



Tanya Lane
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall Auditorium
7:00 P.M.

April 5, 2016

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor Manke
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees:

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager
Ann Harter, Director of Finance
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director
Jamie Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: The letters to the parents from the BOE brought out about 300 people and not the 4,000 that they were sent to. Most of the voters that were contacted during the election were in favor of no tax increases, fiscal responsibility and accountability. He was surprised at the number of councilors who were bullied by speakers because of their support for the zero percent increase. He felt those speakers were a small fraction of the voters who supported the Town Council. He also said it was an insult when one speaker compared the budget to the lottery shootings and felt that conduct was desperation. He said that other towns were facing the same choices that Newington faced.

Maria Pane, 638 Church Street: She stated as a business owner and landlord they paid their fair share of taxes and were at the breaking point with tax increase after tax increase. She did not think people who utilized Human Services in Town could afford the increases. The Town Council was elected to represent the entire Town which included seniors and businesses who were not sent home letters or robocalls like the BOE was able to do. She hoped the Council would vote for all of the people they were elected to represent.

Jen Rodriguez, 71 Northwood Road: She was in support of the BOE budget and hoped the Council listened to the people. She felt the Council should have addressed their concerns with the BOE earlier to have any questions answered. Instead, she said, they wanted to send a message to the Board of Education and the message sent was that due to the lack of an agenda, communication and transparency, the teachers and students would pay for the negative propaganda.

Sandra Tracey, 39 Michael Lane: She was a volunteer at the Senior Center and a parent and supported the BOE budget. Her children had special needs and was concerned services would be reduced if the zero budget was approved.

Hannah Siegel, 57 Meadowview Court: She supported the BOE budget and thanked the Democrats and Councilor Klett for voting for it. If there was a zero percent increase, gifted and talented programs would be eliminated and the world language not improved. She was concerned the MS Certification course would be eliminated and the bio academy deferred. She indicated the schools needed at least a 2% increase to maintain what they had and was disappointed students were not allowed to speak at the public hearing.

Oliva Kolcz, 136 Harris Drive: She had gone to the last public hearing and found it very educational. She had listened to the speakers and supported the BOE budget. She was concerned the affect the budget would have on the schools and hoped more students would not leave for magnet schools.

Pam Raynock, 118 Harding Avenue: She indicated the Council was going to lower her taxes by \$30.94 per year and said she would be writing a check to the BOE for that amount since she was in support of their budget. If the BOE got the 2.8% increase, her taxes would increase approximately \$15 a month on top of the \$10 increase due to the recent revaluation. She intended to find the money to help pay for education and gave examples for others to use as well. She thanked the Council for their service and said the majority was not listening or transparent.

Nick Grandin, 30 Harding Avenue: he thanked the students for speaking at the meeting and felt the zero percent increase was going to be detrimental to the BOE. He felt eliminating language at the middle school would be pushing the town backward. He encouraged the majority of the Council to vote for the education increase.

Clark Castelle, 167 Connecticut Avenue: He wanted to remind people about two key parts of the budget. In 2014-15 the town government operations increased by 4.98% and the BOE increased by 2.94%, in 2015-16 town government operations increased by 3.3% and the BOE by 2.7% and in 2016-17 the town government increased by 3.5% and the BOE increase was still to be determined. He felt the trend was to shift resources from education and in favor of the Town. He indicated that other departments in town increased on average 3.5% and not zero percent. Contributions to employee health insurance and retirement pensions were not part of each department's budget. He said the Council was not happy with the way surplus was handled by the BOE and stated the Town was doing the same thing. He wanted the Council to reconsider flat funding.

Andreas Sadil, 45 Lamplighter Lane: He supported the Town Council and the difficult decisions that needed to be made. He was not sure what the correct increase would be but everyone needed to look at the financial ramifications involved.

Kurt Larsen, 32 Magnolia Street: He said every year the school system brought students to the level of being accepted to Ivy League schools and thought the system was wonderful. The system had been good for a long time but thought there was a disproportionate amount in education compared to other parts of the budget. He asked why the BOE was exempt from explaining where all the money was spent and thought they should justify their expenses.

Dominic Pane, 638 Church Street: He thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their hard work in a difficult budget season. He was glad they considered how the budget would affect all the citizens in Newington and not only the Board of Ed. The BOE had to learn that sometimes buying things over keeping jobs was irresponsible. He thought comparing the budget and the lottery shootings years ago was disrespectful to the families involved. He felt mutual respect was very important in order to move forward with projects.

Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge: She stated the Council had to make serious decisions and that it was just the beginning. She indicated the Town had to develop a plan to include all departments, keep citizens informed, and provide services in an efficient manner.

Maddy Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She asked the Council to reconsider the BOE cuts. She hoped the Sunday hours at the Library could be restored since a lot of students used it.

(inaudible), 154 Harding Avenue: She thanked the BOE for their hard work and hoped the Mayor and Council would restore enough money to the budget to maintain what was already in place and to maintain teachers.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: For years, no matter what party was in office, there seemed to be little communication between the Council and the BOE. She said they needed to sit down as a body to get answers and hoped there would be an effort between the two to determine what was needed and why. The two should work towards a compromise.

Aggie (inaudible), 213 Brockett Street: As an 8th grader, she cared about her and others education. She stated teachers would lose their jobs and class size would increase, which would weaken the school system.

The Councilors read letters from citizens regarding the budget into the record, which are attached.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Councilor DelBuono moved that the Town Council Tentative Budget be adjusted in account 14008601, to increase the Board of Education budget to 0.5% increase. The change in tax burden would be \$345,000.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Councilor DelBuono stated that in working with the Board of Education they attempted to come up with creative ways to the BOE's budget expenditures that would be able to be used for programs and teachers. This would ensure a minimal impact to staff. This adjustment would work in conjunction with another adjustment to be proposed later that evening. She explained that the Connecticut State Statutes

allowed for a board of education to carry over a surplus of one percent, which had never been done before.

Councilor Marocchini asked if the Council was asking the BOE to self-fund their increases. Councilor DelBuono explained they were working with the BOE to have them retain a surplus and could get the Connecticut Statute if requested. Councilor DelBuono explained the \$515k was achieved through negotiations with the BOE chairman. Councilor Anest asked if the \$515k was an unencumbered amount and Councilor DelBuono said that was the amount the BOE said they could live with at the end of the year as surplus.

Councilor Klett asked what the actual increase would be and what was at risk and Councilor DelBuono explained the current adjustment was 0.5% and could not speak to what the BOE would do at their next meeting. Councilor Klett listed a number of items that were projected to be eliminated if the BOE did not receive 2.8%. Councilor Manke said that in the letter sent home from schools it indicated the BOE could live with a 2% increase and had not asked for the 2.8%. Councilor Marocchini stated the Council was not listening to all the teachers, parents and students who had spoken in favor of the increase.

Councilor Anest stated the Democrats proposed the 2.8% and knew the BOE could live with the two percent but thought it was only fair that if the Town side increased by 3.5% that the BOE increased to 2.8%.

Councilor DelBuono said that she had received many communications from residents in favor of the zero percent increase because not everyone was comfortable with speaking in public. She said the State budget was uncertain, people were on fixed incomes and the budget was a compromise that helped utilize the surplus for the BOE. Councilor Klett felt the Council was holding a gun to the head of the BOE. She could not understand why the Town side was increasing by 3.5% and stated the BOE administrators had given up their increases for the year. This did not happen on the Town side.

The motion passed 5 – 4 on a roll call vote.

Yes: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian

No: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra

Councilor Klett asked that the changes to the budget she was requesting be based on the fact that \$105,889 would be budgeted for administrator raises when services had been cut.

She made a motion that \$25,688 be transferred from the contingency fund (10969) and be placed into the Library fund. This would allow Sunday hours to be continued. The motion was seconded by Councilor Anest.

Councilor Marocchini asked what the contingency fund was and she explained \$105,889 was earmarked for administrator raises. She felt the Library was essential to students and residents and should remain open on Sunday. Councilor Anest indicated the Sunday hours had been cut to restore staffing at the Library and using the contingency funds would allow the Sunday hours as well and was in favor of the adjustment. Councilor DelBuono said that the Library had agreed to the closing on Sunday since other departments were also taking reductions and was not comfortable restoring funds when the BOE was taking a large reduction. Ann Harter explained there was \$532k in the fund which was made up of \$200k base, \$105,889 for administrator raises, \$18,483 part time increases and \$207,000 for contract negotiations.

Councilor Klett indicated the adjustment did not affect the mill rate and it was important for students and residents to be able to use the Library. She felt the administrators should forego their increases like the BOE.

The motion failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra

No: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian

Councilor Klett moved to transfer money from the contingency fund (10962) for a total of \$20,000 to be moved to account 0610-8217, which was Contract Therapist, Clinician and other Human Service professionals. The account was used when Human Services provided contractual services for people they could not treat in-house. The Councilor felt it was more important than raises for administrators.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

Councilor DelBuono asked why the money had been cut and the Town Manager explained it had been cut to trend since the money had not been used in previous years. Since the money had not been used in the past, Councilor DelBuono was not in favor of reinstating the money.

The motion failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra

No: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian

Councilor Marocchini moved to suspend the rules to allow the Council to act on items after 10:30 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Councilor Marocchini moved to restore the Senior and Disabled technical equipment in the amount of \$4,900 and was seconded by Councilor Serra.

The motion failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra

No: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian

Councilor Marocchini moved to restore the \$250,000 in the CIP fund for the Parks and Recreation Churchill Park Environmental review and was seconded by Councilor Anest.

Councilor Anest indicated the money would be used for providing detail in order to seek various permits from the Town and State and could take several months. It was an important first step to move the project forward and without it would set the project back. Councilor DelBuono said it was a priority for the Council, but they needed to review all the needs throughout town and how best to move them forward. She indicated the project had not been brought to the Council and could not support the adjustment at this time. Councilor Nagel wanted to wait to see the project brought to the Council and not make a decision at this point. Councilor Serra was concerned about the ADA requirements after July and Councilor DelBuono said there was a fund in the Parks and Rec Department to be used to address the ADA issues. The \$250k would not address the ADA issues but was only an environmental review and design plan.

The motion failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra

No: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the following General Fund appropriations of the Town of Newington are hereby adopted for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington:

APPROPRIATIONS:

Town Government Operations:

General Government	\$4,838,385	
Public Safety	8,461,090	
Public Works	4,871,569	
Community Planning & Development	547,396	
Public Health	161,899	
Community Services	1,014,386	
Public Library	1,714,892	
Parks & Recreation	1,644,384	
Insurance - Miscellaneous	11,354,767	34,608,768
Debt Service		1,191,631
Metropolitan District		3,658,550
Capital Improvements		5,249,305
Equipment Reserve		629,400
Employee Leave Liability Reserve Fund		92,900
Board of Education		<u>70,185,928</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$115,616,482

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington, the following General Fund estimated revenues be raised to meet these appropriations:

ESTIMATED REVENUES:

Current Taxes	\$83,117,156
Prorated Taxes	858,876

Prior Years Taxes	480,000	
Interest & Liens	345,000	
Motor Vehicle Tax	6,954,906	
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	2,609,620	
Assessments	14,163	
Licenses & Permits	315,500	
Rentals	107,600	
Investment Income	71,350	
Fines	36,500	
Charges for Services	544,375	
Refunds & Reimbursements	79,000	
Sale of Town Property	300	
State Aid	17,390,219	
Federal Aid	9,000	
Miscellaneous	58,500	
Donations	5,593	
Transfers from Other Funds	118,824	\$113,116,482
General Fund Balance Applied		2,500,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPLIED FUND BALANCE		\$115,616,482

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Clerk is hereby instructed to place the accompanying General Fund Budget Summary on the record of this meeting to illustrate the above appropriations and revenue estimates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the following budget is hereby adopted for the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017:

APPROPRIATIONS:	
Painting	\$50,000
Carpeting	50,000
District-wide Security and Safety	50,000
District-wide Furniture Replacement	35,000
Technology Equipment	50,000
System-wide Air Conditioning Installation	50,000
Athletic Improvements	10,000
District-wide Bathroom Renovations	50,000
Arts Facility Modifications	100,000
District-wide Playground Renovations	10,000
District-wide Lighting Improvements	50,000
JWMS Wing Improvements	100,000
District-wide Underground Storage Tanks	60,000
District-wide Roof Reserve	60,000
District-wide Corridor/Exterior Doors	25,000
District-wide Blacktop/Paving	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$800,000

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	
General Fund Appropriations	\$125,000
Interest Earnings	1,500
Tuition Receipts	250,000
School Rental Receipts	60,000
Fund Balance	<u>363,500</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPLIED FUND BALANCE	\$ 800,000

AND WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statute 10-248a permits towns to establish a non-lapsing account from unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education provided such amount does not exceed 1 (one) per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year and;

WHEREAS, The Newington Board of Education is proposing establishment of such non-lapsing account to be used for non-capital expenditures to be financed from unexpended funds in an amount of \$515,000 which does not exceed 1% of its 2015-16 budgeted appropriations (698,409);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council, as fiscal authority for the Town authorizes the non-

lapsing account to be used for non-capital expenditures and to establish a Special Revenue account in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-248a.

Councilor Klett said she could not support the budget and thanked Nancy Petronio for her hard work. She thought this was the ugliest and most contentious of any budget she had witnessed. She was disappointed that she had helped people get elected who she thought she could count to do what was right for the community.

Councilor Anest did not think the BOE had been adequately funded and thought the 2.8% increase proposed was a good one. The 1.2% increase would result in possible layoffs and positions not filled. She was saddened that her first budget was a disappointment. Councilor Serra stated she attended the BOE meetings and felt other Councilors should have attended to see what decisions they had to make.

Councilor Anest could not support the budget and felt the underfunding of the budget would hurt the students in Town. Councilor Klett said that by choosing to keep raises for the administrators in the budget and not restoring funding for Library Sunday hours or Human Services spoke volumes. Councilor DelBuono wanted the residents to understand they had to take into consideration everyone's interests and not just one department. The revaluation would affect 55% of the residents taxes, businesses were struggling and the State budget was uncertain. There were many conversations with the BOE and difficult choices had to be made. The Councilor had faith in the administration and the teachers in Newington that education would move forward.

Councilor Anest felt the majority had taken the mill rate as more important than children's education. Councilor Budrejko indicated she could not always attend the BOE meetings since she had other meetings she had to attend as a Councilor. The budget process was difficult and tried to provide the best educational opportunities the Town could afford and still maintain services in Town. The State budget influenced the Council and as an elected official felt responsible for all residents. Not all requests could be met this year including the Library, Senior Center, Human Services and Parks and Rec. The Town still needed to address the facilities that had been neglected over the years.

Councilor Budrejko explained it was not always possible to attend BOE meetings; however, was able to watch them on NCTV since she was often attending other meetings at the same time. It was a difficult decision to try to provide the best educational opportunities the Town could afford while still maintaining services for the community. The Council had faith in the Superintendent to do his job to manage the budget in the best way possible.

Mayor Zartarian thanked the Town Manager and her staff, the Town departments who stepped up to the challenges the Town faced. The State revenue stream was drying up and would impact cities and towns operated in the future.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 5 – 4 on a roll call vote.
Yes: Councilors Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Nagel, Mayor Zartarian
No: Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini, Serra,

B. Adoption of Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2016-17 through 2020-21

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby adopts the "Town of Newington Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2017 through 2020-2021," a final copy of which will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

NOTE: This vote is binding only for the funds committed for fiscal year 2016-2017; the proposed funding for 2017-2018 through 2020-2021 is for planning purposes only and is subject to change through future budget deliberations.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Manke and the motion passed 6 – 3 on a roll call vote.
Yes: Councilors Anest, Budrejko, DelBuono, Nagel, Manke, Mayor Zartarian
No: Councilors Klett, Marocchini, Serra

C. Set Mill Rate

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Section 805 of the Town Charter of the Town of Newington, the Town Council hereby fixes a tax rate of \$35.75 mills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, which shall be levied on taxable property in the Town of Newington listed on the October 1, 2015 Grand List, and said tax shall become due and payable in accordance with Section 43-1 of the Newington Code of Ordinances. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to make out and sign the rate bill in accordance with this motion.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 8 – 1 on a roll call vote.
Yes: Councilors Anest, Budrejko, DelBuono, Manke, Marocchini, Nagel, Serra, Mayor Zartarian
No: Councilor Klett

D. Extend Appointment of Acting Town Manager

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOVLED:

Pursuant to section C-504 of the Newington Town Charter, the Newington Town Council hereby reappoints Tanya Lane to serve as Acting Town Manager effective April 7, 2016 for a period not to exceed 90 days and authorizes Council leadership to execute any necessary documents.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Manke and passed 9 – 0 on a roll call vote

- E. 8-24 Report Referral: Streetscape Project

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Town Manager is hereby directed and authorized to submit to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for its report in accordance with Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the proposed Streetscape Phase VI project located on Constance Leigh Drive.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 9 – 0 on a roll call vote.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Manke moved to table items V. A and V. C until the next Council meeting on April 26, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 9 – 0 on a roll call vote.

