

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

**March 25, 2021
8:00 p.m.**

South Windsor Town Council

Virtual Meeting

**PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on the Proposed Board of Education
Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Mayor Paterna called the Public Hearing to order at 8:00 p.m.; and requested that the Clerk of the Council read the call of the meeting (a copy of which is attached hereto, **Exhibit A**).

Mayor Paterna asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

The following comments were read into the record at the Joint Work Session of the Town Council and Board of Education:

Fred and Lisa Kopper (**Exhibit B**)
Daria Plummer, 235 Orchard Hill Drive (**Exhibit C**)
Marie Cortez, 240 Orchard Hill Drive (**Exhibit D**)

The Town Council kept the public hearing opened to give the public more time to call in or email. The public hearing was closed at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council



OFFICE
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL

Town of South Windsor

1540 SULLIVAN AVENUE • SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074-2786

AREA CODE 860/644-2511

FAX 860/644-3781

REV 3/19/21 @ 9:40am
KAC Day Asst

Exhibit A

To speak during the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m., please dial +1 312 626 6799 -
Webinar ID: 818 1675 0007 - Passcode: 292800 - Press *9 to raise your hand if you
wish to speak or email comments to TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov.

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

March 18, 2021

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 8:00 p.m., as the time for a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed Board of Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The public is welcome to email comments to TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 17th day of March 2021.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid
Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL AD
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR.

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Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 17th day of March 2021.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

Journal Inquirer
March 18, 2021

[External]Support for Board of Education Budget

Exhibit B

Elizabeth Kopper [lisakautumn44@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:41 AM

To: TownCouncilComments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to voice our support for the 2021-2022 Board of Education budget. South Windsor provided an outstanding education for our children and continues to offer a well rounded education for current students. We have watched the school population grow, shrink, and grow again over the 40 plus years that we have lived here. The school population is currently growing and the education budget reflects that growth, as well as the high quality education that South Windsor offers. We urge the Town Council to approve the budget as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred and Lisa Kopper

[External]From Daria Plummer, Comments for March 25th Town Council meeting

dariap@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:10 PM

To: TownCouncilComments

Cc: Reid, Deborah

Exhibit C

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Town Council,

I write to you this evening in full support of the Board of Education's 2021-22 budget, as presented to you by Superintendent Carter and the Board of Education.

Education in South Windsor is valued highly. This was so in 1967, and made known to me, when I was first hired here as a teacher and remains such today as we embark on the rebuild of Pleasant Valley Elementary, the fourth school to be rebuilt within the Board's brilliant 10 year plan elementary schools plan. Quality supported education is a cornerstone that defines South Windsor.

The Board's budget increase, in a community now considered the fastest growing school district in Connecticut, is primarily due to enrollment, the subsequent staffing needs, and contractual obligations for facility and transportation.

Both the Board and the Superintendent are to be congratulated on their due diligence for their budget, and guiding us through mandated and necessary needs for our students, which include the expansion of the Eli Terry Intensive Program serving autistic and special needs students district-wide, increased high school reading support for special education students, as well as ensuring that the district's world language initiative receives the support it requires.

Not one of us will ever forget this pandemic, especially all Board of Education staff and the families and students they serve. Included in this budget is a continuation of mental health supports for students and families—an absolutely necessary aspect of education, especially now.

Our schools have shouldered on and our administration and staff have worked relentlessly to provide education in uncharted waters. They are to be commended, lauded, and applauded for doing so and for developing a lean budget based on absolute needs and maintenance of the excellence we know and want as a community for our schools.

Thank you. I urge your full support of the Board's budget.

Daria Plummer
235 Orchard Hill Drive
South Windsor
dariap@aol.com

[External]Support of Board of Education Budget

Exhibit D

mcortez.gcp@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:18 AM

To: TownCouncilComments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

I strongly support Superintendent Dr. Carter's proposed budget for South Windsor School System.

I have lived in South Windsor for 18 years and I have seen the positive results of having my children enrolled in a strong and supportive school system. My oldest son, will be graduating from UCONN this spring and my youngest is a Junior at South Windsor High School. His access to a great education, a wonderful music program and sports have made him a well-rounded student. The number one reason my husband and I decided to move to South Windsor was the quality of the school system.

As an educator and a mental health professional myself, I have seen how the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a negative impact on students across the state, academically and emotionally. It is our responsibility to meet the deficits that this pandemic has brought onto our children. In addition to that, given how technology has become a fast and evolving part of our lives, it is essential that our schools are up to date with technology. On a sad note, given the negative and violent situations that have occurred in our society, the security of our children in our schools should always be a top priority.

Sincerely,

Marie Cortez, LCSW
240 Orchard Hill Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074