

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER
MEMORANDUM**

May 7, 2010

**TO: Chairman Jeffrey Watt
Members of the Board of Selectmen**

FROM: Bonnie L. Therrien, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Comments from Exit Poll

Attached you will find the comments that were written on the exit polls from Tuesday's vote. The common themes seem to be the following:

- 1) Salaries are too much for the Board of Education and Town employees**
- 2) More money is needed for Open Space**
- 3) No All Day Kindergarten and/or wait until the economy is better before implementing this program**
- 4) The Director of Curriculum position should not have been filled.**
- 5) Keep the challenge and enrichment programs.**
- 6) There needs to be better communication on the facts as to why the Town needs All Day Kindergarten**

All of the comments are verbatim, although in 3 instances I did remove personal attacks that were, in my judgment, extremely negative. I will take responsibility for editing these comments.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Town of Hebron Budget Referendum Exit Poll
(VOLUNTARY ONLY AND ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL)

How did you vote on the 2010-2011 Budget Referendum:	NR	Yes	No
Town Government Budget:	50	531	736
CIP Budget	59	845	413
RHAM BOE Budget:	44	704	569

Do you feel the 2010 - 2011 Budget is:	NR	Too Low	Acceptable	Too High
Town Government	69	44	692	512
CIP Budget	66	104	744	403
Hebron BOE	57	120	361	779
RHAM BOE	63	93	631	530

	NR	Yes	No
Should the Hebron Board of Education budget be voted on separately at budget referendum?	49	975	293
Should the Open Space General Fund allocation be voted on separately at budget referendum?	69	827	421
Do you feel the pilot All Day Kindergarten program should be expanded in the FY 2010-2011 budget?	37	330	950

Additional Comments regarding this year's budget:

(Please give the elected boards and commissions as much feedback as possible)

Respondent	Comment
1	All day kindergarten should not be pushed at the expense of other programs. Most parents who opt for this are doing so for free day care.
2	I think all items should be able to be line vetoed.
3	The taxes are getting out of control.
4	Currie Director position eliminated. ADK Eliminated
5	No ADK. Please listen Ellie Cruz. Families should be responsible for their own child care.
6	Presentation & discussion did not match numbers & spirit of budget. Not credible.
7	I am totally against all day K
8	The curriculum position should definitely not be filled
9	Kindergarten all day no
10	Wrong cuts for BOE
11	I've already written to all of the elected board members regarding specific feelings. Education is a disgrace in this town, which is otherwise a wonderful place to live.
12	This is what the ballot should look like in years to come - hopefully it will change
13	ADK perhaps could have waited, but I wouldn't want any other programs/services cut from Hebron BOE budget so I voted yes to the "pkg"
14	Not the time for ADK when other items (music, C&E) are on the chopping block.
15	No comment.
16	Town is grossly mismanaged.
17	All day Kindergarten is developmentally inappropriate.
18	Give a tax break to seniors, people with no children or people with children who have been out of the home for many years.
19	No ADK - Cruz has no data to support her vague claims of improved results. things worked fine with just one superintendent for both Hebron & RHAM. We could use less principals too.

20 All day kindergarten is not better for our children. All day kindergarten is more convenient for parents who would otherwise be paying for daycare if their children were not in school all day. 5 year olds do not belong in school all day. Challenge & Enrichment should never be cut. Let's not penalize our bright kids and reward the parents who choose not to do the right thing by being with their children in their early years. Half day kindergarten is more than sufficient (time) for our kids to learn. It has worked to this point, and our kids are smart enough to need C & E. I don't see how ADK can possibly be justified. ADK will not make kids smarter. PARENTS, GOOD + PRESENT PARENTS WILL!

21 Hebron BOE budget total is acceptable, however (1) Administrative raises/budget are too high! (2) No mandated All day kindergarten should be put in place (3) Restore challenge & enrichment budget (4) Cut Spanish to fund other items (5) Lower open space budget

22 ADK has been shown to have significant positive influence on children - ADK is not the make or break of the budget-just a small portion! Vote yes!

23 To implement ADK expansion, at the expense of cutting other programs & in the current difficult economy is fiscally irresponsible. There is no conclusive research indicating ADK has benefits to the children other than those identified as special ed or (illegible) This is not the reason HBOE is expanding the ADK pilot. ADK is trendy but when the BOF indicates next year will be even more challenging financially and our town citizens are experiencing financial difficulties, this is not the year to be trendy. Conclusive research confirms that our students' test scores (CMTs) are in the top 10 %. None of these children had ADK. I'd like to know what percentage had C & E. Our children are not suffering from lack of education clearly. Should the referendum not pass, please do not cut more programs simply to continue an ADK pilot initiated during better economic times.

24 Absolutely all day K. Kids learn more productively and teachers can assess more effectively

25 I like this exit poll.

26 No All day kindergarten until economy better & it has more support

27 (1) Too high an expectation of parents (of school age children) as to what other citizens should be taxed to provide for above average educational experience for their own "little darlings". (2) It seems that there are way too many support para professionals + physcolligysts - programs- that don't serve the many & only serve the few (3) suggestion - charge every parent a \$500 sticker (parking permit as the traffic in front of the elementary schools daily indicate lack of use of school buses by parents - those parents should be forced to support bussing w/extra surcharge - we have to provide w/ taxes a service they choose not to use.

