

East Haddam TRI-BOARD MEETING Education ★ Finance ★ Selectmen



Photo © Heather Conley Photography, LLC

Monday, December 10, 2018, 7:00 pm

Nathan-Hale Ray Middle School, Cafeteria

BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Education	Board of Finance	Board of Selectmen
Bryan Perry, Chairman	William DiCristofaro, Chairman	Emmett Lyman, First Selectman
Marc Piscioti, Secretary	Gregory Lauria, Secretary	Susan Link
Erik Anderson	Bruce Dutch	Robert Smith
Karin Blaschik	Todd Gelston	
Shawn Conroy	Tracey Gionta	
Tracy Delventhal	Harvey Thomas	
Nicole Hendry		
Jill Kelly		
Michael Werner		
Brian Reas, Superintendent of Schools		
Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director		

Board of Finance Overview

- Introductions
- Review of Meeting Purpose and Process
- Key Points
 - Last year the Board of Finance adopted a new approach to the budget process that included two opportunities for public input prior to the Board conducting its review and deliberation on the budget—the Tri-Board Meeting and a Budget Forum. We are continuing with that practice again this year.
 - The Board at the outset of last budget season established a goal of presenting a budget that would pass at the first referendum. We were successful in this endeavor! We will strive to do the same for the 2019-2020 budget.
 - The Communications Subcommittee has published several articles in the *East Haddam News* that provide insight into financial terminology, processes and general financial information.
 - The Financial Policies Subcommittee continues their work of preparing formal financial policies. Formal Financial Policies are key in our goal of obtaining the highest credit rating for a municipality—AAA credit rating with Standard and Poor’s (we have the second highest rating now).
 - **The Board of Finance looks forward to hearing from you, the citizens, during the budget process!**

Board of Selectmen

Current state of affairs



- Finished FY2018 with a \$504,773 general fund budget surplus.
- AA+ Standard and Poor's bond rating—2nd highest credit rating.
- Municipal Office Complex completed and under budget.
- Firehouse Renovations completed at budget.
- Ambulance Association will be giving \$20,000 to the town toward a future ambulance—in accordance with our agreement.
- September 2018 storm damage estimated at \$3.7 million. Received word last week that these damages eligible for FEMA assistance at 75%.
- Assessing the scope of tree removal as a result of the insect infestation of oak trees and the loss of ash trees due to the invasive ash borer.
- Applied for two grants for the East Haddam Village—one in partnership with Haddam for a bridge walkway and the other for brownfield remediation on the former Town Office property.

Board of Selectmen

Looking to the future

- Poised via our Future Capital Savings Reserve to meet the costs associated with financing the four major capital projects.
- Preparing a Request for Qualifications for potential developers for the former Town Office site in East Haddam Village.
- Town budget process underway—utilizing a zero-based budget approach.
- The Board of Selectmen reconvened the Financial Needs Roundtable Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of future capital needs.
- East Haddam Library System review underway. Awaiting a decision regarding the East Haddam Free Public Library and Reading Room Association transfer of property to the Town. This will require a Town Meeting for approval.
- Implementing recommendations made by the Transfer Station to ensure only legitimate access to the facility as well as collection of all appropriate fees.



Strategic Plan



- ◇ We will ensure that all students have access to a fully developed PK-12 **curriculum** that fosters interdisciplinary learning, and promotes career awareness and exploration, and is aligned with Connecticut Core Standards.
- ◇ We will challenge every student with instructional experiences that require **problem-solving, innovation,** and **choice.**
- ◇ We will **measure our students'** learning with practices that are **meaningful** to our students, support 21st century learning, and encourage parental involvement
- ◇ We will ensure that our **infrastructure enhances** student learning, inspires innovation, and utilizes resources efficiently

East Haddam Public Schools: Where Great Things are Happening!

