

**TOWN OF CROMWELL, CT
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 7:00 pm
CROMWELL TOWN HALL, ROOM 224-225
MINUTES**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Apr 21, 2021 12:04P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT *Je*

Present: Chairman Julius Neto

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore and Finance Director Marianne Sylvester.

Attendees via Zoom: Ed Maley, Steve Wygonowski, Dan Kelly, Allan Spotts, John Ireland and Anne Hulick.

Chairman Julius Neto called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

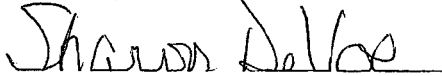
The Board of Finance received one public comment. This will be attached with the minutes.

Mayor Faienza stated that from a Town Council standpoint the budget is fiscally responsible while providing the services needed. He also said that all the capital items are needs not wants.

Chairman Neto Concluded the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Neto closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon DeVoe
Recording Clerk

April 1, 2021

Dear Chairman Neto and members of the Cromwell Board of Finance,

Today, I was dismayed to hear the Board of Finance had approved a 2.9% increase to the Board of Education's 2021-22 budget, instead of the 3.95% the BOE had proposed. I was also disappointed to learn that the public cannot view the recordings of town meetings, if they are unable to view the livestream at the time of the meeting.

Each day, my colleagues and I show up to school buildings and do what we love - working with students, helping them to learn and grow. I write to you today asking you to show up for us, as we show up for the children of Cromwell. Please reconsider the budget the BOE has unanimously approved and presented to the BOF.

This past year has been the most difficult any of us have encountered in our careers. Unlike many school districts across the country, Cromwell has, for the most part, remained open for in-person learning throughout the 2020-21 school year. As we look forward to next year with more people being vaccinated, we remain hopeful that we will be able to welcome back students who have chosen to learn at home this year. We must have the resources to do so.

Let's work together to make Cromwell Public Schools an even better place to learn and work. The requests made by the BOE, such as social studies teachers for sixth grade, are not luxury items. The BOE has also requested a health/physical education teacher and a Capstone teacher. Four additional teachers may seem like a lot to add, but when one considers the history of the education budgets in this town, it should not surprise anyone. For one, the state has increased graduation requirements significantly. More telling is the amount of funds returned to the town by the BOE year after year, and the small percentage increases in many of those years. In addition, the number of teachers has been slowly reduced through attrition throughout my tenure here.

We must live by our motto, "Placing Students First," and do what is right. Please reconsider and pass the BOE's approved budget for 2021-22.

Respectfully,

Leigh Neumon

President, Education Association of Cromwell

Sylvester, Marianne

From: Neumon, Leigh <lneumon@cromwell.k12.ct.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Sylvester, Marianne
Cc: Salvatore, Anthony; Faienza, Enzo; jneto@cromwellfd.com
Subject: Communication with EAC
Attachments: EAC Letter to BOF April 1, 2021.pdf

Dear Ms. Sylvester,

Attached please find communication from the Education Association of Cromwell to the Cromwell Board of Finance.

Thank you,

Leigh Neumon
President, EAC

Mrs. Leigh Neumon
Teacher – Chemistry and Forensic Science
Cromwell High School
860.632.4841 x14702
lneumon@cromwell.k12.ct.us