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Town of Redding
Board of Finance
Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026-2027 Annual Budget Minutes
Wednesday, 3/18/2026 at 7:30PM
Redding Community Center (Community Room)

Filed subject to approval.

Present:

- Ward Mazzucco, Chair
- Karen Gifford, Vice Chair
- Jamie Barickman (Absent)
- Robert Dean
- Jenifer Wyss
- Roger Van Ausdal

Also Present

- Jim Sanders, Finance Director
- Wes Higgins, Treasurer
- First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton
- Michael Thompson, Selectman
- Dr. Jason McKinnon, Superintendent of Schools, Easton-Redding-Region 9
- Laura Worosz, Redding Board of Education Chair
- Chris Parkin, Region 9 Board of Education Chair
- Members of the Public

1. Call to Order.

Chair Mazzucco called the meeting to order at **7:32PM.**

2. To Approve the Minutes of the Board of Finance (BOF) Meeting held on Monday, 2/23/2026.

Motion:

Ms. Wyss made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOF meeting held on Monday, 2/23/2026. Vice Chair Gifford seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.

3. Board of Selectman (BOS) Budget Presentation.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton presented the BOS budget to the BOF.

First Selectwoman Pemberton started the presentation with an overview of each proposed budget:

Summary of Adopted FY2026-27 Budgets by Board

	FY 2024-25 ACTUAL	FY 2025-26 CURRENT BUDGET	FY 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST	$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
EXPENDITURES					
REDDING BOARD of EDUCATION (1)	$25,352,665	$26,521,323	$27,570,525	$1,049,202	3.96%
REGION 9 (2)	11,987,042	12,458,720	13,449,692	990,972	7.95%
TOWN GOVERNMENT (3)	17,966,827	17,751,404	18,453,366	701,962	3.95%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	55,306,534	56,731,447	59,473,583	2,742,136	4.83%

(1) Adopted by Redding Board of Education Feb 3, 2026
(2) Adopted by Region 9 BOE Mar 17, 2026
(3) Adopted by Board of Selectmen Feb 17, 2026

First Selectwoman Pemberton followed up this summary with details regarding the BOS (Town Government) proposed budget for FY 2026-2027.

FY27 BOS Town Government Expense by Category

CATEGORY	*FY 2025-26 Approved BUDGET*	*FY 2026-27 Projected Budget*	*NYB vs CYB $ Variance (Under)/Over*	*% Variance*
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,320,801	3,528,794	207,993	6%
PUBLIC SAFETY	3,140,944	3,257,805	116,861	4%
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	1,721,463	1,821,537	100,074	6%
TRANSFER STATION	289,840	300,611	10,771	4%
PUBLIC HEALTH	257,229	265,414	8,185	3%
MARK TWAIN LIBRARY	740,000	762,200	22,200	3%
PARKS & RECREATION	1,259,500	1,228,988	(30,512)	-2%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	4,347,745	4,568,460	220,715	5%
DEBT SERVICE	2,588,120	2,631,675	43,555	2%
TRANSFERS	85,762	87,883	2,121	2%
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN EXPENDITURES	17,751,404	18,453,366	701,962	3.95%

The proposed BOS budget for FY 2026-2027 is $18,453,366. This is an increase of $701,962 over the FY 2025-2026 budget. This represents a year-over-year increase of 3.95%.

First Selectwoman Pemberton presented the Town of Redding's capital requests for FY 2026-2027. See below for a breakdown:

BOS Adopted 2027 Town Capital Summary

	Capital	Lease/ Operating	Grants	Borrowing	Total
Public Works Equipment	$120,000	$350,000			$470,000
Bridges				$2,315,625	2,315,625
Roads	1,400,000				1,400,000
Town Facilities	687,500	90,000	90,000		867,500
Total	$2,207,500	$440,000	$90,000	$2,315,625	$5,053,125

The total request for BOS Capital Projects for FY 2026-2027 is $5,053,125.