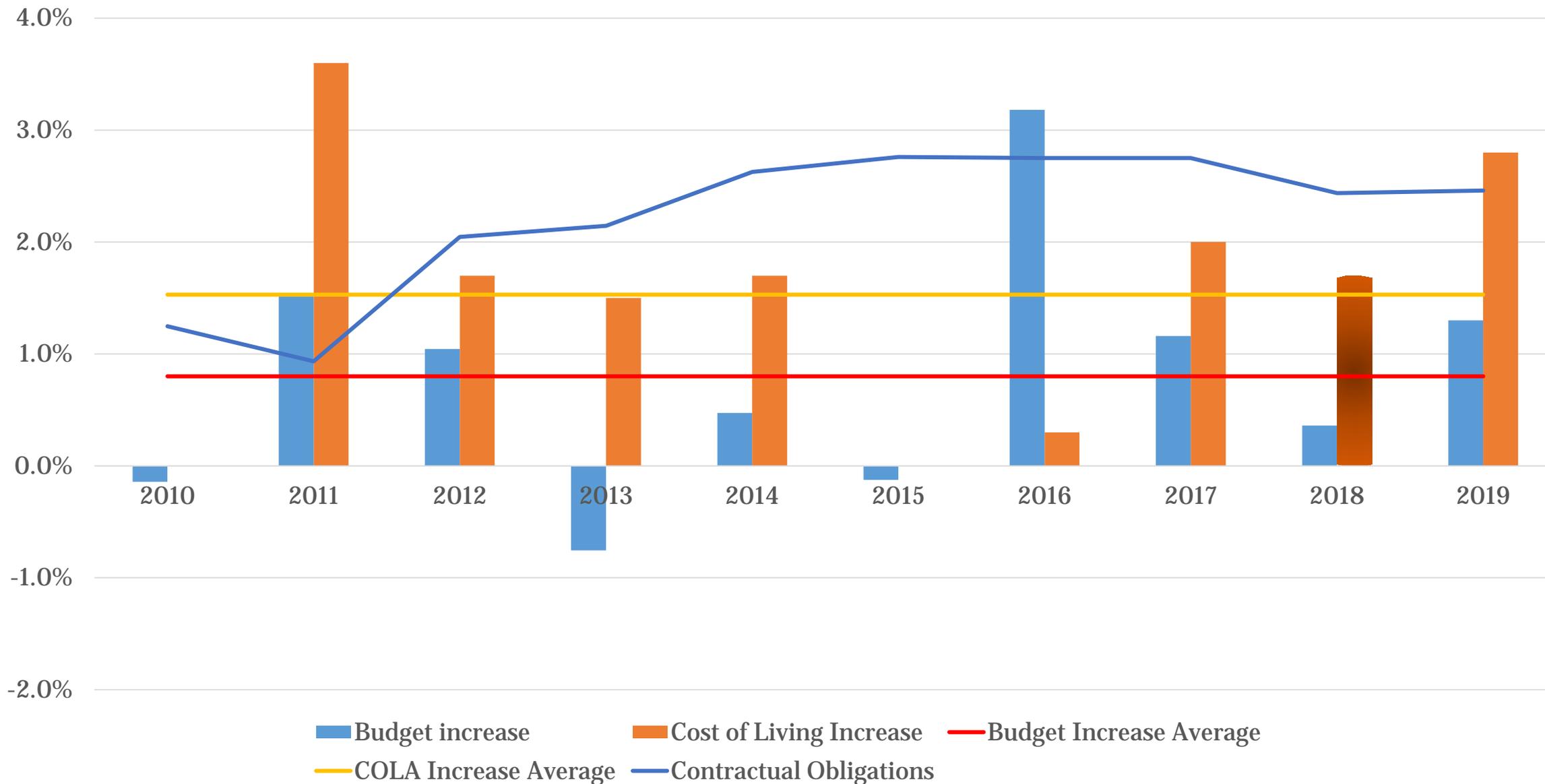
- ◆ Student learning experiences improving as a result of increasing classroom technology use
- ◆ STEM classes preparing students for CT's high tech career openings
- ◆ Supporting students with support during and after school
- ◆ Creating opportunities for students to remain in district for special education services.
- ◆ Focusing of deeper learning experiences for students
- ◆ Creating opportunities for students to lead their education

