

David Campo

From: David Peabody <david.peabody@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:24 AM
To: David Campo
Subject: Comments requested to be read aloud in the RTM Meeting to support the BOE budget

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Hello Dave,

I am asking that my following comments be read aloud during the public comment session at the RTM meeting's review of the Board of Education budget. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I have submitted this incorrectly.

Thanks,

Dave Peabody

Dear RTM members,

My name is David Peabody and I am asking for your support of the Board of Education's budget.

I am asking this for the following reasons.

1. Providing the Town's children with a high level education that prepares them for life is one of the most important functions of government. Beyond protecting our citizens, this is your top job. Side effects of providing a high level of education are creating a desirable town to live in which ultimately results in financial benefits like higher home prices and tax revenue for all as well.
2. After watching Superintendent Giard's presentation last year, the key takeaway for me was that our town spend per pupil was at the median for the state, but our student's performance was towards the top of the overall state's performance. Our tax money is being spent effectively to educate our students, we are getting more bang for our buck than the majority of other towns.
3. I watched the RTM review of last year's BOE budget. The fact is there were no specific line items or costs found or questioned by the RTM to be invalid, incorrect, or not prudent. However, the RTM arbitrarily made a significant cut to the BOE budget. This was done at a time when our most vulnerable citizens, our children, needed support the most during the pandemic.

In conclusion, The BOE demonstrated their own financial prudence last year and this year. The superintendent and town educators have demonstrated the effective use of provided budget to support and educate our children. You will either support and keep our school system's trajectory on the path to high performance and envy by other towns, or continue with cuts to the budget which will decrease the school system's performance, ultimately, costing more in the long term when we see we have to turn around our schools. For this, I ask you to support the BOE budget proposal to keep Waterford schools high performing.

Thank you,

Dave Peabody