4. Public Comment.

Chair Mazzucco opened the floor to Public Comment.

There was no Public Comment.

5. Board of Education (BOE) Budget Presentation.

Dr. Jason McKinnon and Laura Worosz presented the Redding BOE budget to the BOF.

Board of Education Adopted Budget

2026-2027 REDDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Adopted Budget

2023-2024 APPROVED BUDGET	2024-2025 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-2026 APPROVED BUDGET	February 3,2026	$ CHANGE	% INCREASE
$24,569,528	$25,453,622	$26,521,323	$ 27,570,525	$ 1,049,202	3.96%

COST CENTERS

	2023-2024 APPROVED BUDGET	2024-2025 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-2026 APPROVED BUDGET	February 3,2026	$ CHANGE	% INCREASE	COST CENTER % of PROPOSED BUDGET
Central Office	$ 732,475	$ 756,651	$ 790,468	$ 821,188	$ 30,720	3.89%	2.98%
Curriculum & Instruction	$ 144,937	$ 93,066	$ 239,462	$ 192,147	$ (47,315)	-19.76%	0.70%
Districtwide	$ 5,937,811	$ 6,157,468	$ 6,446,646	$ 6,702,869	$ 256,223	3.97%	24.31%
Facilities	$ 507,963	$ 609,289	$ 662,828	$ 741,684	$ 78,856	11.90%	2.69%
John Read Middle School	$ 4,881,924	$ 5,095,879	$ 5,186,777	$ 5,366,894	$ 180,117	3.47%	19.47%
Special Education & Student Services	$ 6,336,841	$ 6,315,212	$ 6,670,931	$ 6,985,047	$ 314,117	4.71%	25.34%
Redding Elementary School	$ 5,464,149	$ 5,717,420	$ 5,788,507	$ 6,004,340	$ 215,833	3.73%	21.78%
Technology & Digital Resources	$ 563,428	$ 708,637	$ 735,704	$ 756,355	$ 20,650	2.81%	2.74%
Total	$ 24,569,528	$ 25,453,622	$ 26,521,323	$ 27,570,525	$ 1,049,202		

The Redding BOE proposed budget for FY 2026-2027 is $27,520,525. This is an increase of $1,049,202 over FY 2025-2026. This represents a year-over-year increase of 3.96%.

Chair Worosz discussed the proposed Capital Projects for FY 2026-2027 for the Redding BOE:

Redding BOE Capital Plan 2026

Redding Board of Education Capital Plan (approved Dec 2, 2025)	
UPCOMING/PROPOSED PROJECTS	**2026**
Modernization Project: Phase 2C (Upgrading Special Ed and Music Spaces)	$298,878
JRMS Student Lockers	$88,774
JRMS 5th Grade Restrooms	$80,778
Exterior Door Units (Both Schools)	$60,248
Project Adventure at JRMS	$53,250
	$ 583,953

The proposed Capital Projects for the Redding BOE for FY 2026-2027 total $583,953.

6. Public Comment.

Chair Mazzucco opened the floor to Public Comment.

Dwayne Boulden, 20 Wood Road, asked Chair Worosz and Dr. McKinnon if there is any benchmarking data that the Redding BOE uses to compare education budgets to other towns. Chair Worosz stated that the Redding BOE does compare percentage increases across multiple towns in the State of CT. Discussion followed concerning cost per student, salaries, and other topics.

Mr. Boulden asked Chair Worosz and Dr. McKinnon what could materially reduce the Redding BOE or Region 9 budgets. Discussion followed concerning efforts made to control budgets.

Wes Higgins asked Chair Worosz & Dr. McKinnon about the roofs at the various schools. Dr. McKinnon stated that operating expenses have been used to do small repairs on the roofs at Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School. These roofs will need to be replaced at a future date to be determined.

7. Region 9 Budget Presentation.

Chris Parkin, Region 9 Chair, presented the Region 9 Budget to the BOF.