- A. Discussion: Deming Young Farm Barn (Tabled 3/22/16)
- B. Fair Housing Month – (Tabled 3/22/16)

Councilor Nagel moved to waive the rules to take action on item V.B. and was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 9 – 0 .

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

WHEREAS, all American citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, or familial status, be given equal access to rental and homeownership opportunities and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington is committed to upholding these laws and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager of the Town of Newington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of any illegal discriminatory housing practices in the Town of Newington.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Manke and passed 9 – 0.

C. Facility Naming Request: NCTV

Tabled to the next Council meeting.

**VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)
(none)**

VII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

None

VIII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

None

IX. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel attended a CRCOG meeting where an opiate presentation was made. He indicated there was a drop off box in Town Hall for the disposal of drugs. The Hartford Mayor spoke regarding the

financial problems that faced his town and how he was dealing with them. He asked towns to work with him in collaborating on various services. Councilor Nagel indicated the Library staff was being retrained in emergency procedures and the Wine and Cheese event created a \$3k profit. The Library was holding a book sale on April 29-31 and the Library continued with their expansion plan meetings. He also stated NCTV was having their 30th anniversary and an open house would be held on June 11 from 10-2 p.m. They discussed naming two of the rooms for founding members and had discussions regarding the Helen Nelson Room and the quality of the microphones. Councilor Nagel attended a Blight Committee meeting which informed the committee of the various rules and regulations involved, and he thanked Jamie for her efforts in that regard.

Councilor Manke attended the successful youth Hoopla Event, which raised money for scholarships for two or three seniors.

Councilor Serra said the next Blight Committee meeting would be held on April 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Klett stated the opiate forum would be held on June 20 at 6:30 p.m.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: he thanked the Council for their hard work and that some of the drama had calmed down. He felt they had made a difficult decision and it would have been much easier to give everyone what they wanted and should not be criticized for that.

Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: He thanked the Council for the hard work involved in developing a budget and understood the compassion and desire on both sides. He was grateful of the efforts to work with the BOE chair that developed a compromise but felt the talented staff of Dr. Collins would handle it. He said with the .5% increase, the transfer of funds, and the projected reimbursement of funds, they would have approximately a 3% increase. He did not feel it would be necessary to lay off any teacher and was grateful.

Patti Foley, 51 Crown Ridge: She thanked everyone for the passion, the discussion and the enlightenment of the public through the debate. She also thanked the volunteer staff of NCTV for the time they spent working on the tapes to be seen by the residents on a timely basis. She said she appreciated each of the Councilors and the amount of work they put into the process.

XI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Marocchini thanked Tanya Lane and her staff for all the work they did during the budget process.

Councilor DelBuono also thanked the Town staff and hoped people realized what a dedicated staff they worked with.

Councilor Nagel thanked the Town Manager's staff and all the departments as well as all the elected officials. He thought it was important to begin a collaborative effort for next year's budget so they could minimize any misunderstandings in the process.

Councilor Manke thanked the public for writing all the letters regarding the budget as well as the people in Town who stopped him on the street to discuss various issues.

Councilor Budrejko thanked all the letter writers and hoped not everyone was disappointed. She hoped people would continue to be involved and to keep the Council on their toes.

Councilor Klett thanked the Town Manager, the Finance Department and Jamie for all their efforts during the budget season and especially for their responsiveness. She appreciated the people who took the time to write. In response to a comment made by the public she was not sure that "everyone turned out fine" in the past and how the person could judge that. She complimented the students who spoke and knew they had a great future. Councilor Klett defended her husband's comment recently made at a meeting and was not comparing the lottery shooting to the meeting the other night. He meant that it was one of the darkest days in the town.

Councilor Anest thanked everyone and agreed with the other councilors' comments.

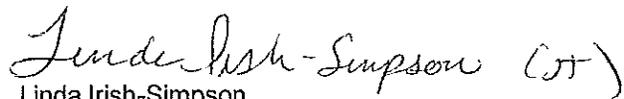
Councilor Serra thanked the Town staff and the residents who spoke as well as NCTV for all their time.

Mayor Zartarian thanked the public who took the time to write or speak at the meeting. He suggested they would create a single consolidated email address for comments to go to the entire Council.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Anest. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk
attach.

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:43 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Board of Education Budget Meeting, Town Council Meeting

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McKenzie, Rachel" <RMcKenzie@usj.edu>
Date: April 1, 2016 at 6:43:18 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "imarocchini@newingtonct.gov" <imarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>, "izartarian@newingtonct.gov" <izartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "rbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <rbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>, "bdebuono@newingtonct.gov" <bdebuono@newingtonct.gov>, "imanke@newingtonct.gov" <imanke@newingtonct.gov>, "dnagel@newingtonct.gov" <dnagel@newingtonct.gov>
Cc: "rmckenzie@ppset.org" <rmckenzie@ppset.org>
Subject: Board of Education Budget Meeting, Town Council Meeting

Rachel McKenzie
992 Maple Street
Rocky Hill, CT, 06067

Members of the Newington Town Council,

My name is Rachel McKenzie and I am a Special Education Tutor at John Wallace Middle School. Although I do not live in Newington, the education of the inspiring students I have gotten to know over the past school year is very important to me. Supporting the passionate staff that I have gotten to know is just as equally important to me as well.

To those of you who have voted "yes" to the 2.8% Board of Education budget increase, I thank you.

To those of you still considering your vote, I urge you to vote "yes" in support of the full 2.8% increase in budget to keep the spirit and quality of a Newington education alive.

Sincerely,

Rachel McKenzie

I also ask that the contents of this email be read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Trevethan, Jaime

Sincerely,
Marc Balling

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:43 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Support for BOE full 2.8% on April 5

Sent from my iPad

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Balling, Marc" <MBalling@nsect.org>
Date: April 2, 2016 at 6:39:04 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov", "canest@newingtonct.gov", "dserra@newingtonct.gov", "dserra@newingtonct.gov", "jmarochini@newingtonct.gov", "jmarochini@newingtonct.gov", "mklett@newingtonct.gov", "mklett@newingtonct.gov", "zartarian@newingtonct.gov", "zartarian@newingtonct.gov", "gudrejko@newingtonct.gov", "gudrejko@newingtonct.gov", "delbuono@newingtonct.gov", "delbuono@newingtonct.gov", "manke@newingtonct.gov", "manke@newingtonct.gov", "dnagel@newingtonct.gov", "dnagel@newingtonct.gov"
Subject: Support for BOE full 2.8% on April 5

Dear Newington Town Council members,

Please read the following for the public record on April 5, 2016:

My name is Marc Balling, and I've worked as a music teacher for students and parents of Newington at Ruth Chaffee School for nearly 20 years. My home address is 92 Croft Drive in Manchester. I would like to thank council members Anest, Cassasanta-Serra, Marochini and Klett for their support for the BOE's 2.8% increase. I strongly urge mayor Zartarian and council members Budrejko, Delbuono, Manke and Nagel to reconsider their 0% increase, which is truly a large cut, and approve the BOE's FULL 2.8% increase. I state this with the best interests of those I serve in mind, the students and parents of Newington, CT.

Families choose Newington because of its high quality school system, and anything less than a 2.8% increase sends a negative message about the quality of the town and its schools. Families have choices, and your schools need to be of high quality to attract families to move to Newington. I've considered moving my family with two young boys to Newington, but at 0% I would not, especially with class sizes at 23 in first grade. Schools keep residents in Newington long-term, and creates and sustains a tax base long term as well. Schools are your best and wisest investment. For the sake of your town, please make the wise choice of supporting the BOE's FULL 2.8% increase. Thank you for reading my letter into the public record.

Erin Wright

Language Arts

John Wallace Middle School

erwright@npsect.org

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:42 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for your support

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wright, Erin" <erwright@npsect.org>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 12:19:23 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Thank you for your support

Dear Council Member Anest,

My name is Erin Wright and I teach 7th grade Language Arts at John Wallace Middle School. I would like this email to be read aloud during the Public Participation portion of the April 5th Town Council Meeting. Thank you for your vote in support of the 2.8 % increase in the Board of Education Budget. I have worked for the town of Newington for four years, and in that time I have always been impressed by the dedication of the town to the education of its students. I have felt supported and appreciated since I began in Newington. I do not believe I could say this about other districts based on conversations I have had with colleagues. On a daily basis, I ask myself if what I am doing is best for the students I teach. Every decision, every lesson, every conversation with my colleagues is focused on what is best for students. This year I have several students that benefit from not only the quality teaching that takes place in core classes, but also the support staff who help them daily. I fear for what will happen to these students and the quality of the core classes if an increase is not approved. Thank you for asking yourself what is best for the students of Newington and supporting the 2.8% increase.

Thank you,

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:42 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget Cuts

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Klett, Maureen" <MKlett@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 7:00:41 PM EDT
To: "Anest, Carol" <CAnest@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: Fwd: Budget Cuts

Carol,
If you or Jim could read. His message is good but I feel funny reading this one.
Maureen

Town Councilor, Maureen H. Klett
Town of Newington

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sepko, Jeffrey" <jsepko@npsct.org>
Date: April 1, 2016 at 2:32:23 PM EDT
To: "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Budget Cuts

Mrs. Klett,

I first and foremost want to thank you for standing up to the members of your party in regards to the proposed 0% increase. I know as an American Government teacher at Newington High School that compromise and a willingness to work across the aisle is not popular in today's day in age. It is sad to witness our nation's and our town's political discourse descend into a sophomoric battle of wills. The lack of dignity and respect you have been shown

In this town recently, a town you have served admirably for many years, is disheartening. What is equally disheartening in my opinion was Mayor Zartarian's decision to invoke the arcane Town Charter provision, a clear decision made with the goal of stifling both teacher and student expression. My students will be testing on the Bill of Rights this coming week, and I cannot help but think about all the work that needs to be done to assure that that such totalitarian measures do not continue to strip every member of our society of what many would believe to be basic human rights. Aside from the resilience you have shown, I was most impressed by the students that took the time and effort to make their thoughts and feelings known on the budget. All but one of them have passed through my classroom just like your granddaughter. One of them, I am most proud to say is currently a teacher at one of our town's elementary schools. This is a simple reminder of just how much good an educator, with the necessary resources and dignity, can do for our town's future. Please keep up the fight, and although I do not currently reside in town, believe that all voices should be heard and respected. This debate unfortunately has been reduced to a matter of dollars and cents, yet the true cost of what is being proposed will have more considerable, far reaching consequences for every person that either lives in or has dedicated their lives to in Newington. Thank you for supporting the proposed Board of Education's 2.8% increase.

Jeffrey Sepko

Newington High School

Social Studies Department

X1332

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:41 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Letter Regarding BoE Budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Goulet, Laura" <lgoulet@npsct.org>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 7:35:30 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Letter Regarding BoE Budget

Dear Town Council Members,

My name is Laura Goulet, and I ask that my letter be read aloud and recorded in the meeting minutes at the April 5th Town Council Meeting during Public Participation. I live at 6 Tanglewood Lane in Bolton, and although my address is not within the Newington zip code, my heart resides with the families and children of Newington with whom I work every day. My second home is 155 Harding Avenue, where I am an educator within the Newington Public School district. My belief that students are the future of our society coincides with my belief that a 2.8% budget increase is necessary for our school system to sustain all of the opportunities afforded to students. I would like to thank you, the town council members who support the budget increase, for your careful consideration and understanding of not only our current financial climate, but also our current social climate. I teach in Newington because it is a beautifully diverse community in which children are given opportunities to learn, create, explore, and give back to the community. Every day, I work with students who have diverse learning styles, interests, and needs. I see every day the connections that students have with staff throughout the building. These bonds are integral in meeting the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of our diverse population. A reduction in teachers, special education staff, course offerings, the gifted and talented program, sports programs, and other resources would result in the stagnation of the growth of passionate, young, and innovative minds. Those who support a 0% budget increase support the loss of opportunities for our students. This is not simply a matter in which money must be handled more appropriately. If the Board of Education does not receive a 2.8% budget increase, there

will be guaranteed cuts to these vital programs. These cuts (such as the reduction in force) are not scare tactics; they will be the product of insufficient funding.

As a teacher, I would like to illustrate my point by making a comparison to a recent situation I encountered in school. This past week, two students were in a disagreement that caused them both to become very upset. In my efforts to make the situation better, I did not punish their peers who had nothing to do with the situation. Instead, I encouraged the two students to discuss and respect each other's thoughts and opinions. Their calm and open dialogue helped them communicate effectively and move forward from the situation by coming to an appropriate compromise. This was not a comfortable task for these young people, but it was strong, mature, and responsible. I sincerely hope that we can use these young people as an example and come to a compromise that will benefit all members of the Newington community. Thank you for your time and dedication to this town.

Mrs. Laura Goulet
Grade 8 Language Arts
Martin Kellogg Middle School

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:41 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: THANK YOU

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mihalakos, Elizabeth" <emihalakos@npsct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 10:17:17 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "inklett@newingtonct.gov" <inklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: THANK YOU

Good morning-

First, thank you so much for voting yes to a 2.8% increase to the Board of Education budget. Newington is an amazing public school system and it would be a shame to have that affected by the lack of support from the Town Council. As a teacher, I am aware and constantly excited by the programs, sports, talent, curriculum, and events that our schools provide. I am currently searching for a new district to move to, and Newington is on our top 5 list because I know the strengths of the school system. Thank you for believing in the town too!

Elizabeth Mihalakos
JWMS - Grade 6 ELA

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:40 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget Vote

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Feola, Amanda" <AFeola@npsct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 2:29:56 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Budget Vote

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support of teachers and the students of Newington by voting to support a 2.8% increase to the school budget.

Thank you,

Amanda Feola-Dudzinski

Teacher, Newington Public Schools 13 years

40 Stewart Hill Rd Portland, CT 06480

Amanda Feola-Dudzinski

*Art Teacher
Newington High School*

*Art Program Leader
Newington Public Schools*

afeola@npsct.org

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:40 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Letter regarding BOE Budget
Attachments: image001.png; ATT00001.htm; Letter regarding BOE Budget.docx; ATT00002.htm

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dano, Sherry" <sdano01@connecticutchildrens.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 2:45:27 PM EDT
To: "canesi@newingtonct.gov" <canesi@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Letter regarding BOE Budget

Good morning.

I was not sure who to send this letter to, regarding the Town Meeting Thursday 3/31/16 and the BOE Budget. If you can please include it where it needs to be, I would greatly appreciate it. Thanks for your time and help.

Sherry Dano

Sherry Dano
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
60 Harland Street, 2nd Floor
East Hartford, CT, 06108
(860)837-5412
sdano01@connecticutchildrens.org

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: BOE Budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Donahue, Catherine" <cadonahue@npsct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 6:41:34 PM EDT
To: "zartarian@newingtonct.gov" <zartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "gbutelko@newingtonct.gov" <gbutelko@newingtonct.gov>, "bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov" <bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov>, "mankc@newingtonct.gov" <mankc@newingtonct.gov>, "dnagel@newingtonct.gov" <dnagel@newingtonct.gov>
Cc: "canesi@newingtonct.gov" <canesi@newingtonct.gov>, "dserrata@newingtonct.gov" <dserrata@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mkleff@newingtonct.gov" <mkleff@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: BOE Budget

Dear Mayor Zartarian, Deputy Mayor Nagel and Town Council Members,

Please read this letter into the minutes at the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, 2016.

My name is Catherine (Kate) Donahue, and I am a proud NHS graduate ('84) and current town resident (212 Robin Brook Drive). My three siblings and I grew up in this town I love. All four of us had vastly different personalities and interests, yet we each found "our place" within the Newington Public School District and all it had to offer. Our experiences in Newington helped shape our lives today.

More recently, I had the unique pleasure of watching four of my nieces and nephews make their way through Newington Public Schools. They are as unique in learning styles, talents, and career paths as were the four Donahues who came before them. I watched them connect to teachers, expand their scholastic interests, and foster their talents. They stood out in academics, community service, musical talent, and/or athletics. One is a reading teacher here in CT; another is a graduate student at Louisiana State University working toward his PhD in

1

Medical Physics. My two additional nephews are majoring in Urban Studies at UConn and Public Health at the University of Kentucky. I could not be prouder of who they have become or the successes they have attained.

I want every child who attends a Newington Public School to have the opportunities afforded to me and my siblings. I want each student to experience a well-rounded education unique to his or her individual needs and talents like my niece and nephews did.

