



# Community Budget Forum

March 3, 2021



# Process and Plan



- **We review, plan, prepare, “scrub”**
  - We communicate
- **Governor makes a proposal: we review**
  - We ask for input
- **We advocate, we plan, we review**
  - We ask for more input
- **We react, discuss and refine plans**
  - We share and again ask for input
- **The Assembly and Senate make their proposals. An agreement is reached.**
  - We finalize a proposal for voters to consider

# What we THINK WE know now...



The Governor proposed a budget that concerns us in two significant ways.



Aid will be a challenge, but will likely be better than his proposal



We have been prudent and responsible (rainy day funds) and IT IS POURING!



Full Day K was promised and is a priority



Our community does not want to exceed the cap



We do not want to reduce services



We need to do everything we can to have students in school 5 days a week!



There is a need for stability and predictability

What the exchange offered....  
in part



- **Significant themes:**
  - Do not cut
  - Reopen Schools!
  - Full Day K should be implemented
  - Do not exceed the cap
  - Fight for aid!

# Exchange Summary

Kevin McGowan, Brighton Central School District  
February 12, 2021

As we plan the budget, we really need to know what you think should be prioritized. What is most important to you? What would like us to be considering as we review our expenses, taxes for next year, programs that are in place, programs that have been reduced, or any other aspects of the budget?



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation



**366**

Participants



**187**

Thoughts



**13,628**

Ratings

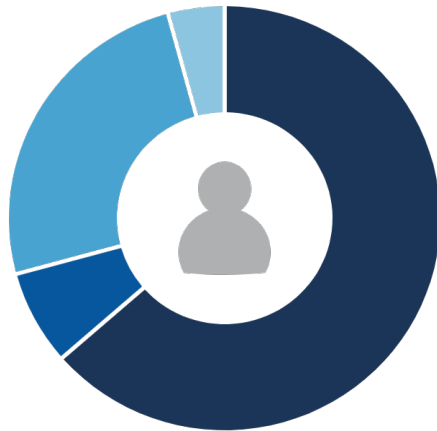



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation



What best describes your connection to the district?



| %   |  | Answer              |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 64% | (225)   | parent or caregiver |
| 7%  | (24)  | community member    |
| 25% | (86)  | staff member        |
| 4%  | (14)  | other               |

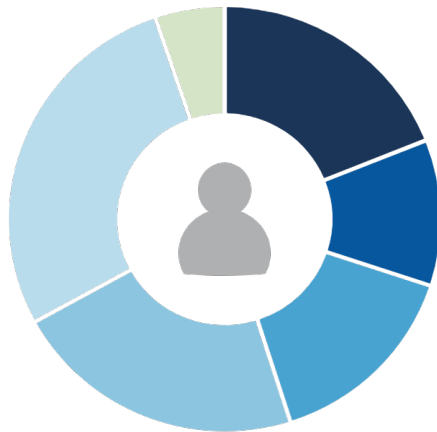



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation



What level/school (s) do you most associate your rating of comments with?



| %   |  | Answer     |
|-----|---|------------|
| 19% | (68)  | ■ CRPS     |
| 11% | (38)  | ■ FRES     |
| 15% | (51)  | ■ TCMS     |
| 22% | (75)  | ■ BHS      |
| 28% | (99)  | ■ multiple |
| 5%  | (18)  | ■ K-12     |





WORDCLOUD

Top Rated



# Top thoughts...

Keep fighting for foundation aid Let us know what we can do to help

4.1 ★★★★★ (99 👤)  
Ranked #1 of 185



Please don't cut anymore teachers. It's time to cut administrators!

4.1 ★★★★★ (22 👤)  
Ranked #2 of 185



If we have learned anything over this last year it is that kids need sports and the arts or whatever extra curricular they are involved with. Cutting any of these programs is detrimental to our kids mental health and obviously impacts their academic success.

4.1 ★★★★★ (15 👤)  
Ranked #3 of 185



Top priority is to have kids engaged in active learning in-person as many days as possible. Not study halls or "at home learning." We need creative solutions at local level that don't hinge on Albany. Let's think now to engage kids full time.

4.0 ★★★★★ (109 👤)  
Ranked #4 of 185



For whatever reason, BCSD is adverse to surveying its families. Send out a survey to find out how many families would take the option to return to School FT and how many would opt for remote. This is what Webster is doing. We may discover we have the space needed to send the kids back.

4.0 ★★★★★ (15 👤)  
Ranked #5 of 185



# Top thoughts...

**Keep class sizes as small as possible.** There's going to be a lot of catching up to do next year, large classes will make that very challenging.