28 Do not eliminate programs to add ADK.

29 The BOF & BOE did not listen to the will of the people. Very arrogant on the part of the BOE.

30 Terrible year to decide to expand ADK

- 31 The town does a good job
- 32 I am on social security. They tell me because of the No inflation I don't deserve a raise. Why should anyone else?
- 33 I tend to go along with what our elected officials propose and then vote them out when re-election comes if I don't like the job they did.
- 34 Hebron's schools are the primary-if not only- attraction to live in this town. We should be wisely investing in it, not cutting it. Adding in a poor financial climate is irresponsible when it requires cuts.
- 35 There should be no open space vote at this time. This is a (cheap) babysitting program paid for by taxpayers. In this recession there should be a 0% increase across the board.
- 36 If most of us residents are not getting raises then no one else should be getting a raise. It's time we learn to make do with what we have. We have over 7% residents who are unemployed, let's face it, we are not a town made of millionaires just your average Jane and Joe going to work if and when there is work.
- 37 Retired- Fixed Income can't afford increases. If you have children under school age, stay home and be a parent.
- 38 Kindergarten expanded - not if it takes away from current programs as is the case
- 39 The cost of ADK is too high for the current economy. The impact and cost is not acceptable. It affects too many of the older grade children. It is not the time.
- 40 Wording of the ballot was horrible.
- 41 The open space fund should be increased
- 42 Total numbers may be acceptable but allocation is not acceptable hence no vote. Public needs to be listened to during formation of budget details-we care about more than the total number but what it is comprised of.
- 43 ADK should not be expanded at the expense of many other students. Ms Cruz has not been truthful (Ms Laznier going into the classroom instead of C&E). We moved to Hebron for programs like C&E not ADK.
- 44 I think the school budget is too low. Any further cuts will severely impact the quality of education in Hebron.
- 45 All day kindergarten nice idea but def not the right time.
- 46 All day kindergarten not needed now.
- 47 We are putting way too much pressure on the schools to keep the budget to 0%. It is just not possible to get that low w/out sacrificing education to our kids.

48 As long as there is all day kindergarten (or should I say all day 'daycare' I will never vote for the BOE Budget. Also why does the superintendent need a car? With so many people out of work it's pure greed for taxpayers to pay for this

49 Full day kindergarten is too much time for this age child to be in school. They need time to relax in an unstructured environment. Plus - our 4th, 5th, 6th grade students are doing well on the mandated tests & then attended 1/2 day kindergarten. Why change if it ain't broken, don't fix it especially considering the cost and the loss of programs which impact a larger number of students.

50 In this economy how do you justify increases no one in the private sector can. It is not right for government to increase spending & raise taxes in today's economic climate.

51 No ADK. BOE - Hebron - Bifurcation is needed. Keep Open Space

52 Hebron BOE: What is left for K-2 students who are gifted? All-Day K benefits average students special education benefits those in need of help. The gifted students no longer have a C&E teacher. Without extra stimulation I fear they will become bored & disinterested in school at a critical beginning to their school career

53 If you don't have the money you can't spend the taxpayers are not your printing press. Let some commercial enterprise into Hebron.

54 I voted yes, because I was afraid other things beside the All Day Kindergarten would be cut. I am not in favor of ADK at this time. Town officials did a great job of producing a tight budget.

55 The town should increase it's funding of the library, an institution that provides services for all age groups and interests. The town needs to invest in education. Public education is the backbone of our country and is our wisest investment.

56 All of the schools are too top heavy with regards to administration. When I walk into the RHAM Middle & HS offices and I see staff standing around talking while the phones are left ringing and unanswered it begs the question: What are taxpayers getting

57 No all day kindergarten. Cut spending at RHAM.

58 This is a great town, but if your retired you can not afford the ever increasing taxes.

59 Can't afford to add all day K.

60 No all day kindergarten.

61 I feel many people are unaware of the requirements of education and think only about money (big dollar value) not what it means per person cost and services in a town with no major business your taxes will go up.

62 Too much \$ for ADK - No need for kids that age.

63 Our taxes are much too high for the services provided by the town of Hebron.

- 64 This is not the right year for an open space allocation or all day kindergarten.
- 65 ADK - not needed and is not beneficial to kids.
- 66 Let the BOE run their area - not the BOF.
- 67 Douglas library is chronically under funded!
- 68 All day kindergarten is killing the budget.
- 69 Kudos to the RHAM board for being straight forward in their budget presentations- the HEB Board should follow suit.
- 70 Eliminate all day kindergarten - reduce admin staff for Hebron BOE.
- 71 Paying too much already - cut back.
- 72 No full time Kindergarten.
- 73 RHAM BOE needs to be pressured to agree with non-certified employees contract.
- 74 RHAM BOE needs to be pressured to agree with non-certified employees contract.
- 75 Its very difficult times for people - the BOE budget is much too high - Teachers need to make a few concessions
- 76 HDK for all - reinstate C&E pos. - cut curric director or half time.
- 77 I think people are reacting w/o complete information.
- 78 Very negative town - should support education!
- 79 These budgets need to have zero increases or be cut. People are unemployed, not getting pay increases & are paying increases in other expenses. Get real!
- 80 Please support our schools!
- 81 Don't want Open Space General fund cut.
- 82 I feel very strongly that the All day kindergarten program should be expanded for the benefit of the children. My son would have greatly benefited from it had it been there and hope that if approved. I attended the BOE meetings and thought an excellent job was done by all + that they paid attention to what parents wanted!
- 83 Hiring an administrator @ this difficult fiscal time could have been avoided w/o impacting the education of our young people.
- 84 All day kindergarten for all or not at all.
- 85 I think our teachers have given us an exceptional school system with high standard on an already low per capita expenditure. I support the school budget with pleasure.

86 No one wants to pay higher taxes, but we willing to do so for our overall value as a town which does mean excellent education.

87 All day KA will save money in the long run. People who don't know the facts shouldn't drive public opinion.

88 Work on business development in town.

89 I feel the ADK should definitely be expanded this year.

90 Should be 0% increase in these economic times.

91 4.9% raises for teachers are not acceptable. Don't forget they also get step raises for the number of years experience. All day kindergarten is not necessary in this town. Open space should be bought now, before prices rise.

92 I don't mind the Hebron BOE Budget, just strongly disagree with full day kindergarten.

93 Having individual superintendents for both the Hebron BOE and RHAM BOE is excessive based on the size of the student population.

94 Thank you.

95 The town government is pathetic. All the select persons need to be replace regardless of party. We waist to much money on Roads to nowhere and Peters House. Fire them all.

96 Feel the superintendent is bullying the taxes payers telling them services to students will be cut. Cut the Curriculum Director position. Hebron Board of Education Not Listening to Public Tax Payers!!!

97 Economy is bad, but education is worth it.

98 ADK. But do not want it eliminated as it exists now.

99 Hebron school system - "top heavy" too much administrative costs. Superintendent should be part time for only (2) schools. Town looks sloppy - landscaping is a mess.

