**Ashford Board of Education**

**Presentation**

**May 6, 2020**

**Ashford Town Budget Public Hearing**

**Introduction**

On April 16th, the Board of Finance (BOF) reversed a previous budget vote, and voted to cut the Education budget for Ashford School by an additional $156,871, forcing the Board of Education (BOE) to prepare a 0% increase budget. The BOE met on April 23rd, and again on April 29th, facing the need to cut the Ashford School budget for 2020-2021 until it had no increase in the bottom line from the previous year. This was a difficult process that resulted in over five hours of debate, hand-wringing, and changes to the character of Ashford School.

The ultimate decision made was to go to the public hearing and ask the BOF to vote to restore the last cut made in the Ashford School budget. However, in the interest of transparency, and the need to demonstrate what is at risk if the budget is cut, they went through the entire budget and reduced wherever they believed was possible. While every reduction had an impact on instruction by affecting either students or teachers, some were more impactful than others. During that process they made both low and high impact reductions. I list them here in two clusters. The least impactful on instruction, and the most impactful on instruction.

It must be noted that what ultimately is to happen will be decided at the May 6th Public Hearing. At that hearing the Board of Finance has the ability to listen to the public and make final adjustments in the budget. If you support Ashford School, and restoration of the $156,871 cut, please attend the electronic meeting, and send in your written concerns in advance of the meeting, as provided for in the BOF meeting posting.

**List of Reductions**

*Least impactful reductions made to the Ashford School budget,* equaling **$49,732**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Account Number** | **Title** | **Reduction** | **Remaining** |
| 01-2320-100-10000  01-1000-220-10000 | Superintendent Salary  SS/Medicare | 2,146  164  2,310 | 79,834 |
| 01-2400-100-10001  01-1000-220-10000  01-2400-230-10000 | Assistant Principal Salary  SS/Medicare  Certified Ret./Other Reg. Ed | 5,000  72  250  5,322 | 85,000 |
| 01-2790-110-10000  01-1000-220-10000 | Class Trip Transportation (Field Trips)  SS/Medicare | 5,000  382  5,382 | 7,832 |
| 01-1200-561-20001 | Extended School Year/summer School | 2,000 | 33,000 |
| 01-1000-340-10000 | Legal Expense Reg. Ed. | 6,391 | 6,609 |
| 01-2320-330-10000 | Professional Development Admin. | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| 01-2410-600-10001 | Principal’s Discretionary Fund | 600 | 450 |
| 01-2530-610-10000 | Copier Paper | 2,300 | 5,000 |
| 01-1000-730-10000 | Elementary Equipment | 2,000 | 0 |
| 01-1000-730-10001 | Music/Band Equipment | 1,457 | 0 |
| 01-1000-730-10003 | Copier Equipment Lease | 6,000 | 15,497 |
| 01-1200-730-20001 | Adaptive Equipment | 5,000 | 0 |
| 01-1200-730-20003 | SpEd Technology Equipment | 970 | 0 |
| 01-1001-730-10001 | Middle School Equipment | 2,000 | 0 |
| 01-2230-730-10001 | Middle School Tech. Equip | 1,900 | 0 |
| 01-2600-730-10000 | Non. Inst. Equip./Furniture | 3,000 | 0 |
| 01-2900-730-10000 | PE/Athletic Equipment | 1,600 | 0 |

*More impactful reductions made to the Ashford School budget, equaling* **$107,139**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Account Number** | **Title** | **Reduction** | **Remaining** |
| 01-1000-111-10003  Plus several accounts. All impacted by this reduction | World Language Certified Staff  Includes Unemployment and benefits | 36,719 |  |
| 01-2600-110-10000  Plus several accounts. All impacted by this reduction | Custodians  Includes Unemployment and benefits | 18,661 |  |
| 01-1000-113-10000  01-1000-220-10000 | Sub Teachers/Paras Reg Ed  SS/Medicare | 16,995  1,300  18,295 |  |
| Cut Athletic Program  01-2790-110-10001  01-2290-151-10001  01-2900-151-10000  01-2900-340-10000  01-1000-220-10000 | This elimination of the Athletic Program will result in a  Pay-to-Participate option.  Extracurricular Transp.  Prog Dir.: Athletic Coordinator  Coaches  Athletic Officials  SS/Medicare | 2,640  2,500  22,600  5,126  598  33,464 | 0  5,047  0  0 |
|  |  | Total Two Clusters: $156,871 |  |

**In Conclusion - A Plea for Support at the May 6th Public Hearing**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, during the previous three months Ashford School has been closed, and students have had to complete their lessons at home. Although everyone is doing their best to provide a sound learning experience for the students, it is nowhere as effective as attendance in a classroom with direct instruction by their teacher. Students have not only lost the valued instruction, but also the social and emotional growth that occurs through their daily interactions in school.

***This pandemic has set students back, and will take considerable time to overcome. This is not the time to reduce teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, eliminate programs such as elementary Spanish, cut sports, reduce field trips, technology, equipment, supplies, and many other areas of the budget.***

Please support our school. Write to the Board of Finance, and attend the May 6th electronic Public Hearing. **Please send written testimony or your intent to present at the Public Hearing to** [**bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org**](mailto:bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org) **in advance of the public Hearing Date. How to attend the meeting is in their meeting posting.**