Chair Parkin stated that the apportionment of the Region 9 Budget has increased towards Redding. The split for FY 2026-2027 is 50.60% Easton, 49.40% Redding. This is an increase of 2.37 percentage points in the apportionment for Redding.

2026-2027 REGION 9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023-2024 ADOPTED BUDGET	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 ADOPTED BUDGET
$24,811,367	$25,407,041	$26,489,155

Superintendent's Proposed Budget

PROPOSED BUDGET	$ CHANGE	% INCREASE
$ 27,226,097	$ 736,942	2.78%

APPORTIONMENT	STUDENTS	25-26 BUDGET YEAR BASED ON 24-25 OCTOBER 1ST ENROLLMENT	ADOPTED BUDGET	STUDENTS	26-27 BUDGET YEAR BASED ON 25-26 OCTOBER 1ST ENROLLMENT MEMO	PROPOSED BUDGET	$ CHANGE	% INCREASE
EASTON	366	52.97%	$ 14,030,435	340	50.60%	$ 13,776,405	$ (254,030)	-1.81%
REDDING	325	47.03%	$ 12,458,720	332	49.40%	$ 13,449,692	$ 990,972	7.95%
	691			672				

COST CENTERS

				PROPOSED BUDGET	$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	% of PROPOSED BUDGET
Athletics	$ 1,013,097	$ 1,034,210	$ 1,030,978	$ 1,135,345	$ 104,367	10.12%	4.17%
Central Office	$ 732,475	$ 756,651	$ 790,468	$ 821,188	$ 30,720	3.89%	3.02%
Curriculum & Instruction	$ 24,011	$ 58,157	$ 136,222	$ 129,939	$ (6,283)	-4.61%	0.48%
Districtwide	$ 6,169,263	$ 5,971,369	$ 6,113,206	$ 5,952,476	$ (160,730)	-2.63%	21.86%
Facilities	$ 778,988	$ 979,048	$ 964,681	$ 989,621	$ 24,940	2.59%	3.63%
Joel Barlow High School	$ 10,455,153	$ 10,799,518	$ 10,952,786	$ 11,224,469	$ 271,683	2.48%	41.23%
Special Education & Student Services	$ 5,114,992	$ 5,250,812	$ 5,895,063	$ 6,296,703	$ 401,639	6.81%	23.13%
Technology & Digital Resources	$ 529,888	$ 563,776	$ 612,675	$ 676,356	$ 63,681	10.39%	2.48%
	$ 24,817,867	$ 25,413,541	$ 26,496,080	$ 27,226,097			

The Region 9 proposed budget for FY 2026-2027 is $13,449,692 (Redding's portion). This is an increase of $990,972 over the FY 2025-2026 budget. This represents a year-over-year increase of 7.95%.

8. Public Comment at the Chair's Discretion.

Chair Mazzucco opened the floor to Public Comment.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton stated that each taxpayer has a different set of values, whether it's funding schools, tennis courts, or additional highway drivers for plowing. The various boards must consider these values when putting the budgets together and eventually presenting them to the voters for approval.

Dwayne Boulden, 20 Wood Road, stated that the combined Region 9 proposed budget (Redding and Easton) for FY 2026-2027 is $27,226,097. There are 672 students in Region 9. This results in a cost per student of $40,515.

9. Other Business.

Chair Mazzucco asked the BOF as well as the BOS & BOE about the opportunities present for members of the public to participate in the budget process. He also suggested eliminating the presentation of all three budgets in the annual Public Hearing. The alternative would be separate presentations for each budget: BOS, Redding BOE, & Region 9.

Discussion followed concerning how the public can be motivated to participate and how presenting each budget individually would work compared to the current combined presentation.

10. Adjourn.

Motion:

Mr. Van Ausdal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dean seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at **9:05PM.**

Submitted by,

Zachary Smith