100 C&E should not be eliminated. Adk should not be added if C&E & other proven programs are being eliminated.

101 Taxes are outrageous - Allow business to come to town

102 Having a child go through full day kindergarten I believe is a viable program and needs to continue

103 The process that the HBOE uses to determine it's budget is very flawed. ADK is an expense that tax payers should not have to pay. Unfortunately due to the flawed HBOE process, the justification of this and other costs is muddy at best

- 104 BOE no ADK drop 200k listen to voters and economy
- 105 No ADK CE for both schools is essential to enrich those who are more advanced
- 106 The BOE budget would be acceptable at a high increase and the ADK is a small portion of the 1.5% increase therefore not as huge of an impact financially as it is on the well being and lives of children in Hebron
- 107 We need to keep priorities in this town. Properly funding the schools is most important. I would vote yes on a higher BOE budget.
- 108 Need more strategic thinking on how to increase other sources of revenue for the town without this we either cut services or increase taxes. Too much short term thinking.
- 109 Would like to see live items for elementary school budget
- 110 The town was very good in keeping residents informed of the financial numbers and happenings on dates of voting, etc. It is good for the town to have feedback from the entire town instead of a few select residents
- 111 Please listen to the town people - ADK unnecessary, driven foolishly by test scores. Take better care of all the kids
- 112 No All Day Kindergarten
- 113 We need to focus on all aspects for all people losing family to exclusivity - cost too high
- 114 Hebron BOE needs to get creative to do more with less. There is no more money. You're driving people out of town due to high taxes
- 115 Hebron Schools Administration costs are "top heavy" A lot of waste some think necessary We don't need to fill a curriculum director position for \$100,000.00 per year In past 1 superintendent & 1 assistant took care of all 4 schools. We have basically the same number of students as then. We also have an added assistant principal. All day Kindergarten should not be implemented if it means cutting staff or classes already in place. Our students have done very well in their studies for many years. It has nothing to do with the present superintendent of curriculum director but due to the dedicated teachers & hard working motivated students
- 116 1. The BOE comment that all budgets should be reduced the same to be equitable is wrong 2. HBOE holds too many executive sessions - they should be prepared to speak in public 3. All HBOE members need to be more respectful of each other their behavior at the last special meeting was totally inappropriate especially to Mrs. Shea 4. All board meetings should be televised 5. More \$ to open space is needed
- 117 Drop all day kindergarten. I do not want to pay for day care for people in town

- 118 I do not believe all day kindergarten has been proven to be any benefit - it's just all of us paying for day care ie if the child is in school all day the parents don't have to pay for day care part of the day for day
- 119 CIP - focus on public works facility which is deteriorated & polluted - library bldg. should not be using book budget to pay for bldg. maintenance Park & rec. budget should be reduced until economy improves
- 120 1. People should understand that separate referendum costs the town money 2. Are older folks taken into consideration on town budgets?
- 121 Education & Special Education budgets need to be expanded outside volunteers should be brought in to help all students examples- Financial drugs etc...
- 122 Expand funding for library - it has things for all ages. Limit expenses on Peter's House.
- 123 I would really like the opportunity for public "discussion" at BOE meetings. I don't feel public comment is enough.
- 124 I feel with the economy being what it is all organizations should look at concessions, including the teachers union. 4.99% increase is ridiculous. Last 2-years I received 0% in private sector. Too much is being asked of 5/6 year olds. Let them enjoy their first experience in school.
- 125 Should be a zero increase with the economy & recession. I haven't received a raise in two years. But taxes and everything else continues to go up.
- 126 My taxes have doubled In less than 10 years. BOE is controlling the town. Explain vote seperately on town and BOE
- 127 Hebron Administrative costs are high. We do not need a curriculum director (superintendent could do this) or vice principal (head teacher can cover) @ Hebron Elem. ADK should not be implemented if teachers will be cut. The poll was a great idea.
- 128 What exactly is the cost of busing mid day vs all day kg classes Get real - 125.00 a week to the town from my meager income just to live in my own house? Cut positions in all depts & suck up the slack by doing a full days pay - pay for 1/2 of your own insurance like the real people in town stop spending so wastefully - this is not Glastonbury!
- 129 Taxes in general are to high. I own a small business in town. My income is off by 25%. I can't aford my current taxes never mind an increase.
- 130 need to encourage cooperation can't give in to fear and anger
- 131 The board of ed needs to listen to the taxpayers instead of refusing to negotiate on things we don't want. I am conceding to higher taxes the teachers need to conceed with us. Stop saying this \$ is for our kids when it is for the greedy teachers! And cut people instead of just changing their job titles and continuing to pay them OUTRAGEOUS saleries!

- 132 Don't feel all day kindergarten is needed
- 133 Not against ADK Not this year Where's the detail on the BOE budget? Too little...too late
It is clear the BOE has had it's mind made up regardless of what people think in town, on ADK. The superintendent is ramming this thing through without regard for the state of the economy. In these tight times, we cannot afford increases to satisfy the personal pet projects of a select few.
- 134
- 135 May people are not getting pay increases. The budget should reflect this
- 136 Remember voters on fixed income
- 137 The full day kindergarten was fantastic. Our son was in it last year & I feel our daughter could have benefited from it the year before.
- 138 I wanted to vote no so we could put more money in the budget, but was afraid it would be cut lower.
- 139 I think Hebron should have 1 superintendent also they should think more about tax's payers and start to live in the real world. I think the kids are scoring good for testing and all day shows no differences
- 140 I think we are spending too much on new equipment - new vehicles - should consider contracting or outsourcing some public works projects - perhaps cheaper & more expertise ADK is necessary in this day & not all that much \$
- 141 If this budget is voted down please listen to the people and get rid of the all day kindergarten. Students in Hebron do very well at all grade levels and do not need All Day K. If we were struggling accademically, I would support it, but we do very well. No All Day K.
- 142 Too High Taxes Teacher salary increase too high Hidden budgeting
- 143 Hold Education Accountable
- 144 In these economic times we shouldn't expand all day K to more than we have - The secrecy is underhanded
- 145 Not enough info on each item need to place to read printed info before vote
- 146 In this economy No Program should be expanded if there is a High Cost such as the ADK program
- 147 More dollars for Open Space
- 148 I don't feel that the superintendent should be putting forth her own agenda - more info is needed!!