I am also privileged to be an 8th grade English Language Arts teacher right here in Newington at John Wallace Middle School. I have taught here for the last thirteen of my twenty-seven year career. One can't imagine the true joy of getting to give back to a community that gave me so much. I do not have children of my own, and I have lived in two other CT towns where I paid taxes yet had no children. I have always supported what the Board of Education in each town recommended as a budget increase because I truly believe our children are our town's greatest resource.

I implore you to vote for a 2.8% budget increase instead of a 0% increase. I don't want our students to miss out on the amazing hearts and talents belonging to the many Newington teachers who will lose their jobs due to a 0% increase. I have worked side-by-side with the majority of these strong, caring individuals. Our town's students would benefit from their knowledge, leadership, and unique abilities.

Please help Newington keep its tradition of excellence in education by voting for a 2.8% budget increase.

Respectfully,

Catherine Donahue

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget Meeting

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jaime Lindenmuth <jaimielindenmuth@att.net>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 8:49:44 PM EDT
To: <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Budget Meeting

Hello,

I am writing to thank you for your support of the 2.8% increase in the Board of Education budget.

It is absolutely the best investment we can make, to give the next generation the tools they need to be successful.

Thank you for voting YES!

Jaime Lindenmuth, NPS Educator
15 Bradley St
Plainville, CT 06062

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for your support!

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Crean, Virginia" <VCrean@npsct.org>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 8:15:11 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Thank you for your support!

To All Who Voted in Favor of the Budget Increase,
Thank you so much for your insight and putting the needs of all Newington students ahead of of all other concerns.

Ginmie Crean
Grade 7 ELA/SS Teacher at MKMS

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Davies, Holly" <HDavies@npsct.org>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 8:15:30 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Budget

I would like to thank you for supporting the 2.8% budget increase! I can only hope that others will follow suit!

Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Holly Davies

HOLLY DAVIES

Grade 7 Science

Martin Kellogg Middle School

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:38 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 2.8% Increase
Attachments: town letter.docx; ATTO0001.htm

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Batista- Yzaguirre, Elsa" <yzaguirre@npsect.org>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 8:38:09 AM EDT
To: "caneest@newingtonct.gov" <caneest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "imarocchini@newingtonct.gov" <imarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>, "izartarian@newingtonct.gov" <izartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "jdelbuono@newingtonct.gov" <jdelbuono@newingtonct.gov>, "gbudreiko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudreiko@newingtonct.gov>, "lmanke@newingtonct.gov" <lmanke@newingtonct.gov>, "dnage@newingtonct.gov" <dnage@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Re: 2.8% Increase

April 4, 2016

Dear Town Council members,

My name is Elsa Batista- Yzaguirre and I live on 180 Hillcrest Avenue with my husband and 2 boys.

I would like to thank the Board Members that have approved the 2.8% increase and ask those that have not, to please think about the impact your decision will have on all of our children in the district.

1

I am a proud Newington resident, a parent of a 1st and 4th grader who attend Anna Reynolds elementary school and on my 3rd year as a World Language Spanish teacher at Martin Kellogg Middle School. Seven years ago, my husband and I chose Newington as the place to raise our family. We left New York and never looked back. The main deciding factor in choosing Newington out of any other town was because of its' education system.

I support the 2.8% increase for many reasons. First, as a parent, I have seen how much academic progress my boys have achieved in Anna Reynolds and I know they are receiving a quality education. Second, I have grown as an educator due to the many Professional Development opportunities my district provides which immediately affects my students for the better. As a World Language Spanish educator, I will be impacted directly with this budget increase. If approved, my students will receive World Language instruction longer than the current 90 days they receive. Don't you want our Newington children to be fluent in two languages? I do! Can you imagine the doors and windows of opportunities that will open up for them in the future just for being bilingual? Finally, as a resident, I don't mind if my taxes increase every year as long as I know that the decisions being made has our children's education system on the forefront. I have found my forever home in my forever town, please greatly consider the 2.8% increase.

Thank you for your time and all that you do to keep our town great. I cannot imagine how hard it is to make budget decisions that can affect so many people. I trust that you will all work together to do what's best for Newington.

Sincerely,
Elsa Batista- Yzaguirre

180 Hillcrest Avenue

860-371-0940

(this letter can be read aloud at the next meeting or re-printed)

2

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:38 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bell, Ken" <kbell@npsct.org>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 11:51:10 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: budget

Hello everyone. I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for hanging tough on your vote to approve a slight increase in next year's budget. As a teacher, parent of students in the Newington School System and a tax payer of this wonderful town, I appreciate your stance on this. You obviously all understand how important a school system is for a town.

Thank you!
Ken Bell
Resident, teacher, parent

1

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:38 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: April 5th Town Council Meeting

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: KATHERINE LESLIE <katherine.leslie@smelnet>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 5:15:01 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: April 5th Town Council Meeting
Reply-To: KATHERINE LESLIE <katherine.leslie@smelnet>

Katherine Leslie
8 Michele Dr.
Portland CT 06480

Dear Council Members,

I work in one of the schools and I'd like to thank you for supporting the 2.8% increase. I believe that it is imperative that the Board of Education get the entire proposed 2.8%. This would allow the system to continue to move forward in some way. I feel it is especially important to support student's emotional, physical and academic growth. As societal demands continue to increase, I think it's imperative to help students achieve their highest potential. If it is not too late, I would like this email to be read during Public Participation at the April 5th, Town Council Meeting. Thank you for your time.

Katherine Leslie
Wellness Educator MKMWS

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:37 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: VOTE YES 2.8%

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jen Win- and Mike Johnson <win-ijohnson@cox.net>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 5:30:41 PM EDT
To: <tzartarian@newingtonct.gov>, <ganest@newingtonct.gov>,
<gbudreiko@newingtonct.gov>, <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, <bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov>,
<mklefti@newingtonct.gov>, <franke@newingtonct.gov>, <imarocchini@newingtonct.gov>,
<dnagel@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: VOTE YES 2.8%

Please read the following statement on behalf of all the people who signed this during tonight's public participation council meeting. Thank you!

Newington Town Council Members

We elected and trusted 9 BOE volunteers to work with our school administrators to present a budget that would continue to lay down tracks for building and maintaining a 21st century education system. We are imploring you to support the budget our Newington BOE has recommended for 2016-2017. Our focus on science, technology, engineering, and math will position the next generation of taxpayers to be in high demand in the job market and provide a greater chance to withstand economic downturns. Our school system also recognizes the importance of teaching humanities, arts, and music. These subject matters teach compassion, foster high emotional IQ, and enable us to be well-rounded human beings. We need to continue to expand our Biomedical and Aerospace academy model into our high school. Our job is to teach the next generation relevant job skills. If we don't continue to make adjustments to the way we educate our future workforce, these kids will not be in a good position to support our future tax base on a local and national level. We can't keep producing DVD players when the world is moving to live streaming. Look what happened to Block Buster when they couldn't keep up with market changes. This is a rapidly changing world and we need provide the skills sets for our next generation to adapt. A strong school system and a safe community are the driving forces behind a healthy housing market. A strong housing market is good for everyone

in the community. Let's work together to keep our community strong and healthy. Let's put in the maintenance to stay in shape. We voted you in to work together so we don't have to worry about the quality of education for our children. Let's VOTE YES on the 2.8% increase for the BOE budget so we can at least maintain what we have so no program & no staff member will need to be cut.

Sincerely,

Mary Niro
148 Eagle Dr
Newington CT 06111

Joanne Sullivan
11 Hall St
Newington CT 06111

Amy Alexander
16 Brentwood Rd
Newington CT 06111

Christine Boghosian
40 Ridge View Crossing
Newington CT 06111

Elsa Batista
180 Hillcrest Ave
Newington CT 06111

Stephanie Shaw
95 Audobon Ave
Newington CT 06111

Michelle and Chris Jackson
196 Reservoir Rd
Newington CT 06111

Joanne Errera
7 Edward Street
Newington CT 06111

Christine Shooshan
60 Clifford St
Newington CT 06111

Cyndi Callahan
25 Deer Path
Newington CT 06111

Carlos Tirado
Sylma Pagan
33 Sunrise Circle

Newington CT 06111

Jodi Mangene
50 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Deirdre Miller
Elisha Miller
239 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Cindy Barron
190 Kimberly Rd
Newington CT 06111

Carol Pakutka
210 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Cathy Dionne
219 Meadow St
Newington CT 06111

Wanda Guadarrama
40 New Britain Ave
Newington CT 06111

Andrea Sitz
Carlos Ramos
245 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

AnnMarie Stolfi
Dave Stolfi
62 Rosewood Dr
Newington CT 06111

Mary Houle
253 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Michele Soler
38 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Lynn Aldrich
88 Welles Dr
Newington CT 06111

Ara Armour
21 Old Hatchery Lane

Newington CT 06111

Jennifer Win-Johnson
Mike Johnson
23 Welles Dr North
Newington CT 06111

Colleen Corriveau
303 Walsh Ave
Newington CT 06111

Karen Falvey
103 Barkledge Dr
Newington CT 06111

Tammy Masluskas
Mike Masluskas
192 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Colleen Cultrera
Steve Cultrera
38 Carriage Hill Dr
Newington CT 06111

Michelle Gronbeck
91 Howard St
Newington CT 06111

Violet Chrostowski
10 Cinnamon Rd
Newington CT 06111

Kelley Piechowicz
62 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Beth Farragher
44 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Kerry Caetano
20 Great Oak Lane
Newington CT 06111

Sally Doyle
34 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Trevelyan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:37 PM
To: Trevelyan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Letter to be read into minutes of TC 4-5-16
Attachments: 2016 - Letter to TC 04-05-16.docx; ATTO0001L.htm; ALICE Report.pdf; ATTO0002L.htm

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Nagel <dnagel@snet.net>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 6:13:10 PM EDT
To: Dave Nagel <dnagel@snet.net>, James Marocchini <jmarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, Roy Zartarian <zartarian@newingtonct.gov>, Carol Anest <canest@newingtonct.gov>, Gail Budrejko <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>, Beth DeLuomo <bdeluomo@newingtonct.gov>, Maureen Klett <mklett@newingtonct.gov>, Tim Manke <imanke@newingtonct.gov>, Diana Serra <dserra@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Fw: Letter to be read into minutes of TC 4-5-16
Reply-To: David Nagel <dnagel@snet.net>

Sincerely, Dave Nagel dnagel@snet.net

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: JERILYN NAGEL <jnagel@snet.net>
To: David Nagel <dnagel@snet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 6:05 PM
Subject: Letter to be read into minutes of TC 4-5-16

April 5, 2016
To: The Honorable Roy Zartarian
and Town Council Members
Council Meeting
For reading at the 4/5/16 Town

I am writing in support of the silent senior citizen voices of 10,039 of your mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts living in Newington who are over 55 years of age and 3212 of those who are over 65 years. According to the 2013 statistics from the American Community Survey - of the 30,000 people living in Newington, 18% - 5400

were 65 and older and 16% - 4800 were school age. 32% of seniors are below the United Way's A.L.I.C.E. Report asset limit (see attached).

We are accustomed to having people tell us what to do and what we have to pay. So we get by and we pay it. It is hard, but we have pride. We are the people who don't get raises and we are the ones living on a fixed income. Those of us who only have Social Security as their only income cannot afford to go to Washington D.C. and request that we get more money in our Social Security check. We are given what they give us and then, even when we get a tiny raise, more of our money is taken away and we have to pay more for our Medicare benefit. We can tell our government that our medications cost more and we don't have the money to pay for them and need a raise, but we don't get a raise.

As of the census of 2010, there were 4902 school age children counted in the town of Newington. The student enrollment for 2016-17 is 3989 students. That is 913 less students than the statistics of 2013.

At the Public Budget Hearing, a Newington Teacher mentioned that an increase to the school budget would only be \$100. more per taxpayer per year. If a teacher is making \$60,000. A year that would not be as much of a hardship as those of us getting \$6,000 year from Social Security.

The Board of Education sent out a 2 page letter in color to Parents, Staff and Members of the Community to come to the March 31, 2016 meeting about the public hearing. How much did that cost the taxpayers? I did not receive one of these letters - I am a taxpayer. Did the 5400 seniors receive this letter? Not every senior over 65 drives at night or has a ride to go an evening meeting.

How many of those working in the school system have gone to the Newington Human Services Food Bank and talked to the senior citizens who have put their pride aside in order to have food on the table or signed up for the federally funded community meals at the Senior and Disabled Center so they would have food for that day. One man said, "if I didn't come here for a hot meal, I wouldn't have any meal at all." This is Newington - not the inner city.

The Educational system has a budget last year for 69,840,928 million and this year, they want an increase of \$1,200,000. I hope you don't approve this increase in this difficult economy - we do not need an increase in our taxes

Sincerely,

Jerilyn Knapple Nagel
1175 Willard Ave., Newington, CT 06111
46 year resident
Member of the Commission on Aging & Disability

Attachment: United Way A.L.I.C.E. Report, pages 13,14,16,93

(note: The ALICE Report is for your info. - not necessary to read and the blue attachment is the same as letter above.)
Sincerely, Jerilyn Nagel, jnagel@snet.net

Travethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:36 PM
To: Travethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Please Read at tonight's meeting - GET OVER YOUR EGO AND VOTE YES 2.8%

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Johnson <michael.johnson@cox.net>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 6:59:53 PM EDT
To: <tzartarian@newingtonct.gov>, <canest@newingtonct.gov>,
<gbudzik@newingtonct.gov>, <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, <delbonno@newingtonct.gov>,
<nklett@newingtonct.gov>, <timanke@newingtonct.gov>, <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>,
<dhagel@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Please Read at tonight's meeting - GET OVER YOUR EGO AND VOTE YES 2.8%

I apologize that I cannot attend tonight's council meeting. Please read the following statement during tonight's public participation council meeting. Thank you!

Newington Town Council Members

At last week's town council meeting, the many speakers raised excellent points as to why a 0% increase for the Newington Board of Ed would be wrong and debilitating. It is obvious after your vote that a number of you – notably Roy, Beth, Tim, David, and Gail - could have cared less what people had to say because you had made up your minds well before that meeting ever occurred.

Get over your ego and truly consider what is at stake. I cannot understand why, under any circumstances, whether it be a misguided campaign promise, voting along party lines, or general cluelessness, would you think that 0% increase helps our town or our educational system. What I do not understand is voting along party lines. Besides the fact that we are a small town where the behavior shown in national politics has no place, I don't see how you are voting along party lines with this 0% increase. The BoE is made of up a majority of Republicans so how are you voting along party lines if it is against their wishes? Prior to the election didn't the Republican Party get together and talk about the overall goals? It just seems idiotic. Ignoring a contractual agreement re: salaries is even more ridiculous.

Quit being stubborn. This town elected and trusted you to work with our school administrators to present a budget that would continue to lay down tracks for building and maintaining a 21st

century education system. Please reconsider your prior votes and support the budget our Newington BOE has recommended for 2016-2017. The multi-year plans Dr. Collins and the BoE have laid out have been, are, and should continue to be successful. We have made huge strides in science, technology, engineering, math, humanities, arts, music, and sports. Our job is to develop this next generation of students with relevant job skills and the opportunity to do great things in the future.

If you don't change your vote, there will be severe consequences to our educational system. It is not too late. Many people, including myself, are extremely unhappy with your approach to this matter so far. However, you can change that perception. If you actually listen to the speakers and the letters and if you actually see the great things that are happening in our schools, you will see that the 2.8% is a fair compromise and allow us to continue what the BoE has started years ago. We voted you in to work together so we don't have to worry about the quality of education for our children.

Again, I implore you. Open your ears. Open your eyes. VOTE YES on the 2.8% increase for the BOE budget.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson
23 Welles Drive North
Newington CT 06111

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:36 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 2016 Town Council Budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sandy Nafis <snafis@fhiplan.com>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 7:20:55 PM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: **2016 Town Council Budget**

Please read into the record at April 5, 2016, Newington Town Council Meeting

Sandy Nafis
49 Whitewood Road
Newington, CT 06111

First, thank you for your willingness to serve our community. Having lived in your shoes, I fully comprehend the amount of time and energy that you and your families share with our residents and understand how difficult it can be.

Every one of you who is sitting there this evening campaigned to support an open government process and to listen. You also pledged to support Newington's children, our seniors, our parks, in essence your pledged to support those things that make Newington so "special", especially in today's world. And we truly are special – a great town with amazing services at a reasonable rate, something many often don't realize and some take for granted.

Our family is concerned, however, about the direction you appear to be heading with the current proposed budget and some of the actions that have occurred recently. We hope that you have taken the time to re-evaluate some of your earlier ideas. Cutting the education budget to zero is not responsible and also flies in the face of your promises. Our schools have been incredibly nimble and creative in responding to the many demands they have faced over the years, and they will not be able to sustain this cut; thus impacting innovation and quality for the children in Newington. Also, the decision to underfund the library by enough to cut Sunday hours is another backward step for Newington. We passed that initiative in 1997 to allow better access to this

incredible resource for all citizens, and I expect if you look hard enough you can figure out how to restore this cut.

