is the best date for you for a revote? Feel free to explain below.

265 responses



Why is this a better day?

Either is fine

Either day is fine

Either day works for me

Either works

Either day works

School is out

The sooner the better

Either day works for me.

It is sooner.

I don't care which day I vote

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It's a quicker turn around.

the earlier we get it approved the better. If it fails again, there is a lot of extra work to be done.

Sooner the better - just in case it does not pass again

Either work for me

The sooner the better. Let's end the school year on a positive note (if it passes)

Out of town 18th

early is best if we need another vote

Either day will work for me

School is out on the 18th, which means less community will be nearby to vote. Many people will also already be on vacation.

I think the sooner the better. I think it's good for staff morale to have a budget passed. I think if it fails again, we might be able to turn something around faster....honestly, after watching part of the last board meeting and seeing how we are down to 4.97, I think it will pass. So, I think the faster we pass this thing, we can all have peace, our new Superintendent can go to work. And it just feels like a good way to close out a school year.

It's after baseball season

I don't have work obligations

My availability

It does not matter.

More time for a possible revote, plus folks may have plans on the first day of summer.

no preference

Honestly, either date works for me

Just is

It really does not matter to me. But you did not have an opinion for that.

I don't care, if I'm not around, I'll get an absentee ballot

either fine

Perhaps just allows for another before the automatic 87 percent statute kicks in. 87

to give the board enough time to educate voters and get out the vote work for the rest of us

I do not relish the prospect of beginning a school year with 87% of the previous budget available.

We will need time for what will likely be an inevitable re-vote prior to July 1st.

Not as close to the end of school

The day doesn't matter. The content of the discussion and the plan for the money does.

Either day is fine

Hopefully the board will have the time to actually put forward a budget and related supporting information by having time to prepare and debate.

It isn't... I will make sure to revote when given the opportunity.

Youths on summer break

I vote by absentee ballot

It doesn't matter to me.

There is no better day but the form fails to allow for such an answer. Seems like this oversight might have been detected when creating the form.

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Time to get message out to voters and absentee voters.

I really don't have a preference.

either works

I am traveling internationally on June 18.

Neither are actually good because we work during the day and I'm a single parent in the evenings, I wish there was a weekend option.

Because I have a work commitment on the 18th I won't be able to easily break away from

I could only pick one either one works

Vacation

Either day works for me. It's important to make sure that everyone has the ability to vote that wants to.

Either day doesn't matter to me

Neither day is better

Either works for me, but you had to select one choice.

I can do either but sooner the better

I do not have a strong preference and am assuming earlier is better.

It gives more time for the board to get it together.

Either day is fine- just had to pick one

Work

My schedule is less hectic.

I would vote on either day. I would consider the earlier date better only because going into the summer without a clear budget is concerning.

people will still thinking about school you will have a better turn out

Either day works equally as well, I will come in to vote when I drop my kids off to school that morning.

If this fails, we need to reschedule ASAP so we're not slapped with an 87% budget. Also, why is this a question you need help with. Be leaders, make choices.

Time

Either day is fine for me.

Either day works for me

This budget needs to be sorted out as quickly as possible.

You need the time to complete significant budget cuts.

School is still in session

Since I can't vote, it really doesn't matter to me.

Holding the vote prior to the end of the year makes more sense to me.

Because it should have been passed a long time ago

Too busy with end of school year

Summer is not the best revote time

Both are fine

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During school. I don't want anything to do with this school during Summer break. I need a break from stress of having to advocate day in and out for the basic needs of my children being met in school.

Help with childcare

Kids are still in school so I won't have them with me.

It's sooner. We need a passed budget now.

Had to pick one!

This vote needs to be when school is in session so that people are still in the area.

Doesn't honestly matter

Allows more time for a potential 3rd vote

I'll be away on June 11

School is still in session on 6/11 and that is a lot to pack in

The sooner the better incase we need another revote

Gives the board more time to come up with a GOOD sustainable budget

No work.

scheduling

I am out of town June 18

i had to pick one- both work for me

No preference

Kids are still in school

Either day works, wasn't given the option to indicate so.

I'm out of school at that point.

Either day works for me.

I'll vote no any day

personal

Is there anything else you would like the Board to know right now?

I wish there wasn't such a class war with Barre Town vs. Barre City. We are a community that sends our children to the same high school and play sports together from when they are very little.

Quit acting like children- you represent our community and the way you speak to each other in public is embarrassing. I challenge you to ask yourself with EVERY decision you make "IS THIS WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN?"

