

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784
BUDGET MEETING - MARCH 20, 2026
ZOOM ONLY
9:00 AM

A Budget Meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Matt Vogt at 9:05AM on March 20, 2026 on Zoom.

1. PRESENT

For the Board:	Mr. Vogt, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Febbraio, Mr. Philipakos(phone 9:23), Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Grasseler, and Mr. McGlinchey
Administration:	Dr. Cosentino (phone), Dr. Fernand, Dr. Fildes, and Dr. Leekin
Staff:	Michelle Sanford, and Jake Siciliano

2. DISCUSSION

Mr. Vogt recapped the budget cuts discussed at the March 18, 2026 BOE Budget Meeting totaling \$150,976.

Insurance:	\$20,676
Worker's Compensation:	\$2,100
Executive Assistant:	\$85,261
Tech Assist. (January Start)	\$17,939
Maintenance:	\$15,000
Athletic Uniforms:	\$10,000

Discussions were opened for further reduction suggestions. Dr. Cosentino did not support further cuts being made to the supply lines.

Mr. Laughling discussed the inconsistencies in the enrollment reports from BOE monthly meetings.

Dr. Fildes explained that the reports do not include students enrolled in private schools, but suggested that line be added for transparency and clarification with the Board. She further explained that 2 of the 3 private school students have been waitlisted and final decisions are unavailable until after the budget has been voted on.

Dr. Cosentino added that it was a risk, as it is every year as students occasionally move around and transfer out of initial school choices.

Mr. Vogt moved the discussion to Shared Services and the possibility of additional cuts.

Shared Services for Facilities:	\$18,532
Shared Services for Tech:	\$1,954

BOE APPROVED

Dr. Fildes explained that a meeting took place with First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Joel Bruzinski and Treasurer Andrea Maloney to discuss Shared Services and the connectivity grant. The project has been broken down into 3 stages with the first needing to be completed by June 30, 2026.

Mr. Laughlin questioned the \$700,000 grant and the dark fiber network and inquired if it would replace the town's network.

Dr. Fildes clarified that Mr. Siciliano would be working on community hotspots (June 30 deadline) and not replacing anything for the town. The two networks would run parallel.

Mr. Vogt recapped all of the finalized budget cuts and changed the final total to \$171,462 for a budget of \$10,095,148 with a 1.65% increase.

Mrs. Febbraio expressed concerns about cutting the budget for new sports uniforms and felt there was a definite need for replacements.

Dr. Cosentino reassured the Board that those uniforms would be purchased from surplus this school year.

Mrs. Frey inquired about the bus cuts.

Mr. Vogt explained that a future Transportation Committee meeting will be held.

Mr. Philipakos reiterated from the March 18, 2026 meeting, that his fear is if the repairs budget falls short that the Board will look incompetent.

Mr. Vogt agreed, but expressed that it was a minimal reduction. With the new building there is a great deal of guess work and next year will bring a better understanding of the actual costs.

Mr. Vogt made a motion to approve \$171,462 in reductions for a total budget request of \$10,095,148 to be approved by the Board of Education. Mr. Philipakos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 6-0.

Mr. Vogt requested that a finalized spreadsheet be completed and sent to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Sanford agreed to work on finalizing today and will send it to the Board of Education, School Administration and the Board of Selectmen.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Vogt adjourned the meeting at 9:36AM

BOE APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Frey, Vice Chairperson
Sherman Board of Education