- 149 I do not feel we need a all day K program at this time. I feel C&E and music should not always be on the chopping block as a scare tactic to vote yes. I feel there is not enough public input at BOE level.
- 150 I do not feel that all day Kindergarten should be expanded at this time. I do not believe this is fiscally responsible at this time. We would need to make cuts in the future to continue it and I think we should hold off for now until the economy is stronger. I don't beleive the benefits of ADK warrent taking away from the rest of the students.
- 151 I would have voted "yes" to a 3% increase for the schools - even with a tax hike. We should have been able to vote on this initially
- 152 The Hebron School System is too top heavy and has been for years. Creating another supervisory position & laying off a teacher or two is just plain wrong.
- 153 I feel that Elle Cruz has not been honest and has been hiding facts. It seems as if she will push through what she wants regardless of what the taxpayers want.
- 154 I voted on everything because of this
- 155 I feel that votes are influenced by what people read in letters to the editor, lawn signs and blogs. I feel that decisions are not educated but influenced by personal bias. Can't there be more official straight forward publications of budget item that are accessable for the general public?
- 156 No ADK No Full time curriculum director
- 157 Hebron taxes are getting too high.
- 158 I believe the contorvrsy regarding ADK is unfounded. As a former educator who has discussed curriculum requirements for kindergarten with people from several regions in the country, our children need to be competitive with students around the country. ADK will provide our children with the opportunity for enrichment as well as reinforcement of skills.
- 159 The ADK program is wonderful. It should be expanded so that all the children should benefit.
- 160 Open Space should be funded to the max
- 161 You get what you pay for - who will buy my home? Not retirees who want low taxes and one floor and not empty nesters who want smaller homes - it will be a young family looking for very good if not excellent schools - that is why we moved here.
- 162 We all have to live & get by on less \$ so does government It's unfortunate but a fact of life in our stressed economy.
- 163 Teachers need 0% raise
- 164 Kindergarten should be held at 1/2 day were this proposal accepted we would see proposals in all day school for premies through age 4 in the near future. Knock it off!

- 165 The senior citizens living at the Village of Loveland Hills stated at an owners meeting that Senior Citizens should have a tax break like some towns in Connecticut for their senior citizens. We get NO snow removal on our streets plus, we give approximately \$300,000.00 plus in taxes to the town of Hebron and receive nothing in return. We have 53 individual homes at the Village at Loveland Hills which is off Loveland Road. Thank You.
- 166 All spending is too high. The private sector is cutting back - govt needs to as well.
- 167 Keep going the way you are and you'll all be voted OUT!
- 168 Open Space - The reason I want it to remain in the Town Budget is because it's dollar amount is based on 1/2 of the value of a mils value & was approved by voters 13 years ago. There is a significant difference between the BOE 11.7 million & \$100,000 - 200,000 O.S. annual funding. I want more of our tax dollars allocated to CIP & Open Space. Video tape all board meetings. If possible they should be televised so the public that don't go to meetings can be more informed.
- 169 I feel that there is too much for the kindergarteners. Rather than expand all day - reduce work load. Remove Adk and leave everything else!!
- 170 SR> Citizen - tax's too High for me now. My children & grandchildren went 1/2 day and did just fine
- 171 Please keep C&E intact - a large # of children are impacted at a low cost. ADK is divisive and gives people an excuse to vote no.
- 172 own finances can't handle increase of taxes! ADK does not benefit the children, just the parents (babysitting) Need clarity of BOE budget is a change in Elem. School Superintendent due?
- 173 Do not want all day kindergarten - really just day care let kids go to school 1/2 day & be kids before we put them into all day school
- 174 Not at the expense of teachers' jobs and/or enrichment programs. People do need to be educated re. the reason for the inflexibility regarding ADK (I am a supporter overall of ADK)
- 175 Lower my taxes!!!!
- 176 Lower my taxes please. Freeze taxes for senior citizens - we are all on fixed incomes.
- 177 All day kindergarten has been shown to significantly improve the lifetime performance and education of children.
- 178 comment edited out

- 179 Stop wasting my hard earned \$ on the "road to nowhere" (across from Ted's) for private developers. Stop flagrantly wrong lawsuits (ie road blockage & Jim Day, etc.. Brought about by "little King' egos in Town Hall. No all day kindergarten - take care of your own children - Transition was stopped due to \$ - all day kindergarten is more expensive. Town employees should have to pay more towards health ins. - They are very lucky to have such excellent coverage.
- 180 No rational reason for all day kindergarten - free day care
- 181 Board doesn't listen to the people - people don't want all day K - board threatened if you vote against
- 182 should have held back expanding the ADK for one more year
- 183 Only time I voted for school budget 1st time. Other times (illegible)
- 184 taxes are too high
- 185 I don' t think this is the time to do all day kindergarten.. Other than that, I would be ok with the school budget
- 186 I do not feel all day kindergarten is necessary. Spend the money on ore useful items
- 187 Fund the open space land acquisition fund at historic 1/2 mill annual appropriation (or at least \$250K per year).
- 188 Keep the C & E positions. Do not fill the two expensive administration positions.
- 189 BOE - cut down on administrative positions - not teachers or educational programs. NO full day kindergarten
- 190 Remember you are elected to represent the people which I believe you are not doing.
- 191 Cut administration cost. No teachers' cuts. Full day kindergarten too long. 1/2 day yes
- 192 Over the past two years I have taken 1 12.5% pay cut. I think the town employees should take a cut or take more furlough days
- 193 Get Rid of ADK and top heavy adm at elementary school - specifically director of curriculum/tech.
- 194 I strongly believe the Hebron school district doesn't need six administrators. If parents want ADK they should pay the expense. I would want the budget kept the same but funds diverted to direct instruction and supplies.
- 195 1/2 and full day is fine the way it is.
- 196 Schools as a whole operate at "bare bones." It is a shame that more parents don't come out to vote.