Remove your heads from your rear ends and focus back on learning of math, science, english, history.. force the teachers to abort(i know oh so many are in favor of this word) the political indoctrination that is poisoning the minds of our youth. Those are things they should be figuring out for themselves.. not having it crammed down their throats

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We are past the time of micromanaging every single budget line. Let's do this work in August for FY25-26. Right now we need an approved budget. I believe it is crucial to explain to the public what will happen after July 1st. The community has the illusion idea that we will only be using 87% of the current budget. We need to make it clear that the rest of what we can't borrow will still need to come from somewhere and that the district will need to take a bank loan to cover the difference. The Harwood District is in the same situation and that was explained very well in one of their board meetings. Their Business manager explained that she would need to go out for a bid and get the better loan rate she could get. Not having a budget after July 1st will cost BUUSD so much more. Anyway. The board needs to stop disagreeing in open meetings, we are just done with how you spend so much precious meeting time discussing small things, while the big important decisions are always put to the side. You don't all need to love each other and "bond", you just need to act civil and get the job done.

Cut automatic increases

We know that the State of VT is driving up the cost of education - what would be the budget if we did not receive funds from the State??

You should have at least interviewed Jackie Tolman for the Superintendent position. Not interviewing her was a huge mistake and loss for our district.

We need to find a way to get the school what it needs without property taxes going up!

It would be nice to see ALL Board members promote the budget and not have vote no signs on their yard

A few of you are making our district look disorderly and contentious. The bickering, the negativity that is publicized in the paper is embarrassing. You are not in it for the children and what is best for our community and it is so sad.

The talks about merger are ridiculous. In no way does that benefit my child's education it is strictly a money issue.

The community is looking to you for strong leadership your behavior in the meetings matters I will vote no if drastic cuts are made.

Make sure meetings etc follow laws and rules to a T. Be transparent. Anti-education folks will attack any weakness in the process.

I appreciate your hard work during these trying times

Maintaining the quality of education with full transparency about spending is important

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It would be great for the board to come into the school and meet the teachers and students and take some time to see what it is like to work in the building.

Please be kind. You all have different opinions, but just be kind to each other, the tones of your voices and facial expressions really bother me. We are all one team and that's team BUUSD. We all want what's best for kids and our communities. Thank you.

Stop punishing the kids and start acting like grown ups who understand the critical needs of this community. The fractured and contentious school board meetings and processes are the reason you keep getting no votes - that's what people are voting against. Its your job to reach consensus and articulate a vision the community can get behind. Instead its been YEARS of sniping st each other in public meetings and then on social media afterwards. No wonder the schools are losing great teachers and its nearly impossible to hire new ones. The school is the heart of the community, and its your job to advocate for it, not demoralize the staff and community.

That this is frustrating that the town and the city are divided when the town used many facilities for their children without any financial responsibilities. Now they are being impacted and they don't want to vote for a budget. This put a burden on families are already taxed above their means.

Stop fighting with each other and work together. Questions are not attacks. Stop putting the city against the town. Comingle votes before counting so that some board members can learn to support all of their voters and not just the part that agreed with them.

Your strong and united leadership is needed. Swallow your pride and present a united front. You have schools in our district drowning under the weight of lackluster and inept leadership. The current superintendent knows about this and has done nothing. It is hard to imagine trusting our current leadership with a 10% budget increase.

Nope.

Your hard work is appreciated. Would love to see solutions and not nastiness on social media and in the press from all board members

The No's can be loud, but the school has a lot of supporters. And thank you.
Parents only allow our kids to be there feel ing like ur visiting prison isnt how i wanna feel when i walk into school

Academic success is a culture not a financial product.

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Trim the waste, not the critical programs and propose a LEAN budget. Demonstrate that to the voters and you will pass a budget.

Thanks for staying at it, and please everyone try to keep your conversations civil and respectful.

An overhaul in Ed fund construct is coming. So is reappraisal making CLA confusion history.

I am dismayed by the disfunction and continued ill will on the part of some board members. Some don't come prepared, prefer to argue about process than product, are lazy and disrespectful to each other, school administrators staff and petitioners. Shame on them....and how is the chairperson suppose to lead and keep protocol when he slams a file on the table, and refuses to vote! shame on him.

Please start prioritizing growing our students over bickering with each other.

The children of Barre deserve this in order to better Barre

Some school departments are dangerously understaffed and we need to allocate more funds for salaries that attract qualified teachers, paras and BIs.

Figure out where to spend allocation seems to be an issue.

Watching the circus that is a BUUSD board meeting made me physically ill. The dysfunction was disgraceful and unbelievable. Please resign or attend a training to understand the scope of your responsibilities, Robert's Rule of Order (for small groups), and basic kindness and respect of others.

The school systems need to implement some form of a program to control the behavioral issues in the class. Those destruction are affecting the children to the point there no longer learning. Please, as a board, start advocating for education funding reform at the state level as a unified group. Write a jointly signed letter outlining the difficulties of the community, as well as the increasing challenges that the district is facing. We are not alone, and cannot solve all the problems here.

