

BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Board of Education

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April 17, 2017

Greetings from the Bethany Board of Education!

We are writing to update you as to this year's budget process, and to make sure that you know about several important upcoming dates:

- The annual Budget Hearing will be on **Monday, April 24** at 7 PM.
- Town elections are on Monday, May 1, from 6 AM-8 PM at Town Hall; absentee ballots and early voting are available now.
- The Amity Budget Referendum is on Wednesday, May 3.
- The annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, May 15 at 7 PM.

Together with the Superintendent, the Board of Education has prepared a budget proposal for next year that calls for a 1.9% increase from last year's budget, which is lower than the rate of inflation. Due to a continued decline in student enrollment and some thoughtful reallocation of resources, we are able to maintain all of our programming and make some important improvements within this budget. This proposal was presented to the Board of Finance on February 21, and they are considering how to incorporate it into their overall budget for the town.

On **Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM**, in the Town Hall gymnasium, the Board of Finance will present their overall budget proposal, including both the Bethany and Amity school budgets. This is an opportunity for residents to ask questions about the budget, make suggestions, and voice any concerns. There is no formal voting at this meeting, but the feedback that the Board of Finance receives will inform any final changes they make to their budget proposal before presenting it in final form in May.

We know that it can be difficult for parents with young children to make it to this meeting; but it is critically important that your concerns be taken into account as the town formulates its budget and plans for the next year. We encourage you to make every effort to attend and have your voices heard. We are exploring whether we can provide child care during the meeting to make this easier; keep an eye out for communications from the school on this.

The BOF's finalized budget will be presented for vote at the Town Meeting on Monday, May 15 at 7 PM. This is where the overall budget is approved, or not, by a vote of all residents in attendance. We will send reminders about that meeting as the date approaches.

Thank you for your support!

In partnership,

Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Adam Carrington, Vice Chair

For the Bethany Board of Education