The decisions made this evening will send a strong message to our community and region, future home buyers, etc., and it may be that Newington is no longer be where they want to live or come. We know that this is not the message you want to send, nor is it the one you pledged last fall. Instead, please work together to help each other and to keep our community strong. Please fund our education system and restore the 2.8% and provide the resources to allow our library to be accessible, our parks to be cared for, our infrastructure to be maintained and improved, and our town to continue to be the special place we all love.

Finally, please do not exclude children from participating in budget hearings in the future. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. Having personally worked so long to engage kids in government, this sent the wrong message. We need to encourage and not discourage them so that when they grow they will understand, participate, and hopefully lead.

Thank you to those of you who understand and support these important concerns and to all of you for your time and for listening.

Sandy Narfs

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:36 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Please support 2.8% increase

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amie Cucinella <amietich02@yahoo.com>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 9:30:25 PM EDT
To: <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Please support 2.8% increase

From: Amie Cucinella <amietich02@yahoo.com>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 12:24:19 AM EDT
To: dhaagel@newingtonct.gov
Subject: Please support 2.8% increase

Dear Town Council,

My name is Amie Cucinella, I'm a resident of Newington on Francis Drive. I've been a resident for 7 years. My husband is an 8th grade science teacher at Martin Kellogg. We have two young children. Our daughter will be entering kindergarten this fall at Elizabeth Green. I strongly urge you to reconsider the 2.8% budget increase for the board of education. I fear that if this increase is not met and you vote for a 0% increase we will lose a significant amount of good teachers. Not only could this greatly impact my family financially but it could also greatly impact our community. If you take the time to look up the research on student to teacher ratio and how it impacts student performance you will find that research shows that students are much more successful in a smaller class setting. I just read an article on the NEA's website stating "investing in kids and their achievement has long-term economic benefits for communities". If we lay teachers off it WILL impact our students performance and success. It WILL negatively impact our community. Our property values will go down. I can say from personal experience that people move to Newington because of the school district. We

can't afford to lose more teachers and maintain a good school district. I really hope you reconsider especially after seeing how many people are in support of the 2.8% increase. Your job is to represent what the majority of the community wants so please support that increase. After seeing how many people came to support that increase Thursday it's clear this is what the community wants. I also ask that you read this during public participation at the budget meeting April 5th. Thank you to those council members who support this increase.

Thank you,
Amie Cucinella

Sent from my iPhone

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:35 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: This year's Board of Education Budget

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathryn Carle <kathryn5699@gmail.com>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 9:39:17 PM EDT
To: "Anest, Carol" <canest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Fwd: This year's Board of Education Budget

Don't know why Gail didn't read my letter. Here it is. Maybe you can read it now if it's not too late.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Kathryn Carle <kathryn5699@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 2, 2016 at 5:01 PM
Subject: This year's Board of Education Budget
To: gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov

Dear Councillor Budrejko,

Please read the below email during the first Public Participation segment of the April 5, 2016 Town Council meeting. Thank you.

Good evening, Mayor and Town Council members,

My name is Kathryn Carle, 54 Cobblestone Court, Newington. I am concerned about my property value. When people are looking for a town in which to live, there are many considerations. They want an excellent educational system, activities for their children to do, and a safe environment. Newington currently is such a town.

However, your short-sightedness in not giving the Board of Education the compromised 2.8% budget increase proposed by the Democrats threatens to chip away at what makes Newington a desirable place to live. This will result in declining property values. Newington Public Schools has an excellent reputation for being innovative and a great value for the money. Even though I am a teacher at Wallace, I must admit I was skeptical about the academies at the middle schools, but now see how they, along with the 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative, are setting Newington above and beyond other school districts. That adds value to my property because it sets Newington apart in a positive and desirable way. Some people say that not funding the 2.8% for the Board of Education's budget is only for one year, but when taxpayers see the dedicated teachers working harder in order to make do with less money this year, they will continue to demand less money go to the Board's budget in future years. And that will continue to cause a downward trend in my, and everyone else's, property values. Please don't play politics with our property values; fund the compromised 2.8% Board of Education's budget for this fiscal year. Thank you.

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:35 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Revised - Please use this version.

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 8:40:24 AM EDT
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "imarocchini@newingtonct.gov" <imarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>, "izartarian@newingtonct.gov" <izartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "jzarartarian@newingtonct.gov" <jzarartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "gbutrck@newingtonct.gov" <gbutrck@newingtonct.gov>, "bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov" <bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov>, "imanke@newingtonct.gov" <imanke@newingtonct.gov>, "dhaeg@newingtonct.gov" <dhaeg@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Revised - Please use this version.
Reply-To: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>

Please use the updated email below. In my original email, I inadvertently left off the word "is" in the third paragraph.

Thanks. Have a great day!

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>
To: "canest@newingtonct.gov" <canest@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "imarocchini@newingtonct.gov" <imarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 10:24 PM
Subject: Board of Education Budget, April 5th meeting: Please read & include in meeting minutes

My name is Kathy Fleming. My husband, Brian Fleming and I live at 111 Nicholson Street. I would like for you to please read my remarks during your meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and record them in the meeting minutes.

Council Members: Carol Anest, Diana Cassasanta-Serra, Jim Marocchini, and Maureen Klett: Thank you for supporting the proposed 2.8% increase to the Board of Education's Budget. Beyond the specifics being considered here, your willingness to reach a reasonable compromise speaks volumes about your integrity and character. Mayor, Roy Zartarian, and Council Members: Gail Budrejko, Beth DeiBuono, Tim Manke, and David Nagel: Thank you, in advance, for working toward a compromise with the Board of Education on passing an appropriate budget increase. As a former Financial Underwriter at Aetna, I know, as I'm sure you know, that a 0% increase in the budget is actually a decrease after the impact of inflation. This is not appropriate. It shows an unwillingness on your behalf, to compromise or negotiate. It is an unacceptable allocation of taxpayer's money.

As was evident during last week's meeting, the majority of Newington residents in attendance favor the 2.8% increase. Although I work at John Paterson Elementary School, and my position could potentially be cut if a 0% increase is passed, it is not the loss of my job that concerns me. My concern is the negative impact that increased class size and decreased programming will have on my two children, a second-grader and kindergartener at John Paterson. In fact, I am not just concerned for my two children, but for all of the children throughout Newington's Public School system, and for the highly-qualified, dedicated, outstanding teachers that Newington may lose.

Through your action, please show the town of Newington that the public hearing wasn't just a legal requirement, but rather, an opportunity for the Town Council to really hear, understand, and listen to the voters. Although the 0% increase does have the support of some in the community, it certainly does not have the majority. Last week's public hearing was well attended. We did our job. We told you how we would like the budget to be structured. My question to you is, "Did you hear us?" Show us by your vote to support the 2.8% increase that, yes, indeed, you listened. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Brian Fleming

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:34 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Guildner, Alicia" <A.Guildner@npsct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 4:51:36 PM EDT
To: "caanest@newingtonct.gov" <caanest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Carol - I just wanted to take a moment of time to thank you so much for your support of the proposed budget increase of 2.8%. It was wonderful that I counted on you for your support as a parent all those years ago and I can still count on you putting education as a priority in Newington. It is through a combined effort with the citizens (such as yourself) of Newington and staff members of Newington Public Schools that we are able to send forward students who are prepared for our ever-changing society. Thank you again for your vote! Kindly read this email aloud during the Public Participation of the April 5th Town Council Meeting. Fondly,
Alicia Guildner (Home address: West Hartford, CT)

Alicia Guildner, Teacher Leader
Grade 2
Elizabeth Green School
30 Thomas Street
Newington, CT 06111

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:34 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keener, Lesley" <L.Keener@npsct.org>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 7:08:24 PM EDT
To: "canesi@newingtonct.gov" <canesi@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Carol,

Thank you for your support of the BOE budget!

Mrs. Lesley Keener
Grade 1 Teacher
Anna Reynolds School
860-521-7830 x 211

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Anest, Carol
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 6:32 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Board of Education Budget Meeting, Town Council Meeting

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McKenzie, Rachel" <RMcKenzie@usj.edu>
Date: April 1, 2016 at 6:43:18 PM EDT
To: "canesi@newingtonct.gov" <canesi@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "jmarocchini@newingtonct.gov" <jmarocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mkleit@newingtonct.gov" <mkleit@newingtonct.gov>, "izartarian@newingtonct.gov" <izartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "bdebuono@newingtonct.gov" <bdebuono@newingtonct.gov>, "gbudrick@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrick@newingtonct.gov>, "dangel@newingtonct.gov" <dangel@newingtonct.gov>, "mankie@newingtonct.gov" <mankie@newingtonct.gov>
Cc: "mckenzie@npsct.org" <mckenzie@npsct.org>
Subject: Board of Education Budget Meeting, Town Council Meeting

Rachel McKenzie

992 Maple Street

Rocky Hill, CT, 06067

Members of the Newington Town Council;

My name is Rachel McKenzie and I am a Special Education Tutor at John Wallace Middle School. Although I do not live in Newington, the education of the inspiring students I have gotten to know over the past school year is very important to me. Supporting the passionate staff that I have gotten to know is just as equally important to me as well.

1

Zartarian, Roy

From: Luiz, Kim <kluz@npsct.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Anest, Carol; Serra, Diana; Marocchini, James; Klett, Maureen; Zartarian, Roy; Budrejko, Gail; DeBuono, Beth; Manke, Tim; Nagel, David
Subject: Keep Newington Public Schools Strong

Categories: Budget

Dear Town Council members,

I request that my letter be read publicly at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

My name is Kimberly Luiz. I have lived with my husband, Gary, in this great town of Newington for over twenty-two years. We reside on Revere Drive. I am a teacher in our Newington Public School System. I am the mother of two daughters. Both of our children have attended Newington Public Schools from Pre-School through grade 12.

Our oldest daughter, Casey, is a sophomore in college at the University of Hartford performing at the top of her professional program. She is working toward earning a degree with dual certification in special education and elementary education. Our youngest daughter, Mackenzie, will graduate from Newington High School this June and will attend Springfield College where she will pursue her goal of earning a degree to become a Physical Education/Health and Wellness teacher and play soccer for their nationally ranked Women's Soccer Team. Both of our children are able to attend college because of the outstanding education the Newington Public School System has offered them. They are inspired to work hard, and were each able to achieve generous scholarships offers from colleges. Without the academic financial assistance the colleges offered our children, they would not be able to attend the schools of their choice. Both of our daughters will tell you that it would be their dream come true to come back after college and teach here in Newington. They have a deep appreciation for all that the town of Newington has provided to them.

Our children love their town just as much as their parents do. Gary and I, like all parents raising children attending schools in Newington, have had the good fortune of receiving the help of the teachers, administrators, Board of Education members and Town Council members in this town. Watching so many deeply devoted, caring individuals inspire and guide our children to discover their strengths and talents has been an incredible experience. Under our public school system's leadership, we have supported both of our daughters and been proud to see them excel throughout their school careers; each members of at least three National Honor

To those of you who have voted "yes" to the 2.8% Board of Education budget increase, I thank you.

To those of you still considering your vote, I urge you to vote "yes" in support of the full 2.8% increase in budget to keep the spirit and quality of a Newington education alive.

Sincerely,

Rachel McKenzie

I also ask that the contents of this email be read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Societies, each performing in the top 10% of their classes, each highly involved in athletics, both achieving Leadership Awards, both captains of their athletic teams, one achieving All-State Award recognition this year in soccer and both heavily involved in volunteering in and giving back to our community. My daughters have been inspired and fully prepared to enter college to pursue studies in any program they desire. The Newington Public School System helps children grow to become amazing young adults. The Newington Public School System helps foster greatness in each of our children and encourages them to realize and perform at their very best. Our school system provides our children with the best teachers and resources. Our teachers lead our children to accomplish themselves to be in positions where they have incredible choices. Our students are ready, confident and excited to apply themselves to very challenging programs where they continue their education. They flourish while they are here in our school system and they soar when they leave us. Many of them come back after successful college experiences where they were able to improve themselves even more, and then they give back to this town that they love and grew up in, only making our community even better.

I am proud to live in our town. I have always been proud to teach in Newington as well. Our school system has an excellent reputation. I have family members who teach in Wethersfield, West Hartford, and Cromwell. Each one would say that the Newington Public School System is the leader in the field of education. We are admired for our innovation, our creativity, our commitment to our school system and our children and most of all, the number of deeply caring individuals who are happy to work so hard to provide the quality programming and services to the members of our community. We cannot jeopardize the families in Newington by passing a budget with a 0% increase. I implore each of you to think about the very serious consequences our town will suffer should you not fully support the 2.8% increase. You are our leaders. We need each of you to make the right decision for our town, which is to vote for the full 2.8% increase to the Board of Education's budget.

Thank you all so very much for the hard work you are doing to understand how important it is that the full 2.8% increase is passed. Thank you all so much for your dedication and devotion to our town of Newington and all of the citizens that reside here with us. As teachers, we work so hard to take the very best care of our students. As council members, we are depending on each of you to ensure that we are able to keep Newington Public Schools strong. Working together, we will continue to develop amazing young people who continue to accomplish great things.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Luiz
Elementary Explore Teacher
Newington Public Schools
kluz@npsect.org

Zartarian, Roy

From: Jennifer Ortiz <jenniferortiz324@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 11:03 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy
Subject: 2.8 percent increase for education

Categories: Budget

Mayor Zartarian, please rethink your decision, for the future success of our children and our town. Newington public schools need the full 2.8%

Concerned Parent,
Mrs. Jennifer Ortiz

Concerned mother
Jennifer Ortiz
Sent from my iPhone

Zartarian, Roy

From: Verrone-Buccilli, Amy <averrone-buccilli@npsct.org>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy; Budrejko, Gail; DelBuono, Beth; Manke, Tim; Nagel, David
Subject: 2.8% Increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Budget

Dear Town Council Members,
My name is Amy Verrone-Buccilli, and I am a resident of West Hartford. I have had the privilege of teaching in Newington for 11 years at both Newington HS and currently Miarin Kellogg Middle School. I am writing to reiterate how imperative it is that the Board of Education receives the entire 2.8% increase. Without these funds, the district will lose valuable programs and services that are critical to our students' success. I believe very strongly that the schools should be the cornerstone of the community. Supporting the children is an investment in the future; one that will yield great gains for the town as a whole.

I implore you to reconsider your stance for the sake of our students.

Thank you for your time. Please read my email aloud during the meeting on April 5th.

Respectfully Yours,

Amy B. Verrone-Buccilli
26 Chestnut Hill Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

Zartarian, Roy

From: Rosemary Walcott <rpwalcott@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy
Subject: BOE Budget input

Categories: Budget

Hello, Mr. Zartarian. I understand from your office staff that I will not be allowed to speak at tonight's town meeting since I am no longer a resident of Newington or a taxpayer, but I would very much like to express my view regarding the possibility of cuts to the gifted programs in the Newington Schools. My daughter, Bethany Michaud, of 50 Cheney Lane, is a taxpayer and resident, as is her husband, Michael Michaud, but neither of them will be able to attend the meeting due to work commitments, so I will speak for all three of us.

I grew up in town on Hall Court, graduated from NHS in 1965, did my student teaching at the high school as a senior at Saint Joseph College, and, after grad school, was hired for my first job as an English teacher at Newington High. My husband, also a Newington native, and I moved to Granby in the mid-70s, when I was teaching at Simsbury High, and I finished my career at Granby Memorial High, retiring several years ago to take care of my Newington grandchildren two or more days a week.

Our Madeline is a Ruth Chaffee School third grader and January Student of the Month Award recipient (featured in an article in the local newspaper that month) and our Benjamin is a first grader. I volunteer in their classes every Thursday, working one-on-one with students on their writing skills, as I did in Madeline's second grade class for much of the previous year. It is a pleasure to engage with the children and their teachers each week. I am continually amazed by the broad range of abilities that exists within each class.

The importance of the Explore Program for those who are the highest-performing students and have been identified as gifted and talented (such as Madeline) cannot be overemphasized. The Explore class meets only once a week for an hour, but it provides the students with the opportunity to explore topics not covered in the curriculum (physics principles, architecture, and environmental science, to name some recent ones that the kids were very excited about) and to develop their critical thinking skills. The students in this group are driven to expand upon their Explore activities as they relate to other subject areas. In addition, they are highly motivated to work on their Explore projects during class time when they have completed their regular education work, further extending the differentiation that is so critical in today's classrooms.

Stimulating these high-performing students, keeping them engaged when they have long since mastered grade-level goals, and providing them with a rigorous program geared to their abilities are essential pathways to their success in middle school and high school. As a veteran English teacher of grades 9-12, I can attest to the importance of enrichment at the elementary school level.