- 197 I only votes yes becauser I did not want to see further cuts to the Hebron BOE. There were very threatening undertones in a lot of the recent communications from the BOE and the superintendent.
- 198 I am very disappointed in the way HBOE and superintendent Cruz handled this entire budget process - particularly their total lack of transparency by not providing real budget information in a timely/readily available manner. A simple spreadsheet early in the process like RHAM provided showing reductions to achieve 1.5% and 0% would have eliminated a lot of rumors and bad press.
- 199 Go Kathy Shea! Keep up the good work.
- 200 Town and school budgets should be determined by economic conditions and ability and interest of taxpayers for any new or additional wants/needs. For instance, no one in gov't service should get a salary increase when this is not happening in the private sector.
- 201 It would be a huge mistake to divide the budgets. Voting on the budgets together promotes compromise. This town had been too divisive in the past. Please don't divide the budgets.
- 202 Spend what you got not what you want!!!
- 203 I do not object to the amount of the budget, but I will not vote yes on a budget that eliminates challenge and enrichment in favor of all day kindergarten. From what I hear the all day kindergarten program is a glorified "day-care" with nap time!! Additionally - I strongly disagree with the need for a curriculum administrator. That position should NOT have been filled.
- 204 Unless we paid separate school tax and ECS \$ goes directly to the school budget
- ADK - at least keep the same
- 205 Education school preceed all!
- 206 I voted no because the BOE (elementary school) budget was not transparent. This is also not the time to expand on an optional program like ADK
- 207 I voted no because the BOE (elementary school) budget was not transparent. This is also not the time to expand on an optional program like ADK. The citizens did not have any say in how our money is spent.
- 208 These are not the economic times to be adding ADK.
- 209 Taxes are outrageous now. We need to start thinking of taxpayers. No increases this year. RHAM out of control. No Kindergarten full day = expensive day care.
- 210 The town must cap wages and benefits to match them to increase that private business are allowing, which at this time no wage and benefit icnreases, but pay cuts.
- 211 Break the teachers union!

212 For kindergarten - it should be "all or nothing" available to all who want it not the lottery system. Challenge and enrichment should be EXPANDED not cut. My son thoroughly benefitted from C & E from 1st grade to now 5th grade. His educational experience would have been diminished without it. Mrs. Lasnier and Mrs. Maupin are exceptional as well as what they do for our students.

213 I voted yes because I do not feel the budgets are unreasonable and I don't want educational services (that exist) cut further. The expansion of full day kindergarten would not have received my vote or it should have been voted on separately.

214 Keep C&E/cut all day kindergarten

215 As a lifelong Hebron resident and 5 generation, open space is VERY important. How much is this lawsuit by former town manager going to cost us? Hebron is a great town!

216 We should not restrict current programs to expand on new ones - maintain!!

217 I do feel ADK should be expanded but not at the risk of other programs. I also feel the pre-school program should not be compromised.

218 It is important for our children to have the BEST opportunity to get an excellent education. No matter if we have children in the school system or not. They are our future leaders and patriots!

219 I am a parent of a 5 year old going into kindergarten and am very disappointed in the senior community representatives lack of support for the educational system. If the all day kindergarten program is so expensive then why not consider eliminating administrative excess?

220 voted NO ADK

221 We appreciate the BOE's work on this year's budget and support of ADK

222 do not separate school budget, it would never pass

223 0% increase if only acceptable

224 High risk all day kindergarten is fine. To take resources away from the other 80% of the school population is a tragedy. The kids belong 1/2 day k, not all day.

225 I feel to boards and commissions have done a good job this year given the situation. I would like to ask the BOE to trust the judgement of the superintendent and staff of the schools when they are recommending which programs to focus on in the budget. I do not feel that public opinion should govern these decisions.

226 If the Hebron budget fails it will be because of the ADK proposal.

227 All day kindergarten should be eliminated until it is a mandated requirement. A lottery is not right, regardless of how fairly it might be conducted. I will continue to vote NO until ADK is OFF THE TABLE.

228 I think the people are near sighted and selfish - where's the common good?

- 229 Teachers should have followed lead of town workers and accepted NO raise.
- 230 ADK should be future - especially if it is only for a small number
- 231 Board of Education needs to listen to the parents and voters on what programs they are supporting. Clearly ADK is NOT supported in this budget year.
- 232 NO ADK, no pilot - return to all HDK and this budget will pass. Separate the town and BOE budgets and deal with each on its own merits. If the BOE had listened to the majority and taken all day K out of the budget - people would be happy and this budget would pass on the 1st try. We are tired of the BOE not listening to the taxpayers and doing what they "think" they know best.
- 233 Full day kindergarten is necessary for our children.
- 234 I don't feel current prorams should be eliminated and/or comprimised at the expense of all day kindergarten. We have to take care of the existing elementary chuldren especially with challeng and enrichment, than to worry about 90 4 year olds!!
- 235 Too much development in town. Need more open space
- 236 People with kids in school in Hebron favor taxes while there kids is in school as soon as they gradute they leave town. Were left with the taxes they voted for.
- 237 Taxes too high, mill rate to high, will need to move
- 238 Kudos to all for offering this poll - it is greatly appreciated. I would like more fact-based presentation and discussion of all town matters - budgetary in particular. Too many statements like "our children will suffer" or "property values will drop" are (1) qualitative and (2) unproved. BOE;s approach appears to me to be opinion-based - it needs more information to support the budgets proposed. (this applies to all town departments - the BOE was the prime example). Finally, I would appreciate the town departments actually TRUSTING us to understand the facts so that all our debate can center around the real impact of our decisions. REMEMBER, it's not your money. It is mine, my wife's and yours, and all our our money. Despite the banal statements about fiscal responsibility in down times, I have yet to see that translate in all budget decisions.
- 239 Having the Board of Education fund what amounts to an all day daycare is unacceptable. By third grade, part-time kindergartners have caught up with full-timers.
- 240 All Day Kindergarten should not be pushed by the Superintendent at the expense of other programs and teachers Super needs to better listen to the public and be honest and open with costs and details.
- 241 I am personally against ADK because I feel children need to be home more, not less, during these very young years. In under-priveledged areas, there is evidence to ADK and all-day pre-school being beneficial. In towns such as outs, it's unacceptable to me. Any money going to this, in my opinion, is money that would best be used anywhere else for the Hebron schools..

242 The HBOE is not "listening" or providing opportunity to let parents voice opinion. Please put all meetings on TV of BOE, BOF, BOS. Tell HBOE it is in charge NOT the super-???? Works for them.

243 The schools need more money. The town is being influenced by crazy Tea party-ers. A "no" vote is an embarassment to the town.

244 A no vote means too low - never means too high

245 I do support the education in Hebron, but feel that the administration is too top heavy.

246 It costs too much as it is to live today!! We don't need any more increases!! We should think about reducing! But not on special needs - also, paraprofessionals, the backbone of the schools need raises! Thank you!

247 A budget vote of "yes" is an auto approval of a low budget. A "no" always indicates that the budget is too high. I would like to express my opinion that the education budget is MUCH too low.