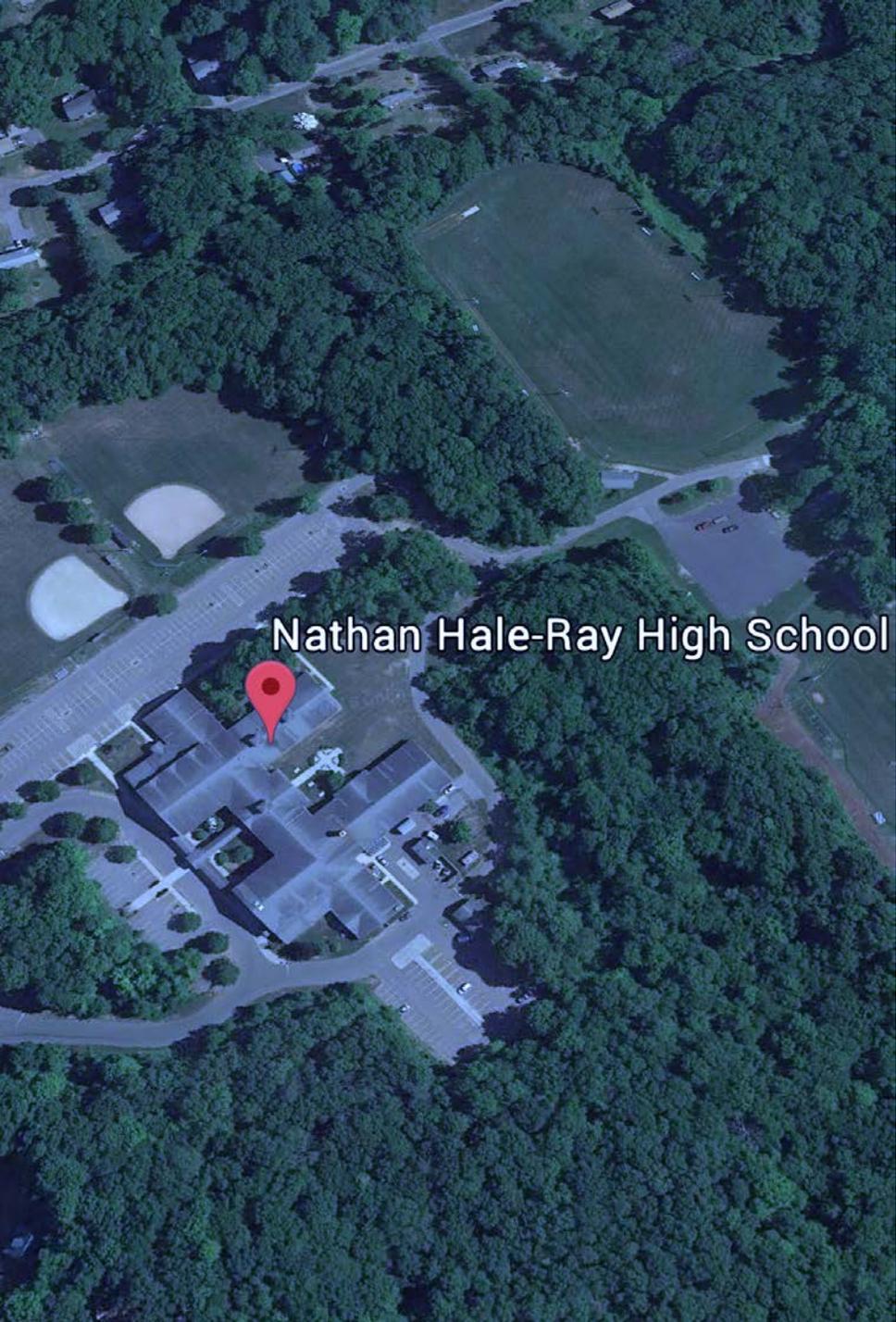


On the Horizon

- ◇ Insurance up to \$320,000 @ 10%
- ◇ Salaries \$304,225 @ 2.46%

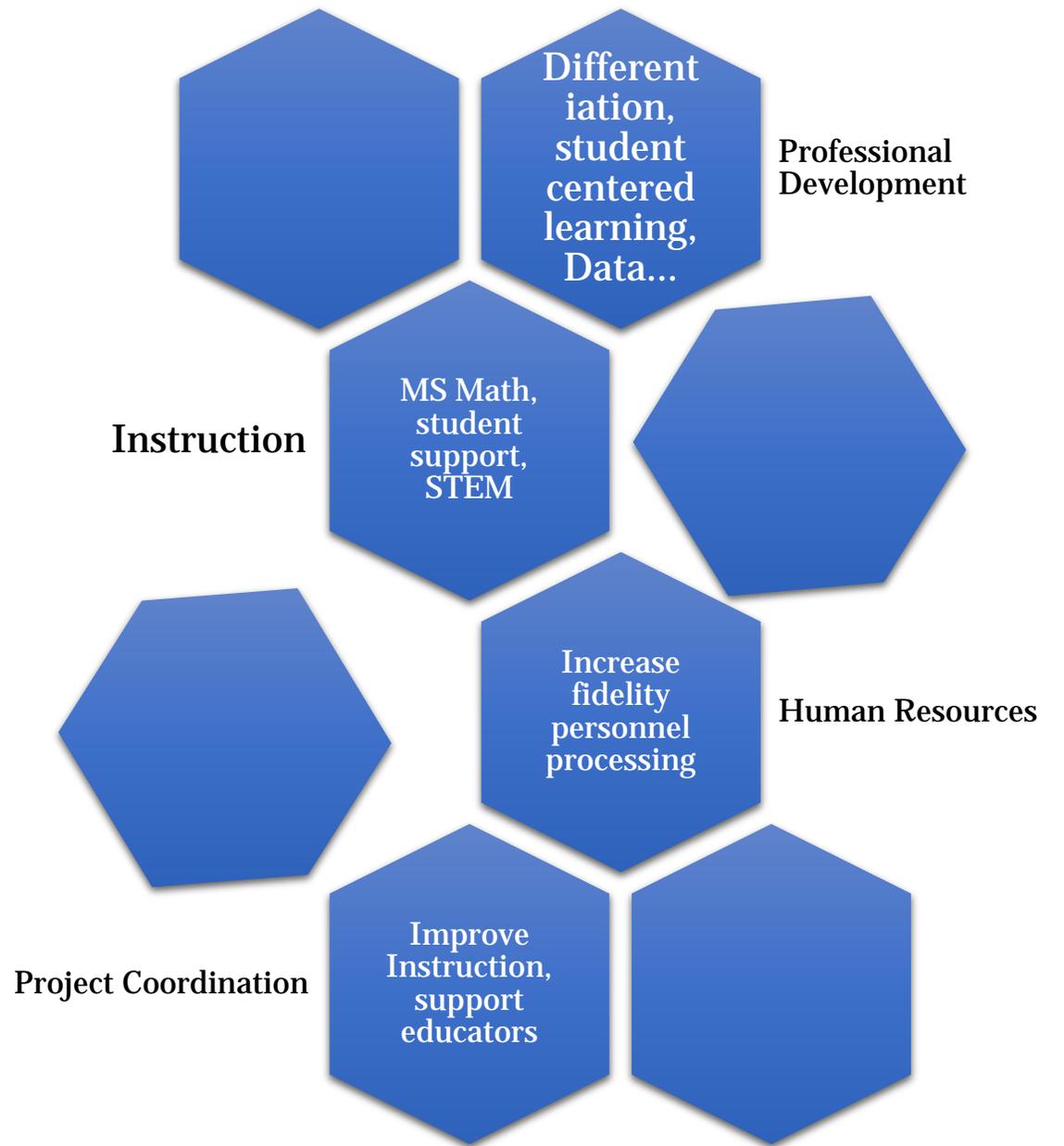
Longitudinal Budget Comparison





Capital Priorities

- ◆ High School Roof
- ◆ Elementary Envelope
- ◆ High School Parking Lot



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Opportunity for citizens to briefly and respectfully express their thoughts, concerns, and questions—3 minute limit
- Questions will be recorded and posted on the Town and Board of Education's websites within one week
- Questions will be answered at the next Board of Finance Meeting and will be made available on the Town and Board of Education's websites





thank you!

**We are glad you
joined us this evening.
We look forward to
hearing from you, the
citizens, during the
budget process!**