

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 27, 2020
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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 BUDGET PROCESS REVISED TO COMPLY WITH COVID-19 RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Due to the disruption in our communities created by COVID-19, the budget process for Regional School District No. 4 will proceed differently this year. In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Orders 7B and 7I the regularly scheduled Regional School District No. 4 Public Hearing on April 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. will now be held via a remote technology platform called *Google Meet*. This will allow the public and members of the Region 4 BOE to participate remotely. The budget document is available on the district website www.reg4.k12.ct.us (under the heading: District /Budget Information/2020-21 Budgets); and through your Town Hall.

Citizens interested in listening and/or participating in the April 1st Public Hearing may use any phone to connect to the meeting by dialing +1 (304) 518-4012 and entering PIN: 589 017 221# when prompted, shortly before 7:00 p.m. that evening. The Region 4 BOE strongly encourages public participation and remains committed to engaging with all citizens of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Another important process change dictated by Executive Order 7I, is that the adoption of the Regional School District No. 4 educational budget for 2020-21 is now to be determined by an affirmative vote of the majority by the Region 4 Board of Education, as opposed to going to referendum in each of the three towns. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Orders 7I and 7B a possible vote to adopt the Region 4 2020-21 budget will be listed as an agenda item for possible action at the April 1st Public Hearing; Special Meeting.

The Region 4 Board will be delaying their final vote until April 21st at 7:00 p.m. when a Special Meeting of the Region 4 Board of Education will be scheduled. This decision was made by the Board in an effort to maintain as much normalcy as possible with respect to the entire budget process and timeline. It will also allow additional time to communicate the COVID-19 related changes in the Region 4 budget process to all stakeholders. Additionally, the public will have extra time to provide feedback to the Region 4 Board before the Board votes to adopt the final 2020-21 Regional School District No. 4 budget at the April 21st Special Meeting. If you wish to submit comments for the Board to consider prior to the April 1st Public Hearing and/or the April 21st Special Meeting and budget vote, please send them to the following e-mail address jbryan@reg4.k12.ct.us.