



BOE Update on the 2018-2019 School Budget

Last week the Board of Selectmen approved the Ridgefield Public Schools' capital request that included important safety and security items. The Board of Selectmen also made a non-binding recommendation to the Board of Finance that the 2018-2019 proposed school budget be reduced from the requested 4.38% increase to 2.5%, about \$2.2 million.

The Board of Selectmen made this recommendation with the full and public knowledge of the impacts such a cut would have on our schools. In the week prior to their vote, the Board of Education rejected a proposed budget that had a 3.1% increase because of the negative impact it would have had on class sizes, special education, curriculum, and more. The Board of Selectmen's cut - if adopted by the Board of Finance - would impose even more severe limitations to our school system's ability to meet the expectations of our community.

Time is of the essence. In two weeks the Board of Finance begins public deliberations on the budget that will be put before the town. The Board of Education implores our community to let the Board of Finance know how you feel about the Selectman's recommendation and its potential impact on the schools. Please also email the Board of Education with your concerns so that your voice can be included in our conversations with the Board of Finance.

For your reference, the Board of Education approved 2018-2019 school budget can be found [here](#).

The previously considered cuts to the proposed 2018-2019 school budget that reduces it down to 3.1% can be found [here](#). Please note that another \$600,000 in cuts would be necessary to bring the proposed budget down to 2.49%.

Ridgefield Public Schools provides engaging, relevant, and personalized learning experiences so all students can pursue their interests and prepare for life, learning, and work as global citizens.