3.9 ★★★★★ (123 )  
Ranked #6 of 185



**Gov. Cuomo's current proposal holds Foundation Aid flat again. If it doesn't change, how will this affect programming?** I think people would like to know what's on the potential chopping block.

3.9 ★★★★★ (117 )  
Ranked #7 of 185



**Please prioritize getting all kids back into school 100 % full time.** Maybe still keep a smaller remote only option but all children who want to attend should be able to. Enough of the population will be vaccinated.

3.9 ★★★★★ (115 )  
Ranked #8 of 185



**Do not accept anything less than full fair foundational aid from the state** We've talked about the need for years. Its time to TRULY fight for it. Do not accept no for an answer.

3.9 ★★★★★ (113 )  
Ranked #9 of 185



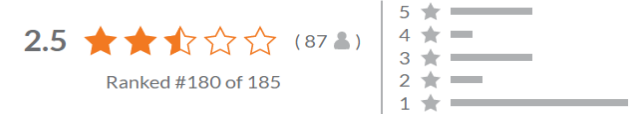
**Please make it a top priority to preserve classroom teachers' positions!** After last year's cuts, there was a clear impact to the ability for teachers to serve their students best. With the pandemic, kids need their teachers

3.9 ★★★★★ (101 )  
Ranked #10 of 185

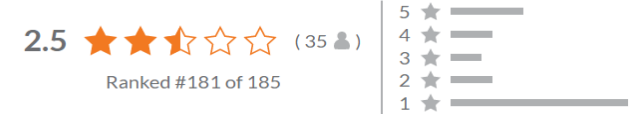


# Bottom thoughts...

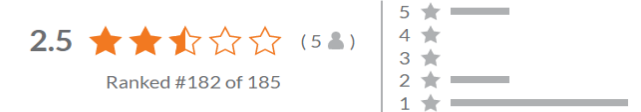
**More remote-student in-person options needed** We need more opportunities for remote students to interact in-person, using the same in-school guidelines.



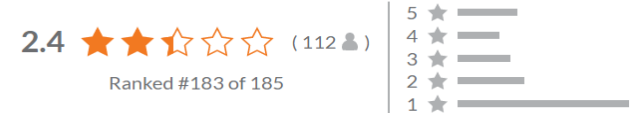
**Full day kindergarten** By not doing this you are not setting children up for success. You are setting them up for failure. What happened to focusing on kids?



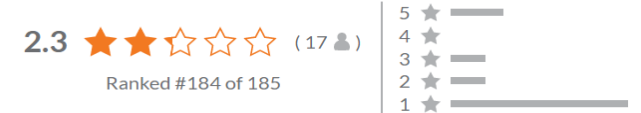
**K-5 full time with Middle & HS hybrid?** Pittsford has successfully had K-5 nearly full time and older kids hybrid. Can this be considered in Brighton?



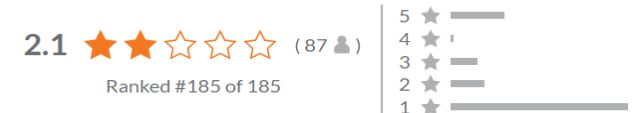
**high we should not have to pay for wrap around programming and our kids deserve a full education beginning in K.**



**Due to tax burden Brighton is not livable now**



**Brookside's neighborhood entrance needs to be blocked** Too much traffic in/out of Brookside from Evans Farm. Please close the entrance, and move the main entrance to Winton Road.



# Bottom thoughts...

**Full-time kindergarten** Parents need to be able to return to work

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (119 👤)  
Ranked #175 of 185



**We actually like hybrid--less time spend on wasted junk. However, many don't, so please be aware of BOTH**

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (33 👤)  
Ranked #176 of 185



**Our community's kids aren't behind academically.** We decide as a town/state/nation what is "behind". We ALL are living in a pandemic and suffering it's emotional effects. "Behind" is arbitrary.

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (21 👤)  
Ranked #177 of 185



**I know this will not be a popular thought but, we have enjoyed the hybrid model as has our student. Grades are better, the bully's are at bay.** This helps keep the mind focused. Our student prefers hybrid. But is self motivated. The days in school are just enough to keep on track.

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (16 👤)  
Ranked #178 of 185



**BHS gym needs updates.** The paint on the floor over "Barons" looks awful. Changing the mascot costs money and that should have been calculated in.

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (15 👤)  
Ranked #179 of 185



**More remote-student in-person options needed** We need more opportunities for remote students to interact in-person, using the same in-school guidelines.

2.5 ★★☆☆☆ (87 👤)  
Ranked #180 of 185



# What we are hoping for from tonight...



Lend more voice to what has been shared...

Please tell us more.....

What are you “thoughts about the thoughts”?

Are we on the right track?

Do you have other suggestions?