The anti-public education wing needs to step down. Honesty about how much ACTUAL impact the taxes have on residents needs to be messaged, not the convoluted misdirections and lies spouted by some board members and their community leaders (like Jeff Blow). I am not convinced all the board members are intelligent enough to even handle the responsibility. And STOP talking about test scores. You're obviously not paying attention WHAT SO EVER to society at the moment. It's embarrassing how those argument show a complete lack of comprehension about education.

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Be more self sufficient

It's about the children, not about Barre Town thinking their better than the Barre city.

Thank you

I didn't feel I'm not a registered voter in Barre but I do have a child that is at Spaulding High School he's a freshman in the JROTC program and I think a big topic now that I noticing on Facebook is about this time where it's getting hotter and there's not like ACS or fans going on to keep the kids comfortable right now so they can go to school learn and be comfortable parents are coming forward it's saying that you know kids with allergy or asthma you know being in the building works so hot is affecting it and I agreed with that so hopefully the board gets it and somebody reaches out to them and let them know that don't worry about just the taxes worry about making sure teachers and students are comfortable they want to go to school teachers want to teach their kids kids want to go and learn and be comfortable learning but if they come back home and parents in the you know like worn out or exhausted because who's so hot that's you know it's on you guys on the board to do something about it

The board should know that grappling with the establishment school administrators and the department of Ed is certainly a noble effort but that we notice that we are embarking on some kind of ideocratic decline at their hands.

Sure. Put students first. recognize the harm the board dynamics has on the community

Not at the moment.

No

Although I support the budget, I think there are easy ways to cut some nonessential spending at each school. For example, I don't believe it's right that Spaulding students take the SAT free of charge. Each student should be expected to pay their own way. If unable to, the school can offer financial assistance but should not be covering the cost of every student.

Please take this seriously. Massive ongoing year over year increases are not sustainable. Please put forward a responsible, modest budget increase that I can vote to support.

It would be helpful to provide vision with any proposed budget. Tell a story - what are our kids getting with this budget, and for those that don't have students in school, what is the community and employers getting. In the coming years, I would also like to see more investment in the CTE center to cut down their waitlist - Vermont has a low matriculation rate to higher education and

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training, and CTE programming is going to keep the students who need it inspired, productive, and engaged. It frustrates me that these opportunities may not be as encouraged because of the sending school being worried about losing the ADM count. A CTE education should be an entitlement, the same way 'traditional' college preparatory high school is.

I think teachers need to have an increase in pay. They work extremely hard . Teachers need to be appreciated and our children are the ones who suffer when there are not enough school supplies or enough teachers, or support staff etc. We need to think about why educators, schools and education is important.

Please be clear when explaining the proposal

It's time for the Board to start treating each other with respect and work together. I am often ashamed of the way other Barre Town members and community members act and treat others. It's time to be role models and use this as a teaching moment for those especially students who are watching how to work together and come up with a resolution.

BC voters proved in their yes votes that they're pleased and respect the education that their children are getting at their school. However, so many families in BT are disappointed and discouraged that a once highly respected school is now highly disrespected. There has not been any growth or equitable changes in the school- the administration is simply getting by with giving minimal efforts with everything they do. Why would BT tax payers want to pay more when they see the school as a failure (many people do). When we moved here 13 years ago, just so our children would go to the school, there were so many opportunities, especially for children that were excelling. Now, the school is obviously just scraping by and it shows in the teacher turnover rate. I think if there was a change in administration and culture change that is influenced by inclusion instead of pointing out differences, creating more opportunities for kids to excel, then there would be more respect for the school. This would reflect in the budget votes. Not to mention the disfunction within the school board. It's sad to see how divided everyone is when there really should be one goal- to improve outcomes for students.

I'm concerned with the mental health of the barre school system - administrators, staff, teachers, and students

I'm really sorry for the budget situation we are in right now. You have done a great job with the budget! It's just awful that you have to take MORE away from our kids, teachers, and schools.

Despite everything, thank you for your continued dedication!

I would like the board to be more sensitive to the needs of our teachers and students. Also, I would like to see a more positive approach to the way some board members speak to the

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

administration and how they talk about our teachers and students. It is very embarrassing. I would like to see a board that communicates respectfully with each other. It is embarrassing to read newspaper articles about the boards disagreements and comments.

Work together or don't run again. People are tired of personal agendas on the board. Work together. Work together. WORK TOGETHER. This is not Washington DC and not the US Congress. Stop the clown show. It's embarrassing to the community. Work together.

A sustainable and accessible pre-K program is a long term benefit to the schools and community. We support anything the board does to keep good teachers in the district. This includes keeping a competitive salary, benefits, and schedule.

