



HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION

580 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 ▪ BOE@Hebron.k12.ct.us

Heather Petit, Chair Allyson Schmeizl, Vice-Chair Joseph Margaitis, Secretary
Sera Coppelino Alex Crawford Nicole Matthews Keith Petit

May 24, 2023

Dear Students, Staff, Families and Community Members,

First and foremost, we want to thank you. Thank you so much for taking a stand through letters, signs, waving in the town center, and voting on behalf of your schools. We are so grateful for your outpouring of support. You are what truly makes Hebron a wonderful community.

As you know, the budget referendum failed for the second time yesterday. We want you to know that we hear your outcries to save education and as Board members and parents, we are right there along with you. As a Board we are united and strong in our agreement that further cuts to education are unthinkable.

In February, we unanimously approved the Board of Education recommended budget and sent it to the town. The Board of Finance then finalized the Town budget with a \$1,038,902 reduction to the Board of Education's budget without input from the Board. After the first failed referendum, the Board of Finance then made an additional cut of \$250,000. This brought the total reduction close to \$1.3 million dollars. To account for this reduction, we would need to:

- Increase class size in 4th grade
- Eliminate the dedicated STEAM class at Hebron Elementary School
- Reduce instructional supplies
- Eliminate our tutoring program
- Reduce speech and reading intervention services
- Eliminate any possibility of offering additional preschool classes, resulting in a lengthy wait list of families in need.

If we are cut any further, the Board will have no choice but to look at potentially:

- Increasing class sizes in other grade levels above Board recommended limits
- Eliminating our Band, Spanish, and Challenge/Enrichment programs
- Laying off additional staff

This is not in our children's best interest, goes against the very vision and mission of our schools, and against our District Advancement Plan. We are sickened by the cuts made to education thus far, and will not take any further reductions lightly.

We ask you to join us in continuing the fight for our children, staff and schools. Here is how you can help:

- Attend the Board of Finance meeting on Thursday, May 25th (7PM at the Douglas Library) and make a public comment about your concerns with the school budget.
- Send feedback to the Board of Finance using hebronbudget@hebronct.com. You can also copy us at boe@hebron.k12.ct.us.
- The next budget referendum vote is Tuesday, June 13th. This will be held at Hebron Elementary School from 6AM - 8PM. Please VOTE!
- Help to get out the vote on June 13th!

We can do this together!

In Solidarity,

Heather Petit Allyson Schmeizl Joseph Margaitis Sera Coppelino Alex Crawford Nicole Matthews Keith Petit
Chair Vice-Chair Secretary