Thank you for your time, and please share my thoughts with your colleagues.

Sent from my iPhone

Zartarian, Roy

From: Jen Win- and Mike Johnson <win-johnson@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 5:31 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy; Arnest, Carol; Budrejko, Gail; Serra, Diana; DelBuono, Beth; Kiert, Maurer; Manke, Tim; Marocchini, James; Nagel, David
Subject: VOTE YES 2.8%

Please read the following statement on behalf of all the people who signed this during tonight's public participation council meeting. Thank you!

Newington Town Council Members

We elected and trusted 9 BOE volunteers to work with our school administrators to present a budget that would continue to lay down tracks for building and maintaining a 21st century education system. We are imploring you to support the budget our Newington BOE has recommended for 2016-2017. Our focus on science, technology, engineering, and math will position the next generation of taxpayers to be in high demand in the job market and provide a greater chance to withstand economic downturns. Our school system also recognizes the importance of teaching humanities, arts, and music. These subject matters teach compassion, foster high emotional IQ, and enable us to be well-rounded human beings. We need to continue to expand our Biomedical and Aerospace academy model into our high school. Our job is to teach the next generation relevant job skills. If we don't continue to make adjustments to the way we educate our future workforce, these kids will not be in a good position to support our future tax base on a local and national level. We can't keep producing DVD players when the world is moving to live streaming. Look what happened to Block Buster when they couldn't keep up with market changes. This is a rapidly changing world and we need provide the skills sets for our next generation to adapt. A strong school system and a safe community are the driving forces behind a healthy housing market. A strong housing market is good for everyone in the community. Let's work together to keep our community strong and healthy. Let's put in the maintenance to stay in shape. We voted you in to work together so we don't have to worry about the quality of education for our children. Let's VOTE YES on the 2.8% increase for the BOE budget so we can at least maintain what we have so no program & no staff member will need to be cut.

Sincerely,

Mary Niro
148 Eagle Dr
Newington CT 06111

Joanne Sullivan
11 Hall St
Newington CT 06111

✓ Amy Alexander
16 Brentwood Rd
Newington CT 06111

Christine Boghosian
40 Ridge View Crossing
Newington CT 06111

Elise Batista
180 Hillcrest Ave
Newington CT 06111

Stephanie Shaw
95 Audobon Ave
Newington CT 06111

Michelle and Chris Jackson
196 Reservoir Rd
Newington CT 06111

Joanne Errea
7 Edward Street
Newington CT 06111

Christine Shooshan
60 Clifford St
Newington CT 06111

Cyndi Callahan
25 Deer Path
Newington CT 06111

Carlos Tirado
Sylvia Pagan
33 Sunrise Circle
Newington CT 06111

Jodi Mangame
50 Latam Hill
Newington CT 06111

Deirdre Miller
Elissha Miller
239 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Cindy Barron
190 Kimberly Rd
Newington CT 06111

Carol Pakutka
210 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Cathy Dionne
219 Meadow St
Newington CT 06111

Wanda Guadarrama
40 New Britain Ave
Newington CT 06111

Andrea Sitz
Carlos Ramos
245 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

AnnMarie Stolfi
Dave Stolfi
62 Rosewood Dr
Newington CT 06111

Mary Houle

Sally Doyle
34 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

253 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Michele Soler
38 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Lynn Aldrich
88 Welles Dr
Newington CT 06111

Ans Armour
21 Old Hatchery Lane
Newington CT 06111

Jennifer Win-Johnson
Mike Johnson
23 Welles Dr North
Newington CT 06111

Colleen Corriveau
303 Walsh Ave
Newington CT 06111

Karen Falvey
103 Barkledge Dr
Newington CT 06111

Tammy Maslauskas
Mike Maslauskas
192 Dix Ave
Newington CT 06111

Colleen Cultrera
Steve Cultrera
38 Carriage Hill Dr
Newington CT 06111

Michelle Gronbeck
91 Howard St
Newington CT 06111

Viola Chrostowski
10 Cinnamon Rd
Newington CT 06111

Kelley Piechowicz
62 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Beth Farragher
44 Lantern Hill
Newington CT 06111

Kerry Caetano
20 Great Oak Lane
Newington CT 06111

April 5, 2016
 To: The Honorable Roy Zarrarian
 and Town Council Members

For reading at the 4/5/16 Town Council Meeting

I am writing in support of the silent senior citizen voices of 10,039 of your mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts living in Newington who are over 55 years of age and 3212 of those who are over 65 years. According to the 2013 statistics from the American Community Survey – of the 30,000 people living in Newington, 18% - 5400 were 65 and older and 13% - 4800 were school age. 32% of seniors are below the United Way's A.L.I.C.E. Report asset limit (see attached).

We are accustomed to having people tell us what to do and what we have to pay. So we get by and we pay it. It is hard, but we have pride. We are the people who don't get raises and we are the ones living on a fixed income. Those of us who only have Social Security as their only income cannot afford to go to Washington D.C. and request that we get more money in our Social Security check. We are given what they give us and then, even when we get a tiny raise, more of our money is taken away and we have to pay more for our Medicare benefit. We can tell our government that our medications cost more and we don't have the money to pay for them and need a raise, but we don't get a raise.

As of the census of 2010, there were 4902 school age children counted in the town of Newington. The student enrollment for 2016-17 is 3989 students. That is 913 less students than the statistics of 2013.

At the Public Budget Hearing, a Newington Teacher mentioned that an increase to the school budget would only be \$100. more per taxpayer per year. If a teacher is making \$60,000. A year, that would not be as much of a hardship as those of us getting \$6,000 year from Social Security.

The Board of Education sent out a 2 page letter in color to Parents, Staff and Members of the Community to come to the March 31, 2016 meeting about the public hearing. How much did that cost the taxpayers? I did not receive one of these letters – I am a taxpayer. Did the 5400 seniors receive this letter? Not every senior over 65 drives at night or has a ride to go an evening meeting.

How many of those working in the school system have gone to the Newington Human Services Food Bank and talked to the senior citizens who have put their pride aside in order to have food on the table or signed up for the federally funded community meals at the Senior and Disabled Center so they would have food for that day. One man said, "I didn't come here for a hot meal, I wouldn't have any meal at all." This is Newington - NOT the inner city.

The Educational system has a budget last year for 69,840,928 million and this year, they want an increase of \$1,200,000. I hope you don't approve this increase in this difficult economy – we do not need an increase in our taxes

Sincerely,

Jerilyn Knappie Nagel
 Jerilyn Knappie Nagel

1175 Willard Ave., Newington, CT 06111

46 year resident

Member of the Commission on Aging & Disability

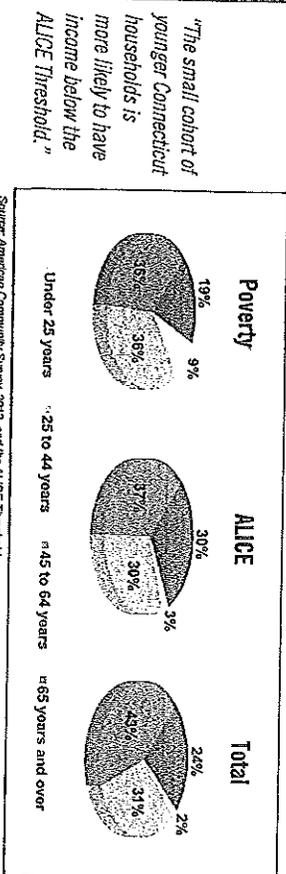
Attachment: United Way A.L.I.C.E. Report, pages 13,14,16,93

Age

There are ALICE households in every age bracket in Connecticut. The number of ALICE households and households in poverty generally reflect their proportion of the overall population, with the youngest households slightly overrepresented and the oldest underrepresented (Figure 4). Of Connecticut's 1.36 million households:

- Those headed by someone under the age of 25 account for 2 percent of all households, 9 percent of households in poverty, and 3 percent of ALICE households
- Those headed by a 25- to 44-year-old represent 31 percent of all households, 36 percent of households in poverty, and 30 percent of ALICE households
- Those headed by a 45- to 64-year-old represent 43 percent of the total, 36 percent of households in poverty, and 37 percent of ALICE households
- Those headed by someone 65 or older represent 24 percent of the total, 19 percent of households in poverty, and 30 percent of ALICE households

Figure 4.
 Household Income by Age, Connecticut, 2012



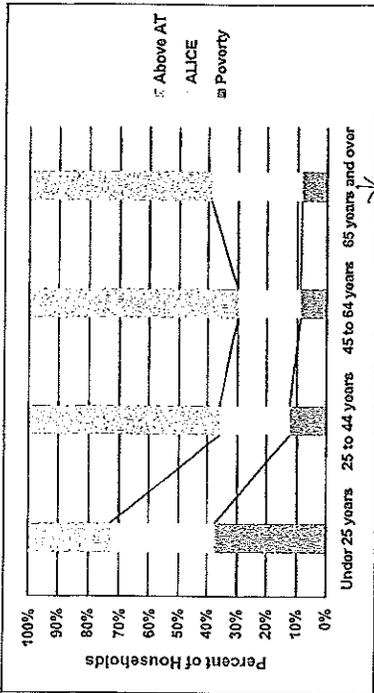
When looking at income levels within each age group, younger Connecticut households is more likely to have income below the ALICE Threshold (Figure 5):

- For households headed by someone under the age of 25, 38 percent are in poverty and another 35 percent are ALICE households
- For households headed by a 25- to 44-year-old, 12 percent are in poverty and another 24 percent are ALICE households

While older households are less likely to be in poverty, they are just as likely to be ALICE (Figure 5):

- For households headed by a 45- to 64-year-old, 9 percent are in poverty and another 21 percent are ALICE households
- For households headed by someone 65 years or older, 8 percent are in poverty and another 31 percent are ALICE households

Figure 5.
Age by Household Income, Connecticut, 2012



Source: American Community Survey, 2012, and the ALICE Threshold

ALICE households in Connecticut face specific challenges depending on age. Many senior households continue to work, some by choice and others because of low income. In Connecticut's 65- to 69-year-old age group, 39 percent are in the labor force, as are 21 percent of Connecticut residents aged 70-74, and 7 percent of those 75 years and over. These rates are among the highest in the country (American Community Survey, 2012).

The comparatively low rate of senior households in poverty (8 percent) provides evidence that government benefits, including Social Security, are effective at reducing poverty among seniors (Haskins, 2011). But the fact that 31 percent of senior households qualify as ALICE highlights the reality that these same benefits often do not enable financial stability. This is especially true in Connecticut, where the cost of living is high.

Earning enough income to reach the ALICE Threshold is especially challenging for young households in Connecticut. As a result, households in this already small age bracket decreased by 17 percent from 2007 to 2012. Two main factors drove that decrease: some young workers moved in with their parents to save money, and others left Connecticut to look for other opportunities (Vespa, Lewis and Kreider, 2013; Joseph and Rodriguez, 2013; American Community Survey, 2012).

Race/Ethnicity

While differences in race/ethnicity are often highlighted between households in poverty and the total population, less is known about those who are struggling to afford the basics but earn more than the FPL. In fact, the race/ethnicity of ALICE households fairly closely mirrors that of the Connecticut population as a whole (Figure 6).

Eighty-two percent of Connecticut's 1.35 million households are headed by someone who is White (U.S. Census classification), as are 74 percent of ALICE households. In fact, White households remain the majority in all income categories, while the distribution is mixed for minority households. Because race and ethnicity are overlapping categories, Connecticut residents of any race can also be ethnically Hispanic.

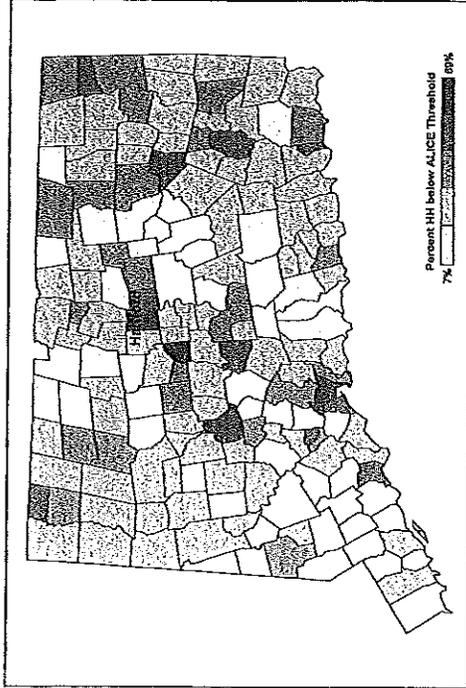
"Many senior households continue to work, some by choice and others because of low income."

The Asian share of Connecticut's population doubled from 1.5 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 2012 (American Community Survey, 2012; Immigration Policy Center, 2014).

Geography

ALICE and poverty households represent more than 7 percent of the population in each of the 169 municipalities reporting households with income in Connecticut. The wide distribution of ALICE and poverty-level households is clear from the municipal map of Connecticut, presented in Figure 7. Municipalities with more than 50 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold are shaded darkest blue; those with less than 10 percent are shaded lightest blue. Because some areas have small populations, the American Community Survey estimates of household income for those areas are often based on 3- and 5-year averages.

Figure 7.
Percent of Households below the ALICE Threshold by Municipality, Connecticut, 2012



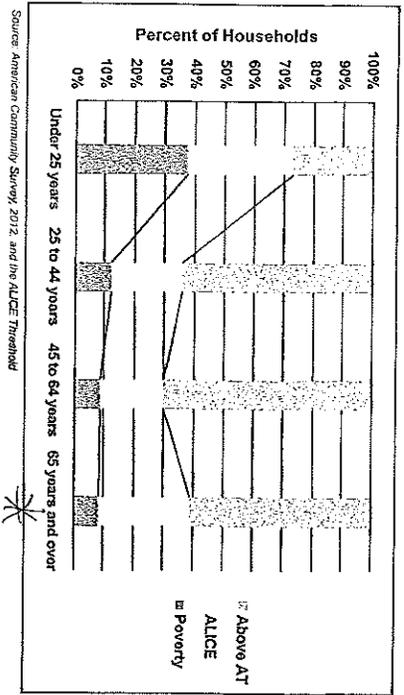
Source: American Community Survey, 2012, and the ALICE Threshold

"More than two-thirds of Connecticut's municipalities have more than 20 percent of households living on an income below the ALICE Threshold."

More than two-thirds of Connecticut's municipalities have more than 20 percent of households living on an income below the ALICE Threshold. A further breakdown shows that

- 30 percent (51 towns) have 5 to 19 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 41 percent (70 towns) have 20 to 29 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 18 percent (30 towns) have 30 to 39 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 5 percent (9 towns) have 40 to 49 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 5 percent (9 towns) have more than 50 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold

Figure 5.
Age by Household Income, Connecticut, 2012



Source: American Community Survey, 2012, and the ALICE Threshold

ALICE households in Connecticut face specific challenges depending on age. Many senior households continue to work, some by choice and others because of low income. In Connecticut's 65- to 69-year-old age group, 39 percent are in the labor force, as are 21 percent of Connecticut residents aged 70-74, and 7 percent of those 75 years and over. These rates are among the highest in the country (American Community Survey, 2012).

The comparatively low rate of senior households in poverty (8 percent) provides evidence that government benefits, including Social Security, are effective at reducing poverty among seniors (Haskins, 2011). But the fact that 31 percent of senior households qualify as ALICE highlights the reality that these same benefits often do not enable financial stability. This is especially true in Connecticut, where the cost of living is high.

Earning enough income to reach the ALICE Threshold is especially challenging for young households in Connecticut. As a result, households in this already small age bracket decreased by 17 percent from 2007 to 2012. Two main factors drove that decrease: some young workers moved in with their parents to save money, and others left Connecticut to look for other opportunities (Veaspa, Lewis and Kleider, 2013; Joseph and Rodriguez, 2013; American Community Survey, 2012).

Race/Ethnicity

While differences in race/ethnicity are often highlighted between households in poverty and the total population, less is known about those who are struggling to afford the basics but earn more than the FPL. In fact, the race/ethnicity of ALICE households fairly closely mirrors that of the Connecticut population as a whole (Figure 6).

Eighty-two percent of Connecticut's 1.36 million households are headed by someone who is White (U.S. Census classification), as are 74 percent of ALICE households. In fact, White households remain the majority in all income categories, while the distribution is mixed for minority households. Because race and ethnicity are overlapping categories, Connecticut residents of any race can also be ethnically Hispanic.