Some board members need to stop nitpicking. Noone gets everything they want and you are not setting a good example for our children by having a tantrum when things don't go your way. I wish the school staff had more control over the behavior issues. As a parent of kids that seem to be doing fine with behavior it makes me sad to think they're distracted during their days with other children not doing what they're asked to do. Or that they're a threat to the classroom. I hear bad stories of kids that are out of control and if this is the case I'd like them to be asked to leave so that kids who are behaving have the opportunity to learn.

We appreciate your efforts.

I would like the board to know that there are certain rights granted to students under the IDEA and if the budget allows for the SU to be in violation of such that this will not be overlooked. Overall, I appreciate the work that the board is doing. Unfortunately, I think members of the board like Nancy and Terry have made it painful and embarrassing to watch. I do hope that when we are considering cuts that they can outline what they would like to see cut. Otherwise, they are just creating chaos with no real plan. I would also like to understand what the ramifications of any cuts would be. What are we losing?

Please don't cut the school resource officer. I feel that their presence is invaluable.

The budget is consistently mismanaged in the worst possible way against the students' and direct support staff's best interests, harming the entire community. Why are there board members who act like they cannot see or read the budget unless they have an engraved invitation? One member in particular kept hammering on about needing to see the budget "line-by-line". I'm sorry, but this information has been publicly available for MONTHS, why do they have no clue what's in it? It's your duty to know it. It's the public's responsibility to know it. Consider the student first, rather than the tax bill of Paul Malone. Support our staff and students.

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Spend your money wisely. Central office staff do not need raises two years in a row. Taxpayers are maxed out on school spending. There is no money tree in town, that i am aware of. It would be great if Nancy and other board members could get their priorities straight and fully understand what it means to be a board member. If they aren't willing to do that (i.e. attend board development workshops) them perhaps they should step down

We need the board to come together. It's tiring to feel like we face opposition at every turn from the board entrusted to help us.

Haha. Trump has given too many people the permission to be an asshole. How many of you have gone down that rabbit hole?

Students need to be the priority and we need all the teachers back that actually taught our kids. They all left because of poor money management and poor management. I have spoken to many of them.

Barre Town and Barre City seem entirely too antagonistic to each other. I also understand that flooding and every increasing taxes are making it very difficult for people to budget right now.

Thanks for serving

If the budget is such a contentious issue and difficult to pass, why not reduce the budget by having families pay for certain services (transportation, meals, sports, etc) on a sliding scale according to household income?

BTMES desperately needs a culture shift. This starts with administration. There are so many resources for staff that they refuse to use. VT family Network has trainings for staff. All Brains Belong has trainings for staff. Listen to parents. You only receive a rose colored glasses explanation of true issues in schools.

More out reach to promote that budget. That opposition it loud and people need to hear the important reasons why we need to vote yes.

Stop fighting and be kind to one another. You don't have to agree with each other all the time, but you do need to be civil. You were elected to work together and find solutions that are best for the schools. My students are constantly saying that "it's Barre, no one cares about us". The vitriol that is spread at the top seeps down to our students. Please help make them feel valued by taking the care to be prepared in advance for meetings and keep putting their well-being at the center of your actions.

BUUSD Community Survey for Budget Development 2024 Responses

Keep fighting the good fight. Our children deserve less chaos. Unfortunately, we have a number of bad faith actors.

I'm so disappointed in the behavior of some of the board members from Barre Town, they are so negative and combative it's actually hard to watch. It makes me question working in the district every time I see them attack the school and the other board members. I ask myself constantly what they want, because it seems they want to be disruptive and not actually get work done. Do better.

Nope

The board needs to stop arguing and start acting. Get into our schools and address the real issues teachers and students are facing. We need leaders in Barre and we aren't showing up for our kids. More money isn't always the answer rather than how we are spending out money. Too much spent on directors and all of their assistants. We spent 25k on a superintendent search for somebody that only staying a year, meanwhile our students can't take fieldtrips due to lack of funding? We're not offering expanding learning opportunities (PSTL) Makes sense.....Stop using the school board position as a stepping stone into other political positions. My child's education is not political.

The lack of funding is not the sole reason for frustration in our schools. Educators have lost drive and motivation to make things better for children (can't say I blame them) and in turn, parents are disappointed in the delivered product.

We have a choice as to where we send our kids to school (other parent lives in another district) and we specifically chose Spaulding. Our kids love it and have such incredible educational opportunities. Please ensure that this doesn't go away.

I am sorry we are in this place again and I wish our community supported our school budgets.

I wish you would stop arguing and have productive meetings where you actually followed Rober's Rules of Order - it is embarrassing to watch.

Listen to the people

Please do better for the struggling middle class

I support the budget.

find a more reasonable budget.