248 All Day Kindergarden should only be available if its offered to all rather than on a lottery basis. Also expansion should only be implemented is a more robust economic environment.

249 Do not raise taxes!

250 Listen to the people!!! You're all going to be replaced in November of next year.

251 HBOE should reduce admin at the supt. Office

252 0% increase means 0% increase. The BOE should wag the tail. Arrogance of BOE remains same since 1960

253 C & E program should be 100% funded. ADK is fine by lottery. BOE and super. Cruz need to be open to the majority of town's peoples desires. Too much of a big fish in a little pond.

254 Teacher Union concession: should have been made/asked for

255 Not in favor of all day K for every kid. Think it should still be an option.

256 curriculum director go to part time position

257 I feel the budget amounts are fair. However, I do not believe all day kinsdergarten is needed. I voted yes, as I fear the Hebron Board of Ed would likely retaliate and remove something necessary if the budget goes down! The Hebron Board has been arrogant and the chair's behavior unacceptable. The ADK situation should have been discussed publicly.

258 Open Space fund should not be underfunded; sacrifice disproportionate. Wrong time for ADK proposal. Bifurcate BOE from town budget.

259 I feel ADK should not be passed (not state mandate)

- 260 I get no town services and pay \$5900 a year property taxes.
- 261 As long as the non mandated kindergarten full day is in budget myself and the other 3 voters in house will vote no!
- 262 All day kindergarten is not about the kids!! It's about free DAYCARE!!
- 263 No ADK.. Hebron BOE does not reflect town values - very secretive. Suspend curriculum director position for 2 years. Salaries. Action should be taken for BOE unethical procedures to sway voters to vote yes. Removal of office (flyers sent home). 3 yr minimum residency to run for town offices BOE. DO NOT CUT music and challente and enrichment for new programs like ADK. 2012 Superintendent position 1/2 time like Marlborough which is working fine.
- 264 Hebron BOE should not have filed the circullum director job. Should be a stipend for a head teacher.
- 265 BOE does not need ADK. I don't feel I should pay for the superintendent gas. Lower the budgets.
- 266 Would like to see teachers' contract renegotiated - lower raises. Definitely separate BOE budget from town government budget.
- 267 The town should tighten its budget as everyone else has to spend less just to pay taxes and do without especially seniors
- 268 BOE has too much in the way of bosses
- 269 Hebron BOE behaves as if they are in a vaccum and with no appreciation for the status of the economy.
- 270 The dollar amount of the BOE budget is ok but the expansion of ADK at this time should be deferred to keep other programs in place. There also needs to be more clarification regarding the teachers contract and whether the 4.99% raise is accurate. If it is, then that is not acceptable in these economic times.
- 271 Elimate ADK - reinstate C & E at EHS
- 272 no comments
- 273 No all day kindergarten
- 274 BOE & Supt Cruz need to list about all day kind. (only 106 kids)
- 275 Teachers need to think of concessions also no more China trips until economy recovers.
- 276 I don't think punishing the children is the correct way to go about fighting the board of education.
- 277 BOE should listen more

- 278 Against all day kindergarten. Wrong solution
- 279 BOE (Hebron) is focused on pet projects not what is best for students. ADK is non mandated but a program they refuse to eliminate in these tough economic times. Look at reducing administration. (1) year contracts for teachers..
- 280 More info or BOE allocation needed for informed vote
- 281 budget should be cut as much as possible
- 282 BOE needs to provide more transparency and justification for their proposed budget.
- 283 All day kindergarten should be a separate vote from the school budget. I would NOT vote yes on all day kindergarten even though I voted yes on the budget.
- 248 Spending is out of control and not sustainable.
- 285 All day kindergraten program is not needed - Its free day care - all of my children went to half day and they are all fine -
- 286 Given the circumstances of the economy, I believe all boards did an extraordinary job. I am particularly impressed w/Dr Smilinski's budget saving clinical day programs.
- 287 Despite the efforts of some, this should NOT be treated as a referendum on the BOE budget.
- 288 Please remove all day kindergarten program. Thanks.
- 289 There should be bifurcation of the town government budget and the BOE budget.
- 290 All day kindergarten is NOT a neccesscity! Too much money in a bad economic climate. RHAM seems honest - elementary schools do whatever they want!
- 291 Open to road to no where
- 292 There are no educational implications in the town of Hebron for all day kindergarten. It is an initiative meant for urban districts whose children lack the opportunity and exposure most children in Hebron enjoy plenty of. The way it was "the elephant in the room" that was essentially not up for discussion was inappropriate and deceitful. The Hebron (not the RHAM) superintendent should be called on the carpet for this. There must be some accounting for her in regards to the way this was handled.
- 293 Teachers are paid too much
- 294 If the budget does pass for all day k extend the 2 already in place another year.
- 295 All day kindergarten shown to be better for development of our children

- 296 Expansion of all day kindergarten is not acceptable in the present economy. While research supports this endeavor, history has shown that Hebron schools are preparing their students more than adequately. Open space needs to be funded, as do CIP projects to meet Hebrons needs. The Hebron BOE should be a separate vote, as is the RHAM budget.
- 297 taxes are too high
- 298 We should be buying more open land - too much land in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough is being developed. Save the C & E teacher.
- 299 All day kindergarten is good idea if curriculum is adjusted to accommodate the additional time and cost. Unacceptable to expand time and cost without curriculum expansion.
- 300 RHAM should pay for other ref as needed
- 301 Open space has taken too many hits. Need ethics commission. There is waste in the general government that needs to be eliminate. Clarity and Transparency is essential.
- 302 Separate the BOE from town budget. BOE is top heavy. Too many administrators. With economy so bad - ALL DAY KIND is not in the best interests of the town.
- 303 taxes are too high
- 304 4.99% increase in pay for teachers is absolutely drastic. No one in private section come close to these numbers - 2.5 average. Healthcare cost should be shifted more to teachers. Pension plan is way out of step with market.
- 305 Full day kindergarten is a necessity and is NOT day care as the uninformed people feel.
- 306 I voted yes but I do not think this is the year to start all day kindergarten. I was afraid if I voted NO other things would be cut instead of all day kindergarten. If this budget does not pass please do away with all day kindergarten - not other things.
- 307 The money for all day kindergarten is needed more in 1-6 grades. Most of the extra day will be spend in lunch and nap time.
- 308 Tight fiscal economic times BOE needs to be more sensitive to the needs of the public.
- 309 I do not feel the boe is responsive to the townspeople - should not include ADK nor curriculum director. BOE needs to ask some questions of the superintendant - I would not have supported BOE if I could have voted on stand alone - #ok, programs cut not acceptable.
- 310 No ADK
- 311 We are cutting the wrong things. School admin is top heavy - would have voted yes for same budget with different cuts.
- 312 Include % increase from 1st year. Don't cut middle school sports.