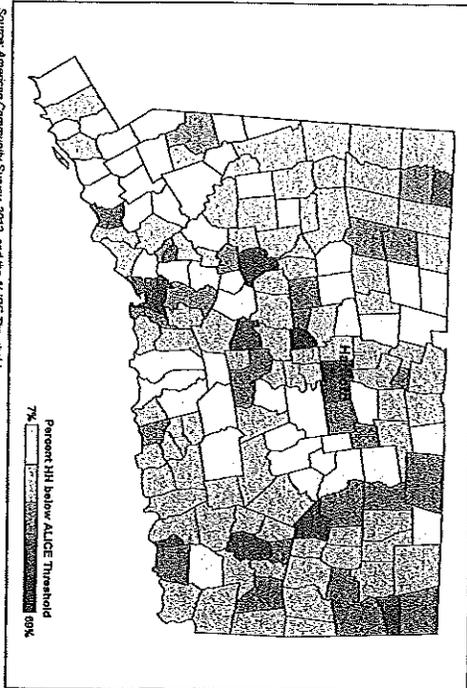
"Many senior households continue to work, some by choice and others because of low income."

The Asian share of Connecticut's population doubled from 1.5 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 2012 (American Community Survey, 2012; Immigration Policy Center, 2014).

Geography

ALICE and poverty households represent more than 7 percent of the population in each of the 169 municipalities reporting households with income in Connecticut. The wide distribution of ALICE and poverty-level households is clear from the municipal map of Connecticut, presented in Figure 7. Municipalities with more than 50 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold are shaded darkest blue; those with less than 10 percent are shaded lightest blue. Because some areas have small populations, the American Community Survey estimates of household income for those areas are often based on 3- and 5-year averages.

Figure 7.
Percent of Households below the ALICE Threshold by Municipality, Connecticut, 2012



Source: American Community Survey, 2012, and the ALICE Threshold

More than two-thirds of Connecticut's municipalities have more than 20 percent of households living on an income below the ALICE Threshold. A further breakdown shows that

- 30 percent (51 towns) have 5 to 19 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 41 percent (70 towns) have 20 to 29 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 18 percent (30 towns) have 30 to 39 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 5 percent (9 towns) have 40 to 49 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold
- 5 percent (9 towns) have more than 50 percent of households below the ALICE Threshold

"More than two-thirds of Connecticut's municipalities have more than 20 percent of households living on an income below the ALICE Threshold."

Zartarian, Roy

From: Klatt, Christopher <CKlatt@npsct.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 4:47 PM
To: Anest, Carol; Serra, Diana; Marocchini, James; Klett, Maureen; Zartarian, Roy; Budrejko, Gail; DeBuono, Beth; Manke, Tim; Nagel, David
Subject: April 5th Town Council Meeting

Members of the Town Council:

My name is Chris Klatt and I live at 11 Judge Lane. As both a teacher in Newington and as a parent of a child poised to start kindergarten in the fall, I would like to express my opinion concerning the Board of Education budget. I believe that it is in the best interest of the entire community to fund the Board of Education budget in the full amount of 2.8%. My family moved to Newington two years ago in large part because I believed that my daughter would receive a high quality education here. I would like to believe that the members of the Town Council will allow the Board of Education the opportunity to continue to offer a quality education to all students in Newington for years to come. And I believe that a decision to fund the Board of Education budget in the amount of 2.8% is the right way to do that.

Thank you,
Chris Klatt

(Please read this email aloud during public participation at tonight's Town Council Meeting.)

1

Zartarian, Roy

From: Jaimie Lindenmuth <jaimielindenmuth@att.net>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 8:58 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy
Subject: Budget Meeting

Categories: Budget

Good evening,

I am writing to IMPLY you to offer your support of the 2.8% increase in the Board of Education budget.

It is absolutely the best investment we can make, to give the next generation the tools they need to be successful.

Voting NO will mean drastic cuts that will make an enormous negative impact on our students.

Voting YES means you have heard your constituents and have prioritized Newington's children as a worthy investment.

Respectfully,
Jaimie Lindenmuth, NPS Educator
15 Bradley St
Plainville, CT 06062

1

Zartarian, Roy

From: Crean, Virginia <VCrean@npsect.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 8:32 AM
To: Zartarian, Roy; Budrefko, Gail; DeBuono, Beth; Manke, Tim; Nagel, David
Subject: Please reconsider your original vote on the budget--Please read aloud at meeting.
Categories: Budget

To All Who Are Not in Favor of the Budget Increase,

My name is Ginnie Crean from Marlborough, CT, and I have taught at MKMS for the past eighteen years. First, thank you all for your service to the town of Newington. That said, those of us in the classroom know the needs of our students/schools the best. By not supporting the budget increase, our students' most valuable resource, their teachers, will be eliminated. Please reconsider your vote and provide our kids with the tools they need to succeed and thrive in school and beyond.

Respectfully,

Ginnie Crean
Grade 7 ELA/SS Teacher
MKMS

1

Zartarian, Roy

From: Flint, Catherine <Cflint@npsect.org>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2016 10:58 PM
To: Zartarian, Roy
Subject: 2.8% increase
Categories: Budget

My name is Catherine Flint and I live at 20 Willson Avenue. Please read this email aloud during public participation portion of the Town Council meeting on April 5th, 2016. I am disappointed that you do not feel our school system is worth the 2.8% increase that is necessary to preserve jobs and furthermore, the well-being of our Newington students. It takes a village to raise a child and the cuts made by continuing with a 0% increase will eliminate so many important parts of our student's village. As a lifelong resident, kindergarten teacher at John Paterson and parent of 2 children at Anna Reynolds, I would like to urge all Council members to support the 2.8% increase and continue to make our town a place that young families seek out to raise their families due to our outstanding school system! Sincerely,

Catherine Flint
Kindergarten
John Paterson School
(860) 666-4657 ext. 235

Catherine Flint
Kindergarten
John Paterson School
(860) 666-4657 ext. 235

1

Please read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting

Meeting

Palmero, David [d.palmero@npsect.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 6:59 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth

Dear Town Council member DelBuono,

My name is David Palmero and I live at 86 Ferraro Drive in Bristol, CT. I am currently a Learning Tutor at John Wallace Middle School and I was a chemistry long-term substitute at the high school for the first half of the school year.

Last year there was a 0% increase in the budget voted on by the Bristol Board of Education. I believe the Republican chairman and other Republican members thought they were acting on the wishes of their constituents. However, some of the attempted cost saving measures did not sit well with the community. As a result, the Republican chairman and several other Republican committee members were voted off the board last November.

Last week I attended the Public Hearing at the high school and listened as your constituents spoke in support of a board of education budget increase by a ratio of at least 3-1. But it appeared to fall on deaf ears. All I ask is that you listen to your constituents and support the full 2.8% Board of Education increase.

Please read this email aloud during the Public Participation portion of the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Sincerely,
David Palmero

Zartarian, Roy

From: Mihalakos, Elizabeth <emihalakos@npsect.org>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Zartarian, Roy; gbudarejiko@newingtonct.gov; DelBuono, Beth; Manke, Tim; Nagel, David
Subject: PLEASE VOTE YES!

Categories: Budget

Good morning-

I would like this email read aloud at the Town Council meeting on April 5th.

As a Newington teacher, I am proud to share with anyone who will listen what our school system provides. With our ever changing world, a constant in this town has been strong schools. Although it can be a busy job, it is so worthwhile when you see students succeeding, experimenting, learning, enjoying, and growing. This would not be possible without strong teachers and a supportive town. As a potential home buyer in Newington, it saddens me that there may be cuts to staff and programs. These are the exact reasons I was pushing my fiance to look in Newington. The staff in every school, the support staff which provide such essential assistance, and the programs that allow ALL students to find something they love and enjoy - those are what this town offers and those are why people move here.

Please change your vote to yes and vote for the 2.8% increase- I know first hand how talented the staff is and how special our students feel because of the staff in this town. Our students deserve nothing but the best - they are our future.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Mihalakos
JWMS - Grade 6 ELA

April 15, 2016

To: Bob Meyer and Tom Barnett -

I was at the meeting Thurs. and walked out after a few young speakers had their say. And being surrounded by teachers -

509 (12) No one seemed concerned about deficit becoming larger but only about not cutting what they wanted. Families would leave them looking for better education elsewhere.)

They would leave ~~the~~ because of high taxes too!

Beloved this powerful Union would consider giving up a percentage of our high skilled teachers as the taxes could stay the same ~~for~~ ^{or} ~~reason~~ ^{to} ~~lower~~ ^{lower} taxes.

I walked out forcibly also because - you have a great responsibility in school, it cuts need to be done, you are everyone's boss! ^{Thank you!} ^{Bob Parnish, 1/17/16}

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Serra, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:52 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Revised - Please use this version.

4.5.16

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 8:40:24 AM EDT
To: "canses@newingtonct.gov" <canses@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>, "zartarian@newingtonct.gov" <zartarian@newingtonct.gov>, "gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>, "delbuono@newingtonct.gov" <delbuono@newingtonct.gov>, "tmake@newingtonct.gov" <tmake@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Revised - Please use this version.
Reply-To: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>

Please use the updated email below. In my original email, I inadvertently left off the word "is" in the third paragraph.

Thanks. Have a great day!

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Kathleen Fleming <flemingkathleen@sbcglobal.net>
To: "canses@newingtonct.gov" <canses@newingtonct.gov>, "dserra@newingtonct.gov" <dserra@newingtonct.gov>, "marocchini@newingtonct.gov" <marocchini@newingtonct.gov>, "mklett@newingtonct.gov" <mklett@newingtonct.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 10:24 PM
Subject: Board of Education Budget, April 5th meeting: Please read & include in meeting minutes

My name is Kathy Fleming. My husband, Brian Fleming and I live at 111 Nicholson Street. I would like for you to please read my remarks during your meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and record them in the meeting minutes.

Council Members: Carol Anest, Diana Cassasanta-Serra, Jim Marocchini, and Maureen Klett: Thank you for supporting the proposed 2.8% increase to the Board of Education's Budget. Beyond the specifics being considered here, your willingness to reach a reasonable compromise speaks volumes about your integrity and character. Mayor, Roy Zartarian, and Council Members: Gail Budrejko, Beth DelBuono, Tim Manke, and David Nagel: Thank you, in advance, for working toward a compromise with the Board of Education on passing an appropriate budget increase. As a former

Financial Underwriter at Aetna, I know, as I'm sure you know, that a 0% increase in the budget is actually a decrease after the impact of inflation. This is not appropriate. It shows an unwillingness on your behalf, to compromise or negotiate. It is an unacceptable allocation of taxpayer's money.

As was evident during last week's meeting, the majority of Newington residents in attendance favor the 2.8% increase. Although I work at John Paterson Elementary School, and my position could potentially be cut if a 0% increase is passed, it is not the loss of my job that concerns me. My concern is the negative impact that increased class size and decreased programming will have on my two children, a second-grader and kindergarten at John Paterson. In fact, I am not just concerned for my two children, but for all of the children throughout Newington's Public School system, and for the highly-qualified, dedicated, outstanding teachers that Newington may lose.

Through your action, please show the town of Newington that the public hearing wasn't just a legal requirement, but rather, an opportunity for the Town Council to really hear, understand, and listen to the voters. Although the 0% increase does have the support of some in the community, it certainly does not have the majority. Last week's public hearing was well attended. We did our job. We told you how we would like the budget to be structured. My question to you is, "Did you hear us?" Show us by your vote to support the 2.8% increase that, yes, indeed, you listened. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Brian Fleming

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Serra, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:51 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: School Budget

4.5.16

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Zartarian, Roy" <RZartarian@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 1:58:50 PM EDT
To: DL Town Council Staff <DLTownCouncilStaff@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: FW: School Budget

I am forwarding a resident's message about the budget.

Roy

Mayor Roy Zartarian
Town of Newington
131 Cedar Street
Newington, CT. 06111
860-665-8506

From: Howard Luxenberg [<mailto:hluxenberg@spynet.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 7:50 AM
To: Zartarian, Roy <RZartarian@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: School Budget

April 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Zartarian:

I'm writing to you about the school budget. As a senior soon to be on a fixed income, and with no children or grandchildren in the Newington schools, I should be a natural ally for your position to hold the line on the school budget. But I'm not, and it should interest you to know why.

Giving the schools what they need to maintain their current level of services – current programs, current class sizes – will cost us taxpayers an additional 3.5% or so. Not a huge amount, but not trivial either. But that 3.5% is insignificant compared to the equity I have in my home and that's what I'm worried about. If Newington gets a reputation for not caring about its schools – and make no mistake, that's exactly the reputation we'll get if you force the school to cut teachers or programs – my property value – and yours – will decline. Families with children will choose to live elsewhere, like Farmington, or West Hartford. What follows is the simple law of the market place: when you decrease demand (in this case for homes) prices fall.

It isn't a coincidence that the towns with the best schools have the highest real estate values, and towns with the worst schools have the lowest.

This is the point at which the "no tax increase" politicians usually start talking about waste, and how they're going to eliminate it. This sounds good, but we all know it's nonsense: all human enterprise entails some waste, including and especially private enterprise. I know - I used to run a business. I'm sure, on a proportional basis, your spouse can identify more waste in your home than you'll ever identify in the school system.

Nobody likes to have their taxes raised, and no politician wants to be tagged as "tax raiser." But your responsibility as a leader is to explain that some tax increases are investments to protect what your constituents already own. I pay far more than this tax increase to insure my home against the miniscule possibility of a fire; I'd gladly pay an additional 3.5% against the virtual certainty that my home's value will erode if the reputation of the town's schools declines.

Thirty five years ago, when we moved to Connecticut from California, we chose to pay a premium to live in West Hartford because of the reputation of its schools. And because West Hartford maintained the quality and the reputation of its schools, we enjoyed a significant appreciation in the value of our home, while incidentally, our kids got pretty good educations. So if you're looking for a place to cut, cut the Senior Center Budget. No one ever chose to live in a town because of the quality of its Senior Center.

There's no need to respond, but I would appreciate the courtesy of an acknowledgement that you received this.

Sincerely,
Howard Luxenberg
196 Barkledge Dr.
Newington, CT 06111

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Serra, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:50 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Support for BOE full 2.8% on April 5

Read: 4.5.16
Diana Serra

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Anest, Carol" <CAnest@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 2, 2016 at 8:12:14 AM EDT
To: "Balling, Marc" <MBalling@mpscet.org>
Cc: "Serra, Diana" <DSerra@NewingtonCT.Gov>, "imarochini@newingtonct.gov",
"marochini@newingtonct.gov", "Klett, Maureen" <MKlett@NewingtonCT.Gov>, "Zartarian,
Roy" <RZartarian@NewingtonCT.Gov>, "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>,
"DeIBuono, Beth" <BDeIBuono@NewingtonCT.Gov>, "Manke, Tim"
<TManke@NewingtonCT.Gov>, "Nagel, David" <dnagel@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: Re: Support for BOE full 2.8% on April 5

Mr. Balling,

Thank you for caring about our community.

In my opinion, teachers are the foundation of our community, who are role models for our students and provide them with the necessary skills and tools to excel.

Without the these, they will not be able to compete with others in the real world. We will have you letter and it will be read into the record at the meeting on Tuesday evening.

Carol

Carol A. Anest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

On Apr 2, 2016, at 6:39 AM, Balling, Marc <MBalling@mpscet.org> wrote:

Dear Newington Town Council members,

Please read the following for the public record on April 5, 2016:

My name is Marc Balling, and I've worked as a music teacher for students and parents of Newington at Ruth Chaffee School for nearly 20 years. My home address is 92 Croft Drive in Manchester. I would like to thank council members

Anest, Cassasanta-Serra, Marochini and Klett for their support for the BOE's 2.8% increase. I strongly urge mayor Zartanian and council members Budrejko, Delbuono, Manke and Nagel to reconsider their 0% increase, which is truly a large cut, and approve the BOE's FULL 2.8% increase. I state this with the best interests of those I serve in mind, the students and parents of Newington, CT.

Families choose Newington because of its high quality school system, and anything less than a 2.8% increase sends a negative message about the quality of the town and it's schools. Families have choices, and your schools need to be of high quality to attract families to move to Newington. I've considered moving my family with two young boys to Newington, but at 0% I would not, especially with class sizes at 23 in first grade. Schools keep residents in Newington long-term, and creates and sustains a tax base long term as well. Schools are your best and wisest investment. For the sake of your town, please make the wise choice of supporting the BOE's FULL 2.8% increase. Thank you for reading my letter into the public record.

Sincerely,
Marc Balling

Sent from my iPad

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Serra, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:49 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: April 5th Town Council Meeting

Read 4.5.16

Diana Serra

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: KATHERINE LESLIE <katherine.leslie@snet.net>

Date: April 5, 2016 at 5:15:01 PM EDT

To: <earnest@newingtonct.gov>, <serra@newingtonct.gov>, <imarochini@newingtonct.gov>, <nklett@newingtonct.gov>

Subject: April 5th Town Council Meeting

Reply-To: KATHERINE LESLIE <katherine.leslie@snet.net>

Katherine Leslie
8 Michele Dr.
Portland CT 06480

Dear Council Members,

I work in one of the schools and I'd like to thank you for supporting the 2.8% increase. I believe that it is imperative that the Board of Education get the entire proposed 2.8%. This would allow the system to continue to move forward in some way, I feel it is especially important to support student's emotional, physical and academic growth. As societal demands continue to increase, I think it's imperative to help students achieve their highest potential. If it is not too late, I would like this email to be read during Public Participation at the April 5th, Town Council Meeting. Thank you for your time.

