

Roxanne Maher

From: Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:24 PM
To: Town Council Group; Board of Education
Subject: BOE Budget & Capital Plan – Ensuring Clarity
Attachments: LPS BOE Adopted FY26 Budget 02.24.2024 with supplemental report.pdf

Dear Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

I wanted to take a moment to share (attached) the Board of Education's FY26 Budget and Capital Plan as it was originally submitted to the Mayor. Our goal is to ensure you have the most accurate and updated information as you move forward in your review.

Unfortunately, we've noticed that the version presented by the Mayor **does not fully align with what we submitted**, particularly in three key areas:

- **Healthcare Costs:** After over 24 years the Mayor made the decision to shift on paper BOE healthcare costs from the town budget to the BOE budget without any prior discussion. To be clear, this change **doesn't save taxpayers any money**—it simply moves the expense from one part of government to another, making the BOE increase appear larger while reducing the Mayor's proposal to the Town Council. This only creates unnecessary division and confusion when looking at our financial picture and creates a distraction as our community tries to understand the upcoming budget challenges.
- **Capital Plan:** The capital plan included in the Mayor's version is **not the updated plan** that was submitted with our budget. We also provided the updated version in an email to all involved in late January. This makes it harder to have a clear and informed conversation about our district's long-term needs. We are committed to working with you to fully unravel any confusion and ensure we're all working together to move critical projects forward.
- **Revenue Adjustments:** The revenue figures in the Mayor's budget **do not match what we submitted**. Estimates from the BOE are found on page 13 of the BOE Budget. I should caution everyone involved that these projections remain volatile pending State and Federal actions.

I know that budget season is always challenging, and we truly appreciate the work you're doing to make sense of it all. We remain committed to genuine transparency and collaboration and are happy to answer any questions or clarify anything you may need.

Please don't hesitate to reach out, and thank you for your time and dedication to our community.

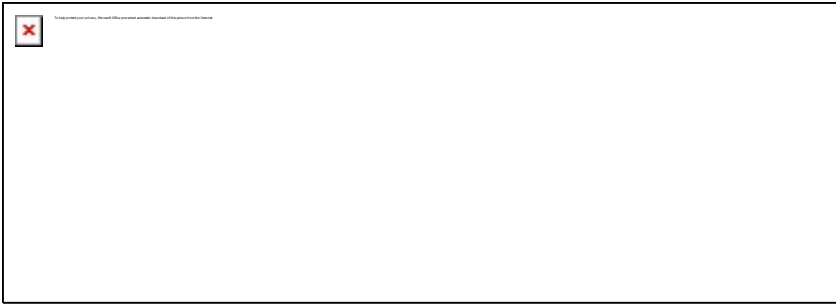
Best, -Jay

Jason S. Hartling

Superintendent

Ledyard Public Schools

"Believing in the unlimited potential of every student"



My working hours may vary from your working hours. Unless it is an identified emergency, please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your work schedule.