



TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

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Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

February 24, 2025

Superintendent Jason Hartling
Chairman Anthony Favry
Ledyard Board of Education
4 Bonders Boulevard
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your responses to the Town Council's February 6, 2025 letter in which additional information was requested regarding the Board of Education's proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget; and you were invited to present the Education Budget at the Town Council's February 26, 2025 meeting.

While we understand it may require some time to gather the budget information requested, it was disappointing to learn two-weeks after the receipt of our February 6, 2025 letter, that the Board of Education would not be attending our February 26, 2025 meeting, which was communicated to us only after the Zoom Invite was sent out; and the Agenda was posted.

In my conversation with Mr. Hartling to reschedule the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Presentation, he mentioned that the Board of Education does not give their Budget Presentation to the Town Council until after the Mayor submits his proposed budget in March. However, past records show that each year the Board of Education has presented their proposed budget to the Town Council in February. To refresh our memories and for reference, the following Town Council Meeting dates are noted at which the Board of Education presented their proposed budget:

- February 28, 2024
- February 22, 2023
- February 23, 2022
- February 24, 2021
- February 26, 2020
- February 27, 2019

Also, to date your response regarding the budget information previously requested has not been received. The information below is again being requested to provide clarity and to help the Finance Committee and Town Council understand the Board of Education's budgetary needs, in working to prepare a responsible budget for the coming year:

- (1). What is the increase in the Labor Contract Agreements for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.
- (2). What Labor Contract Agreements are due for renegotiation.

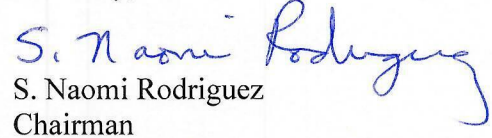
- (3). Budget Salary Lines – Please provide number of staff that will be paid from each salary line. (Please see attached January 21, 2025 Minutes page 10 & 11).

Per the Town Charter Chapter VII, Section 4 (page 30) *“The Board of Education shall require the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a budget proposal for the ensuing fiscal year. This budget document shall contain the information requested by the Town Council and shall be in a format that is compatible with the budget submission for the general government.”*

As we all have busy schedules, and we work hard each and every day to balance our jobs, families, and volunteer roles in our community, timely responses and maintaining open communication is not only a courtesy, but an essential piece to making all our efforts work.

Please contact me to reschedule your Budget Presentation or should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,


S. Naomi Rodriguez
Chairman

Attachement:

Town Charter Chapter VII; Section 4 (page 30)

cc: Town Council
Mayor Fred Allyn, III
Board of Education Members
BOE Director Finance

TOWN CHARTER

CHAPTER VII: FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 4 DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE BUDGET

The Board of Education shall require the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a budget proposal for the ensuing fiscal year. This budget document shall contain the information requested by the Town Council and shall be in a format that is compatible with the budget submission for the general government.

The Board of Education shall include in its budget submission the latest revenue figures for the current fiscal year and the best estimates of education-related revenue sources for the ensuing fiscal year. The Board of Education shall also include as part of the budget submission, any steps taken to address changing enrollment.

The Board of Education shall participate in the review of municipal improvements and capital projects that is conducted by the Mayor and the Planning Commission during the budget preparation process so that the Board's capital needs are reflected in a unified list of projects for the Town. Such Capital Improvement Plan shall be included in the Board of Education Budget.

The Board of Education shall specify the date of submission for the budget proposal developed by the Superintendent of Schools. This date will be early enough to permit a thorough review of the proposed budget and any modifications to the draft budget that are deemed necessary. The Board of Education shall submit its final budget proposal to the Mayor no later than the fourth Monday in February for it to be included in the Mayor's budget submission.