Katherine Leslie
Wellness Educator MKMS

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Serra, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:48 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: This year's Board of Education Budget

Read 4.5.16

Diana Serra
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Arrest, Carol" <CArrest@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 9:40:02 PM EDT
To: "Serra, Diana" <DSerra@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: Fwd: This year's Board of Education Budget

Carol

Carol A. Arrest
Minority Leader
Newington Town Council

Please pardon the brevity and any typos.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathryn Carle <kathryn5699@gmail.com>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 9:39:17 PM EDT
To: "Arrest, Carol" <carrest@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Fwd: This year's Board of Education Budget

Dont know why Gail didnt read my letter. Here it is. Maybe you can read it now if it's not too late.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Kathryn Carle <kathryn5699@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 2, 2016 at 5:01 PM
Subject: This year's Board of Education Budget
To: jbudrejko@newingtonct.gov

Dear Councilor Budrejko,

1

Please read the below email during the first Public Participation segment of the April 5, 2016 Town Council meeting. Thank you.

Good evening, Mayor and Town Council members,

My name is Kathryn Carle, 54 Cobblestone Court, Newington. I am concerned about my property value. When people are looking for a town in which to live, there are many considerations. They want an excellent educational system, activities for their children to do, and a safe environment. Newington currently is such a town. However, your shortsightedness in not giving the Board of Education the compromised 2.8% budget increase proposed by the Democrats threatens to chip away at what makes Newington a desirable place to live. This will result in declining property values. Newington Public Schools has an excellent reputation for being innovative and a great value for the money. Even though I am a teacher at Wallace, I must admit I was skeptical about the academics at the middle schools, but now see how they, along with the 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative, are setting Newington above and beyond other school districts. That adds value to my property because it sets Newington apart in a positive and desirable way. Some people say that not funding the 2.8% for the Board of Education's budget is only for one year, but when taxpayers see the dedicated teachers working harder in order to make do with less money this year, they will continue to demand less money go to the Board's budget in future years. And that will continue to cause a downward trend in my, and every one else's, property values. Please don't play politics with our property values; fund the compromised 2.8% Board of Education's budget for this fiscal year. Thank you.

2

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Consider the Full 2.8%

From: Wilcock, Nancy [NWilcock@npsct.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 1:51 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: Consider the Full 2.8%

Beth,

This is Nancy Wilcock of 115 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

As a teacher at Anna Reynolds school, I am writing to you today to ask that you and the the town council of Newington consider that the 2.8% increase, that is asked for by the Board of Education, as vital to help maintain the quality of education that our students now have and deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please have this email read aloud during the "Public Participation" portion of the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Respectfully,

Nancy Wilcock
Special Education Teacher
Anna Reynolds School

115 Elm Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: 2.8% increase

From: Flint, Catherine [Cflint@npsct.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 11:16 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: 2.8% increase

My name is Catherine Flint and I live at 20 Wilson Avenue. Please read this email aloud during public participation portion of the Town Council meeting on April 5th, 2016.
I am disappointed that you do not feel our school system is worth the 2.8% increase that is necessary to preserve jobs and furthermore, the well-being of our Newington students. It takes a village to raise a child and the cuts made by continuing with a 0% increase will eliminate so many important parts of our student's village. As a lifelong resident, kindergarten teacher at John Paterson and parent of 2 children at Anna Reynolds, I would like to urge all Council members to support the 2.8% increase and continue to make our town a place that young families seek out to raise their families due to our outstanding school system!

Sincerely,

Catherine Flint
Kindergarten
John Paterson School
(860) 666-4657 ext. 235

1

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: DeBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Stacey Milchaud [smilchaud11@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 8:36 AM
To: DeBuono, Beth
Subject: Budget

Good morning,

My name is Stacey Milchaud and I live at 105 Stonehedge Drive. I am asking you to support the 2.8% increase to fund the board of education budget. We moved to Newington for the schools and want the quality to continue. Please read this at the meeting to be held on Tuesday.

Stacey

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: DeBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Town budget

From: Natalie Harbeson [natalie.harbeson@sbgglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 1:20 AM
To: DeBuono, Beth
Subject: Town budget

Dear Counselor DeBuono,

I spoke in favor of giving the BOE a 0% budget increase at one of the meetings but have since been listening and reading and have learned some things I didn't know before. I still feel it is very unfair for the BOE to receive such huge discrepancies compared to the town departments. It is my opinion that the BOE should receive no more than 50% of the entire budget and even that is unfair considering the schools serve such a small percentage of the total number of people living in town. However, that being said, it is my understanding that although the town departments were given 0% in past budgets their salaries were not affected by the 0%. If that is the case, I think that the BOE should receive most or all of the money that would cover salaries.

I also feel that the Superintendent and the BOE should make a commitment to be more honest and transparent in the way the BOE finances are handled. For years before Dr. Collins was superintendent, there has been the appearance that the school budget is a shell game. Buying the buses at the end of last year may not have been actual proof of a shell game but certainly gave a very strong appearance of one. It is time for their budget to be totally transparent to the citizens of Newington for the residents' sakes but also for the superintendent and members of the BOE. There should not be any appearance that unethical behavior (i.e. shell games) could be happening.

For many years I never questioned that the BOE's budget wasn't exactly as presented but as the town departments kept getting less and less of the total budget I have payed closer attention to the BOE's budget and can no longer trust that there are no 'shell games' going on. I think it is time for the BOE to tighten their belt, consider the community as a whole, and become more transparent but not at the expense of people's jobs. At least not this year. If their actions do not change and they continue to appear to cry wolf by threatening lay-offs as the only solution, I cannot promise I would not support a 0% increase next year. But this year, they should be given a chance to improve their handling of the budget.

Natalie Harbeson
319 Lloyd Street
Newington CT

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:07 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Budget Comments

From: Maureen Plourd [plourd.maureen@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 10:05 AM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: Budget Comments

Dear Mrs. DelBuono,

My name is Maureen Plourd and I am writing as an employee of the Newington Public Schools since 1986. I grew up in Newington, raised my children here, and resided in Newington for almost 50 years until recently and reluctantly moving from town. *I am requesting that this email be read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.*

First, I would like to thank you and the members of the town council for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Newington. Your work is important, the hours are long, and often, unrewarded. I attended the budget hearing last Thursday, but was not permitted to comment due to Mayor Zartarian's decision to interpret the Town charter differently than all of his predecessors. I believe this choice was unfortunate and indicative of a desire to thwart an open dialogue involving all stakeholders in this process. I am hopeful that the mayor, as well as the council will work across party lines, will truly listen to what the public and stakeholders are saying, and will work together for a compromise that ensures the excellence that we have worked so hard to build in Newington

Schools.
To this end, I am asking you to fund the Board of Education at the **FULL 2.8% increase**. I believe that this is the minimum amount necessary in order to preserve the quality of our educational system. I hope that you consider carefully and vote your conscience. If you do, I am confident you will support a **2.8% increase**.

Thank you,

Maureen Plourd
27 Sherburne Rd.
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Maureen Plourd
27 Sherburne Rd

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:06 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Town Council Meeting 4/5

From: Verch, Leanna [lverch@psct.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 5:46 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: Town Council Meeting 4/5

Dear Town Council Member DelBuono,

My name is Leanna Verch, and I am a 7th grade teacher at John Wallace Middle School. I would like for this email to be read aloud at the Town Council Meeting on April 5th.

During my past two years at Wallace, I have been a part of the close-knit community and the passion for education that fills every classroom. The current staff and class sizes promote the learning and growth of each individual child, as well as allow for a personal connection and rapport with each class. These strong connections between staff and students are the foundation of providing a quality education. By voting in favor of the full 2.8% budget increase, you will allow teachers to continue educating students to ensure they are college, career, and citizenship ready. Please choose to support not only our students' futures, but our teachers' potential to continue making a daily impact on these young lives.

Thank you,

*Leanna Verch
Grade 7 Language Arts
John Wallace Middle School*

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Plourd, Kenneth C. (Student) [kplourd@ny.ccsu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 10:10 AM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: Budget

Mrs. DelBuono,

My name is Ken Plourd and I have been a resident of Newington for many years. I am very disappointed with your decision to vote NO for the increase in the education budget. My wife and I do not have any children and even we can see the importance for increasing the budget. Educating children should be the priority of any Town Council member such as yourself. I beg you to rethink your position, please do the right thing and listen to the residents and vote YES.

Ken P.

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Consider the Full 2.8%

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Consider the Full 2.8%

From: Wilcock, Nancy [NWilcock@npsct.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 1:51 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Subject: Consider the Full 2.8%

Beth,

This is Nancy Wilcock of 115 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

As a teacher at Anna Reynolds school, I am writing to you today to ask that you and the the town council of Newington consider that the 2.8% increase, that is asked for by the Board of Education, as vital to help maintain the quality of education that our students now have and deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please have this email read aloud during the "Public Participation" portion of the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Respectfully,

Nancy Wilcock
Special Education Teacher
Anna Reynolds School

115 Elm Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Please read into the record of the Newington Town Council meeting of 4/5/16

John Bachand
56 Maple Hill ave

April 5., 2016

Greetings Mr. Mayor, Newington residents, and town council members, as a Newington resident, tax payer, voter, and business owner I would like to express my full support for the proposed budget, including the freeze (0% increase) of the Board of education budget. In the spirit of compromise, I would also support you on a very modest increase to the BOE. A 1 to 1.25% increase to the BOE might be fair compromise and worth raising the motion on. I sympathize with you over the heavy burden you are facing as you try to deliver on the campaign promise of fiscal responsibility, while at the same time insuring the high quality services we have become accustomed to here in Newington.

This council was elected by a resounding vote by many people who actually changed their party loyalty to make it happen; you now have a powerful mandate as a result. The majority of this town has put their trust in you to do whatever is necessary to better represent them and their concerns over unsustainable spending, with what appears to be little recognition of the economic malaise the state is gripped in.

I helped elect this majority, and will say again, I am putting my trust in you, and will back you 100% on whatever decision you arrive at. It is time to move on to the other challenges facing the town and put this budget behind us.

I urge all to support the Mayor and town council's leadership on this budget.

Thank you,

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DelBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: Budget Decision

Jeff Helming
Teacher Leader
Grade 2
Anna Reynolds

860-521-7830 Ext. 210

From: Helming, Jeff [JHelming@npsct.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 6:49 PM
To: DelBuono, Beth
Cc: Zartarian, Roy; Budrejko, Gail; Nagel, David; Manke, Tim
Subject: Budget Decision

Dear Beth DelBuono,

Please read this letter about during the Public Participation portion of the Town Council Meeting.

My name is Jeff Helming. I live at 1065 Burlington Avenue in Bristol. I have been a second grade teacher in Newington for 16 years and have been lucky to teach hundreds of students, including one of a current board member's children, during my career.

I am writing to encourage you to support of the 2.8% increase to the Board of Education budget. The increase is needed to keep Newington Public Schools a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. I was disappointed to hear that members of the board are supporting a 0% increase. This is detrimental to school system. Jobs will be lost while other positions will not be filled upon upcoming retirements. I teach in a classroom with 23 bright and creative students. This class size is already larger than many and I fear that class sizes will continue to grow. This will rob children of the individual time they need with their teacher that allows them to fully reach their potential.

Town council members, you are welcome to visit room 10 at Anna Reynolds to see what we, my students and I, do each day. Making a stand on a zero percent increase may seem like a good idea, but when you look into the faces of those it will affect, you will see that it is not worth it. Please give our school system the increase it needs to continue to be a trendsetter and to provide the best education possible.

Thank you,

Jeff Helming

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Beth DeBuono <slpbad@snet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fw: Letter for the record at tonight's TC meeting.

Beth A. DeBuono, M.A., CCC-SLP

On Tuesday, April 5, 2016 8:00 PM, Jennifer Spano <jenplazzaspano@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Councilor DeBuono:

Please read this into the record:

I am writing regarding the Board of Education budget and the hope that clearer minds will prevail. I'm hoping that instead of wallowing in the throes of despair, the Board of Education will instead rise to this opportunity to show our studentry that we can succeed despite adversity, excel despite deficiencies, and conquer perceived insurmountable hardships because we are better than any obstacle we face.

Last week, when I attended the budget hearing, I couldn't believe some of the weak-kneed BOE members and teachers who believed the world would end if they didn't get all they asked. Rather than vocalizing juvenile and defeatist attitudes, these speakers would have better served this community by stating that because this educational district is made up of extremely talented and capable people, we will not only survive, but thrive no matter what the budget is. At a minimum, it would've been nice to see some confidence portrayed by these educators to show our kids that wisdom and experience always supersedes money and privilege.

In any event, I hope when the Board of Education Budget is administering their funds, they remember to put the teachers' jobs and our children's futures before the material "things" they think they need.

Respectfully,

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:11 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Letter in Support of 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 6:43:15 PM EDT
To: "Cohen, Melissa" <mcohen@npsct.org>
Subject: Re: Letter in Support of 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 5, 2016, at 4:00 PM, Cohen, Melissa <mcohen@npsct.org> wrote:

Please see attached letter. Thank you.

Melissa Cohen

Grade 6 Social Studies

Tahn Wallace Middle School

<[Town Council April 2016.docx](#)>

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:11 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: budget

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 3:43:16 PM EDT
To: "Bell, Ken" <kbell@npsct.org>
Subject: Re: budget

On Apr 5, 2016, at 12:03 PM, Bell, Ken <kbell@npsct.org> wrote:

Hello members of the town council. I just wanted to express my concern about why you are not approving an increase in the budget for next year. As a parent of children of this wonderful and award winning school system, a teacher in town as well as a tax paying citizen, I am very worried about what a 0% increase will do to our educational system. You all know how important a school system is for a town. You all know what great schools we have here in Newington. You all know we have many teachers that volunteer above and beyond for our kids. I know some of you personally and know that you have had or currently have kids in the school system. I know one of you use the facilities on a regular basis to work with our kids. Why would you vote for a 0% Increase? Is there something you know that we don't? If so, please share.

I would hope this is not a personal vendetta against the superintendent. I would hope that you understand what could potentially happen if a 0% increase is approved. I urge you to reconsider. And if those of you that I know personally have something to share with me that might shed a little light on why you would support a 0% increase, please contact me. Our conversation will remain confident. I really would like to know. Thank you for reading my email.

Ken Bell
860-836-4907

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 3:32:29 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Ortiz <jenniferortiz324@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 4, 2016, at 11:07 PM, Jennifer Ortiz <jenniferortiz324@gmail.com> wrote:

Gail Budrejko,

Please rethink your decision, for the future success of our children and the town. Newington public schools need the full 2.8% increase.

Concerned Parent,
Mrs. Jennifer Ortiz

Sent from my iPhone

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:09 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Please reconsider your original vote on the budget.-Please read aloud at meeting.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 3:29:48 PM EDT
To: "Crean, Virginia" <VCrean@npsct.org>
Subject: Re: Please reconsider your original vote on the budget.-Please read aloud at meeting.

On Apr 5, 2016, at 8:31 AM, Crean, Virginia <VCrean@npsct.org> wrote:

To All Who Are Not in Favor of the Budget Increase,

My name is Ginnie Crean from Marlborough, CT, and I have taught at MKMS for the past eighteen years.

First, thank you all for your service to the town of Newington. That said, those of us in the classroom know the needs of our students/schools the best. By not supporting the budget increase, our students' most valuable resource, their teachers, will be eliminated. Please reconsider your vote and provide our kids with the tools they need to succeed and thrive in school and beyond.

Respectfully,

Ginnie Crean
Grade 7 ELA/SS Teacher
MKMS

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budjelko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:08 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 4/5/2016 Town Council Meeting BOE Budget Vote

Mary B. Udice

26 Dalewood Road
Newington, CT 06111

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budjelko, Gail" <GBudjelko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 5, 2016 at 3:27:36 PM EDT
To: "Udice, Mary" <MUdice@npsct.org>
Subject: Re: 4/5/2016 Town Council Meeting BOE Budget Vote

On Apr 5, 2016, at 9:42 AM, Udice, Mary <MUdice@npsct.org> wrote:

Dear Gail,

Please read my email at tonight's Town Council meeting. Thank You.

I have spoken at the last two special meetings regarding the Board of Education budget and am making one last appeal for the budget to be approved. As I walked around MKMS this morning it made me quite sad to see both the teachers and the students and realize the vote was this evening. It appears from last Thursday night's meeting that the majority of the public want the BOE approved budget yet the Republicans on the Town Council won't listen to their constituent's nor their Republican led Board of Education. All of you were elected as individuals and I can only hope you vote with your conscience this evening.