- 313 Education is critical to house values. Hebron is already at the low end. The value of a small house in West Hartford is b/c of the education system. Don't miss the correlation b/w strong education and tax base! Thanks for your work on behalf of the town.
- 314 Not the right time for all day kindergarten!! Services and education for the majority should not be sacrificed at the expense of a few who benefit from ADK
- 315 I don't think its fair that townspeople have to take paycuts (furlough days) and teachers are getting increases - It should be equal - I don't think townspeople should have to take furlough days.
- 316 voted yes for fear that important educational programs like C & E and music will suffer for ill-concieved desire for all day kindergarten.
- 317 4 1/2% Raze?
- 318 HBOE should eliminate ADK. People can choose that currently through private means. Completely remove vs. no increase.
- 319 Government and towns need to be funded. In a town without much commerce the burden falls on the homeowner. Homeowners have chosen to live in this community without much commerce so they need to know they will have to fund through taxes. I am in support of the funds needed to run the town and education.
- 320 If the budget - Hebron BOE does not pass, please do not cut more teachers - KEEP C & E and music. I'd rather wait for full day K until better economic times - leave it as it's been. (a few full day classes).
- 321 No taxpayers all day day care
- 322 I agree with the BOE incerase but do not suport ADK
- 323 No increases at all. Look at ways to reduce expenses. If need be reduce workers rates to a modest 1 1/2% to meet needs. Tax payers can not afford increases.
- 324 ADK should only be offered to at risk students. Superintendant gave a number at her budget presentation on 4/1/10. Curriculum Director OR Vice Principal position should not be filled in this year. The Superintendent's numbers do not add up for ADK, teaching position cuts (have 1.5 not 2.0) and the custodian (not only is that position being cut, every shift is also being cust 0.5 hrs/day. Is that included in the cost savings?) HBOE needs to start representing the voters. Right now they are representing the superintendent. Everything needs to be discussed and debated in an open, public forum. Could all meetings (including HBOE) be videotaped live at RHAM? That would be ideal.
- 325 Intransigence of BOE on ADK is infuriating - Hiring \$100,000 administrators while town employees hold the line is insulting - ADK is a prk barrel project . Overly costly, services a small minority. Other towns are shedding teachers but our BOE wants to hire PT - Bifurcate the BOE budget to eliminate these unnecessary referenda caused by self serving BOE Budgets

- ADK should not be in the budget. It is not needed to enhance a child's educational development. Parents should pay themselves if they want their kids in all day school. Why pay certified teachers to babysit. - I will vote against any school budget that includes ADK, even if the budget is zero based. The budget should be reduced. - Yes - I have 2 grandchildren who will be going to K soon.
- 326
- 327 All day kindergarten not needed.
- 328 Taxes too high especially retired people that mostly live on a fixed income
- 329 My income is down I spend less why can't our town do the same!!
- While I undersand concerns about ADK, it is obvious that the BOE has no intention of cutting the program. If the budget is voted down today, the BOE will only cut other programs further, thus negatively impacting more children & programs. Also, if the citizens of Hebron could see the kindergarten ciurriculum they would understand why ther is a need. This program not only affects the 2010-11 kindergarten students, but all future students in Hebron.
- 330
- 331 Hebron BOE needs to listen to the people of Hebron & not be selective according tho their own personal agendas
- 332 The people of Hebron deserve the best for our taxes. Inflated wages & benefits do not guarantee quality education. Time to face reality and cut the spending.
- 333 I feel this is against our privacy. I also feel that people in town need to pull together and come together as a town. Lager towns don't has this b.s. and they have more revenue.
- 334 Don't cut existing Hebron Ed services at expense of adding new one. - Transparency need with BOE.
- 335 We should make the children of Hebron the top priority.
- 336 No ADK
- Lets be honest. These are hard times. As a state employee I have given up a raise am still taking furlough days & I expect the pain to be shared by all who partake of the budget. The town needs to been run as a business. Hard decisions need to be made and everyone's interests need to be served. I certainly will be watching & expect each of you to do your jobs & serve the needs of all in a responsible manner.
- 337
- 338 Cutting out ADK is short-sighted. Better schools = more families moving to Hebron = higher Grand List revenue. Don't be penny wise & pound foolish! ADK is a very small part of entire budget! Thank you!
- 339 We should have one superintendent for all schools, less additonal staff. The school budget should be held to 40 % max of the Town Budget.
- Unnecessary spending increases for ADK is outrageous -- all it is taxpayer subsidized all-day care!! Expansion of government into what should be a parental responsibility is just unacceptable - scale back education costs; starting with fewer school administrators at lower salaries.
- 340

- 341 The town cannot afford ADK!! It is a glorified daycare, good for urban towns with needs.
- 342 Parents can pay their own childcare, since school should never be used as such. Also, this is not underprivileged area where all day k is intended.
- 343 ADK is non-mandated & should not be expanded at the expense of other programs. The cost is not accurate & the BOE is not being clear as to where the \$ will come from next year.
- 344 "To door" busing not necessary. Need more business - won't get it if "Ted's" is our only concern!
- 345 I don't think that the BOE budget can be reduced anymore w/o harming the Hebron School system!!!
- 346 Get rid of ADK - If I could have signed my name to David Morrison's letter in the RiverEast dated 4/30/10, I would have. -
- 347 Please for our children no ADK!!
- 348 Education funding is important. I might vote no if full day kindergarten is removed.
- 349 Feel this environment, no increase should be approved - BOF & BOE need to plan for increases and not assume the taxpayers will cover it. - Town needs to fix grand list (due to errors) and find ways to increase revenue.
- 350 It is not the time to offer all day kindergarten at the neglect of other school needs.
- 351 I am against all day kindergarten, without a fee. If parents want all day kindergarten, they can pay a fee. Its not mandated, so taxpayers should not have to pay for it. Cost should be considered more seriously in this economy on all issues.
- 352 No all day kindergarten
- 353 As I have no children in school, I do not feel qualified to comment on education specifics such as kindergarten.
- 354 We do not need all day KDG. Test scores for 6th graders are well w/in the range that we have set as the standard. How is ADK justified? Also, research shows that most differences in reading scores average out by 3rd grade. Let parents do more to enrich their children in the afternoons during kdg years.
- 355 All day kindergarten is not required and all it provides is free daycare on taxpayers expense.
- 356 Reduce administration cost of BOE.
- 357 More transparency & communication is need by Hebron BOE -

358 If the budget doesn't pass, please encourage the BOE to eliminate all day kindergarten and to add the full C&E program back in.

