

## 2023-2024 Budget Development

Voluntown Board of Education  
Voluntown, Connecticut  
May 11, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

The attached 5-11-23 budget proposal for 2023-2024 shows a total of \$7,055,334. and represents an increase of \$205,001 or 2.99 % over the 2022-2023 town approved total of \$6,850,333. The Board of Education will need to vote today to approve a budget to forward to Town Hall for public dissemination in preparation for a Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the VES gym to review the 2023-2034 budget proposals of the Board of Education and Selectmen.

This initial proposal includes:

- Negotiated salaries for teachers and classified faculty and staff with non-certified to be negotiated.
- The projected cost for the outplacement of Special Education students based on identified needs.
- Projected cost of tuition based on the numbers attending eight designated high schools.
- A projected increase of 7.7% in the cost of health insurance. Please note the overall health insurance for 23-24 is currently less than 22-23 because of a reduction in staff.

### A summary of school budgets documents the cost savings efforts of the Board of Education.

- 2017-2018 budget was a decrease of \$11,403
- 2018-2019 budget was an increase of \$104,165
- 2019-2020 budget was a decrease of \$104,622
- 2020-2021 budget was \$0.00 or 0%
- 2021-2022 budget was \$0.00 or 0%
- 2022-2023 budget was an increase of \$65,136 or 0.96%

We are now in the process of preparing for another fiscal school year where special attention is given to monitor the expenditure of each dollar in our budget to follow our spending plan. These might include a new student requiring an expensive Special Education outplacement, an unanticipated expense for a mechanical issue in the building, unfunded mandates, and a wide variety of interesting and unanticipated financial challenges that seem to occur during any school year.

We are also waiting for the State of Connecticut to make a final decision about how much money will be awarded to each municipality. Hopefully, the state legislative plan of “hold harmless” with no reductions will continue the current allocations into the next two fiscal years. This will certainly help the local taxpayers.

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(ASB and DCL on 5-11-23)