Sincerely,

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:07 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget Meeting

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Go>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 10:19:56 PM EDT
To: Jaime Lindenmuth <jaimielindenmuth@att.net>
Subject: Re: Budget Meeting

On Apr 4, 2016, at 9:01 PM, Jaime Lindenmuth <jaimielindenmuth@att.net> wrote:

Good evening,

I am writing to IMPLORE you to offer your support of the 2.8% increase in the Board of Education budget. It is absolutely the best investment we can make, to give the next generation the tools they need to be successful.

Voting NO will mean drastic cuts that will make an enormous negative impact on our students.
Voting YES means you have heard your constituents and have prioritized Newington's children as a worthy investment.

Respectfully,
Jaime Lindenmuth, NPS Educator
15 Bradley St
Plainville, CT 06062

1

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:07 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: BOE Budget

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Go>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 10:17:23 PM EDT
To: "Donahue, Catherine" <cadonahue@mpst.org>
Subject: Re: BOE

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 4, 2016, at 6:41 PM, Donahue, Catherine <cadonahue@mpst.org> wrote:
Dear Mayor Zartarian, Deputy Mayor Nagel and Town Council Members,

Please read this letter into the minutes at the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, 2016.

My name is Catherine (Kate) Donahue, and I am a proud NHS graduate ('84) and current town resident (212 Robin Brook Drive). My three siblings and I grew up in this town I love. All four of us had vastly different personalities and interests, yet we each found "our place" within the Newington Public School District and all it had to offer. Our experiences in Newington helped shape our lives today.

More recently, I had the unique pleasure of watching four of my nieces and nephews make their way through Newington Public Schools. They are as unique in learning styles, talents, and career paths as were the four Donahues who came before them. I watched them connect to teachers, expand their scholastic interests, and foster their talents. They stood out in academics, community service, musical talent, and/or athletics. One is a reading teacher here in CT; another is a graduate student at Louisiana State University working toward his PHD in Medical Physics. My two additional nephews are majoring in Urban Studies at UConn and Public Health at the University of Kentucky. I could not be prouder of who they have become or the successes they have attained.

I want every child who attends a Newington Public School to have the opportunities afforded to me and my siblings. I want each student to experience

1

a well-rounded education unique to his or her individual needs and talents like my niece and nephews did.

I am also privileged to be an 8th grade English Language Arts teacher right here in Newington at John Wallace Middle School. I have taught here for the last thirteen of my twenty-seven year career. One can't imagine the true joy of getting to give back to a community that gave me so much. I do not have children of my own, and I have lived in two other CT towns where I paid taxes yet had no children. I have always supported what the Board of Education in each town recommended as a budget increase because I truly believe our children are our town's greatest resource.

I implore you to vote for a 2.8% budget increase instead of a 0% increase. I don't want our students to miss out on the amazing hearts and talents belonging to the many Newington teachers who will lose their jobs due to a 0% increase. I have worked side-by-side with the majority of these strong, caring individuals. Our town's students would benefit from their knowledge, leadership, and unique abilities.

Please help Newington keep its tradition of excellence in education by voting for a 2.8% budget increase.

Respectfully,

Catherine Donahue

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:06 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Letter re: Tomorrow Night's Town Council Meeting

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 10:11:32 PM EDT
To: "Forrest C. Helvie" <forrest.helvie@att.net>
Subject: Re: Letter re: Tomorrow Night's Town Council Meeting

On Apr 4, 2016, at 2:51 PM, Forrest C. Helvie <forrest.helvie@att.net> wrote:

Dear Mayor Zartarian and Members of the Town Council,

I hope this email finds you well. In spite of my disagreement with the majority's opinion in the matter of the funding the BOE, I do appreciate the work you are doing as I'm sure it is incredibly time-consuming, stressful, and no doubt, keeps you away from your homes and families. I think everyone can respect that.

I emailed Councilor Delbuono on Friday thanking her for publicly expressing her openness to continued talks with members of the BOE during the Special Meeting held last Thursday, and it is my hope those discussions did continue over the weekend and into the start of this week. And as I related to Ms. Delbuono, I respect this is a difficult time. I am stuck with a home in Bristol where we originally lived up until Oct. 2014 that did not sell, in addition to my *home* here in Newington, so believe me: I know the stress of being fiscally responsible and living on a tight budget. If our renters leave or furnace goes, we're going to have to think quick. I'm also looking at pay freezes, furloughs and other "hits on the chin" as well being a ConnSCU faculty member, as is my wife who is a public school educator looking at potential pay freezes. There's a lot of juggling going on in my family with finances, and in spite of what was perceived as a flippant remark by some about forgoing a pizza night once a month to absorb a possible tax increase (I argue it was putting the proposed tax increase in real terms that people could visualize), my wife and I are only teachers - far from being so well off as to live without an eye towards what's at stake here in CT. But we deeply value education and are willing to take a tax increase for these purposes.

I think one of the things that is most discouraging – for me – right now is the perceived lack of collaboration. Transparency is absolutely important, but so isn't team work especially given the fiscal climate. As I mentioned to Ms. Delbuono in my email, I do not want to presume to know your job, the job of the BOE, or to even have an answer to this, but I do want to continue to strongly urge each of you to consider some level of openness to this situation. As I understand it – and I could be wrong – other departments are not being presented with a 0% increase to their funding (nor should they). Perhaps then there is some leeway to be found in concert with members of the BOE between now and tomorrow evening?

Again, my family and I are still relatively new to the area, so we don't really have any stakes in the "politics" of this situation. We just want to ensure all children in our district - not just our own – have the same opportunities that those who came before have had.

Thank you again for your time, and I hope that you are all able to work together to find some sort of agreeable solution to this impasse.

V/R,

Forrest C. Helvie, Ph.D.
282 Lamplighter Lane
Newington, CT 06111
860-948-9124
forrest.helvie@att.net

NOTE: You may include this in the official record. Thank you.

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:05 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Council Meeting 4.5

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 10:01:05 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@hotmail.com" <gbudrejko@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Council Meeting 4.5

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Feola, Amanda" <AFeola@msct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 2:39:12 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Council Meeting 4.5

Good Afternoon,

My name is Amanda Feola-Dudzinski, I have been teaching in Newington for 13 years. My address is 40 Stewart Hill Rd Portland, CT 06480. I am writing to plead with you to please give the Board of Education the FULL 2.8% increase. It is imperative that the Board of Education get the entire 2.8%. The people of Newington voiced their message loud and clear on Thursday March 31st. 47 people spoke in support of the increase and only 5 against. Listen to your voting public, and vote yes for the increase. Please read my email aloud during the Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Thank you.

Amanda Feola-Dudzinski

Art Teacher
Newington High School
Art Program Leader
Newington Public Schools
gdrejk@npsct.org
860-666-5611 x 1413

"The greatest scientists are always artists as well." Albert Einstein

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:04 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 9:57:56 PM EDT
To: "gdrejk@hotmail.com" <gdrejk@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: 2.8% Increase

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Verrone-Buccilli, Amy" <averrone-buccilli@npsct.org>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 12:05:16 PM EDT
To: "Tzartarian@newingtonct.gov" <Tzartarian@newingtonct.gov>,
"gdrejk@hotmail.com" <gdrejk@hotmail.com>,
"dbelbuono@newingtonct.gov" <dbelbuono@newingtonct.gov>,
"rmanke@newingtonct.gov" <rmanke@newingtonct.gov>,
"dnagel@newingtonct.gov" <dnagel@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: 2.8% Increase

Dear Town Council Members,

My name is Amy Verrone-Buccilli, and I am a resident of West Hartford. I have had the privilege of teaching in Newington for 11 years at both Newington HS and currently Martin Kellogg Middle School. I am writing to reiterate how imperative it is that the Board of Education receives the entire 2.8% increase. Without these funds, the district will lose valuable programs and services that are critical to our students' success. I believe very strongly that the schools should be the cornerstone of the community. Supporting the children is an investment in the future, one that will yield great gains for the town as a whole.

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:04 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Reconsider?

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 4, 2016 at 9:44:47 PM EDT
To: "Keener, Lesley" <LKeener@npsct.org>
Subject:

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 3, 2016, at 7:24 PM, Keener, Lesley <LKeener@npsct.org> wrote:

Hello Mayor Zartarian and Town Council members,

I know you are between a rock and a hard place but please reconsider supporting the BofE budget. We need to keep our newer, talented staff to maintain the level of education we are expected to provide. We are teaching the youngest students at each grade level compared to the rest of the country because of the CT cutoff date for entry into kindergarten. Because of the expectation that they reach the same high standards, we need to continue to have manageable class sizes, support staff, and all the resources our proposed budget will provide.

Mrs. Lesley Keener
Grade 1 Teacher
Anna Reynolds School
860-521-7830 x 211

I implore you to reconsider your stance for the sake of our students.

Thank you for your time. Please read my email aloud during the meeting on April 5th.

Respectfully Yours,

Amy B. Verrone-Buccilli
26 Chestnut Hill Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:03 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Budget

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <gbudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 11:14:04 PM EDT
To: "Rbudrejko@hotmail.com" <rbudrejko@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Budget

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Obert-Hahn, Andrea" <aobert@npsect.org>
Date: April 2, 2016 at 1:40:53 PM EDT
To: "zairtarlan@newingtonct.gov" <zairtarlan@newingtonct.gov>,
"Rbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <rbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>,
"bdeibunono@newingtonct.gov" <bdeibunono@newingtonct.gov>,
"tmanke@newingtonct.gov" <tmanke@newingtonct.gov>,"dnasael@newingtonct.gov" <dnasael@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Budget

To Members of the Town Council:

My name is Andrea Obert-Hahn. I am a lifelong resident of Newington and continue to live and work here. I loved growing up in Newington and always aspired to come back here after college to live and raise a family and to work as a teacher. So far that dream has come true as I am currently a second grade teacher at John Paterson with some of the most amazing students I've ever come across. I also live on Mallard Lane with my husband and two dogs. So far everything is going as planned.

PLEASE READ THIS AT MEETING ON TUESDAY:

My husband and I are currently in the process of buying a house in Newington. He wanted to look in other towns with more land, but I stood my ground. I want my future children to grow up as I did. HOWEVER, I am now worried that we may have made the wrong choice. Everyone that I know from Newington chose to come here because of the school district. They have a fantastic reputation. But not allowing the budget to increase due to not wanting the taxes to go up is not responsible. Once we do that and teachers' positions are cut, we have lost that impeccable reputation. We then become one of "those" districts. I will no longer have faith in this district that I will send my children to

and work for. I will need to reconsider this move. I do know that homes were just reappraised, for us at about a 10% increase, which should adjust the amount of money coming in to our town. The mill rate should not need to be raised, but we should still have enough to increase the budgets ever so slightly as needed to maintain our school's reputation and ability to education the future of our town. It is appalling to me that the residents of this town, who most likely moved here for the school district and had their children raised in our schools, are now not willing to spend their tax dollars on the same thing that was of such importance to them many years before. What about the next generation? I recognize many of your names as being parents of students from our district (some that I went to school with), as well as educators yourself. Shame on you.

I request that the above paragraph (as marked) be read at the April 5 Town Council meeting. I would be in attendance myself, but I have an obligation (using my personal time and money) at my school providing extended opportunities for the youth of Newington.

Andrea Obert-Hahn
Second Grade Teacher
John Paterson Elementary School

Trevethan, Jaime

Front: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:02 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: In Support of the 2.8% Increase!

Kate Tibbitts
1100 West Hartford
West Hartford, CT 06107
860.234.1234
www.westhartford.org

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@Newington.CT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 11:07:56 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@hotmail.com" <gbudrejko@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: In Support of the 2.8% Increase!

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Tibbitts, Kate" <ktibbitts@mpnct.org>
Date: April 2, 2016 at 8:29:31 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: In Support of the 2.8% Increase!

Please read this aloud during the Public Participation segment of the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

My name is Kate Tibbitts. I live at 20 Shadow Lane in West Hartford, Connecticut and am the Library/Media Specialist at Ruth L. Chaffee Elementary School.

I am writing to ask you to PLEASE reconsider supporting the 2.8% increase as proposed by the Board of Education. This increase would continue to ensure that all Newington students receive the superior education they all deserve. Invest in the future . . . invest in the children of Newington!

Thank you.

Trevelthan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:02 PM
To: Trevelthan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: 2.8% increase

*Catherine Flint
Kindergarten
John Paterson School
(860) 666-4657 ext. 235*

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 11:04:37 PM EDT
To: "Flint, Catherine" <CFlint@mpsc.org>
Subject: Re: 2.8% increase

Ms. Flint

Thank you for your communication on the budget. We are listening to many and reviewing many issues as we make a final decision. We are pleased that residents are concerned enough to let us know their position on this issue.

Thank you

Gail Budrejko

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 1, 2016, at 11:17 PM, Flint, Catherine <CFlint@mpsc.org> wrote:

My name is Catherine Flint and I live at 20 Wilson Avenue. Please read this email aloud during public participation portion of the Town Council meeting on April 5th, 2016.

I am disappointed that you do not feel our school system is worth the 2.8% increase that is necessary to preserve jobs and furthermore, the well-being of our Newington students. It takes a village to raise a child and the cuts made by continuing with a 0% increase will eliminate so many important parts of our student's village. As a lifelong resident, kindergarten teacher at John Paterson and parent of 2 children at Anna Reynolds, I would like to urge all Council members to support the 2.8% increase and continue to make our town a place that young families seek out to raise their families due to our outstanding school system!

Sincerely,

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:02 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: Please read aloud at april 5,2016 council meeting .Thank you!

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 10:56:42 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@hotmail.com" <gbudrejko@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Please read aloud at april 5,2016 council meeting .Thank you!

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carol Anderson <ca.anderson@snet.net>
Date: April 1, 2016 at 4:01:15 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>
Subject: Please read aloud at april 5,2016 council meeting .Thank you!

I wish to Thank you so very much for serving our town with your time and energy ! I applaud You and Your peers of the town council ,for volunteering to steer the ship that is our beloved Newington.

Negotiating the uncertain path of her financial stewardship can not be easy , and is not taken lightly .

In my home , I too must negotiate the path . I choose to sit at a hand me down dining table , drive a 19 year old car, shovel my own drive way , and repaint my 45 year old home, and dream of the day I can reroof it. I do this happily , because I also have chosen to pay for college for three children .

I have chosen to invest in their education Above my wants and dreams .

As a newington resident for all my 55 years, wife of , and mother of town volunteers,

I wish to thank you for also putting education first !

I vote yes to increasing the school budget by 2.8%.

Carol Anderson
36 Salem drive

Sent from my iPhone

Trevethan, Jaime

From: Budrejko, Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:01 PM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: Fwd: read into record

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Budrejko, Gail" <GBudrejko@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Date: April 3, 2016 at 10:50:18 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@hotmail.com" <gbudrejko@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: read into record

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Weber, Maureen" <mweber@mpsc1.org>
Date: April 1, 2016 at 2:06:50 PM EDT
To: "gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov" <gbudrejko@newingtonct.gov>

Molly Weber

111 Arch Rd.

Avon, CT

English Teacher, Newington High School

As you prepare to cast your vote that will determine whether or not to increase the Board of Education budget, I urge you to consider the lasting impact this cut will have on so many lives: the lives of Newington students, the dedicated teachers and staff that will no longer serve this vibrant community, and the residents who will no longer live in a desirable town that young couples and families feel will foster and protect the potential of their children. There are other ways to address the differences of opinion or the perceived mismanagement that you cite as a reason for the 0% increase. It is imperative that you vote to support a 2.8% increase in the Board of Education budget on April 5.

I would like this email to be read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Molly Weber
English Teacher
Freshman Class Advisor
Newington High School
860-666-5611 x1304

Trevethan, Jaime

From: DeBuono, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Trevethan, Jaime
Subject: FW: vote yes for a 2.8% BOE budget increase

From: Weber, Maureen [mweber@npsct.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 2:07 PM
To: DeBuono, Beth
Subject: vote yes for a 2.8% BOE budget increase

Molly Weber
111 Arch Rd.
Avon, CT
English Teacher, Newington High School

As you prepare to cast your vote that will determine whether or not to increase the Board of Education budget, I urge you to consider the lasting impact this cut will have on so many lives: the lives of Newington students, the dedicated teachers and staff that will no longer serve this vibrant community, and the residents who will no longer live in a desirable town that young couples and families feel will foster and protect the potential of their children. There are other ways to address the differences of opinion or the perceived mismanagement that you cite as a reason for the 0% increase. It is imperative that you vote to support a 2.8% increase in the Board of Education budget on April 5.

I would like this email to be read aloud during Public Participation at the April 5th Town Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Molly Weber
English Teacher
Freshman Class Advisor
Newington High School
860-666-5611 x1304