359 Keep all educational funding intact!

360 All day kindergarten is a must for our kids!

361 Because Education is so costly, all education budgets should be voted on separately. Do not combine into one grand overall budget. I will never vote for any budget that includes all day kindergarten. If you say I am against education because I vote no, then I say if you don't favor a ban on all gun purchases then you favor killing people. Education is important, very important, but money can't provide good education. Dedicated parents, willing to work with and spend time with their children, will do wonders for a child's educational growth. Don't think that because you spend a lot of money on education you are giving your children the best. You are kidding yourself if you think so.

362 The teachers should take a paycut or no raise like the rest of America.

363 Education increases property values and maintaining school services is very important.

364 Would like to see Enrichment position at GHS reinstated. Need to expand all day K

365 We need to look at how money is being spent w/ regards to school budget. Teachers have not agreed to take any pay cuts as they have in many surrounding towns. At this point we cannot afford to expand programs rather maintain what we have. Teachers could look at extending contract. Do we need to spend money on our partnership with schools in China?

366 Think of the Future! And do what is best ??? Kids.

367 With the economy the way it is and people losing jobs or getting a pay freeze, the town and BOE should not be increasing taxes on their residents for any reason. There should be absolutely no increase on the budget. All day kindergarten should not even be considered. Get with the program Hebron officials and pay attention to what is going on around you.

368 BOE could have communicated better! Moved here for the schools & don't want to see them hurt.

369 CIP & open space too low. - HBOE - ADK for identified needs children only. Too much \$ for Admin - Don't fill curriculum director & / or asst principal position. - Renegotiate superintendent contract - no car or tuition!

370 It is not fair that position get appointed without the approval of the BOE. Cut the curriculum position and there is no need for all day K. This coming from a parent of two under the age of five.

371 Would like to keep option of 1/2 day kindergarten - need to keep C&E position at Gilead Hill

372 Would like to keep option for 1/2 day kindergarten would like to keep C&E position

- 373 All day kindergarten is not necessary at this time - need to keep C&E program
- 374 Not in favor of all day kindergarten
Keep teachers raises reasonable
Keep high end admin at minimum
- 375 Eliminate ADK
Eliminate Asst. Princ. Position @ Hebron El. because of dropping enrollment
Curriculum position should never have been filled in such an underhanded way

I moved to Amston from a town in CT where we lived for 19 years. In that town the residents continuously voted against increases to CIP and expansion of school programs & improvements. They are much worse off fiscally & in terms of infrastructure and quality of education. While I have no children in school, the quality of life in Hebron will be diminished if not attended to regularly. Thank You.
- 376
- 377 Time to look into tax "credits" for Senior Developments. (condos which use no town services)
- 378 Children are too young for ADK
It's babysitting for working parents.
I'm a teacher!
- 379 I am a state employee. I do not get a raise this year
Teachers should not get a raise
- 380 Stop underfunding open space; keep it protected under town budget
Hebron BOE - eliminate ADK proposal;
Restore C&E position
- 381 Cancel the China program
- 382 ADK - there is no scientific data behind this program. Why are they, principal, BOE, etc pushing it.
- 383 Even though I voted for Hebron Budget, I am still against ADK. I just did not want anything else cut at next vote & still have expanded ADK
- 384 I believe there should have been more discussion re: ADK & the recently vacated position of Curriculum Director. That position should have been reconsidered
- 385 All day kindergarten is not reasonable
The \$100,000 position should not be filled - we don't have the money or the need
- 386 I believe the Hebron BOE should look to economize the administration positions before looking to teachers - ie Curriculum Director position
- 387 No data to back up all day K
Testing of K-2 students has always shown gains made by Gr 3 or over
Increase K 1/2 day time appears to meet state standards but lower than ERG

Eliminate "specials" from K program - eliminating passing time - incorporate in classroom and integrate with literacy

388 Listen to the residents
Not everyone wants ADK -
Not at this time

389 All day kindergarten is a joke
Absolutely not

390 Concerned about filling FTE positions w/out considering economic trends.

391 I would also like to see the HBOE not cut C&E program

392 No mill increase, no tax increase, no salary increase 4 teachers. All day kindergarten be funded by the users, cuts should be made everywhere to balance the balance (like I had to do). Time for the (Body of Bd of Ed) to stop saying I want, I want. The entire town resident (needs & wants should be represented.. try home schooling & reduce Bd of Ed budget, reduce school budget by those who go to private school & home school

Reduce revenue projected next year, start cuts & reductions. No BOE salary increase 4 teachers - consider not only Large Group - teachers but Individuals!!! Listen

393 No all day kindergarten

394 The Hebron Board of Ed budget is preposterous in this economy. All day Kindergarten is a luxury for another time. Local Boards of Ed have to cut down expenses - like everyone else!

395 Reinstate C&E Program at GHS!
Eliminate all day kindergarten!!!!

396 Our town government needs to consider the needs of all the members of our community; not just the ones who fit the ideal criteria. Houses are for sale at an increasing rate - people are leaving Hebron!! As far as pay increases, town employees should be paid fairly, make the same sacrifices as others by not asking for pay increases when so many are losing their jobs. The govt should not operate in an unrealistic manner.

397 BOE is too high because of all day kindergarten. I'd like to see bifurcation of the school budget.

398 ADK should not be added if already approved programs are taken away. The BOE is not being fiscally responsible.
BOE should have transparency
BOE should answer taxpayers concerns during meetings
BOE members need to be respectful of others on the board regarding their opinions
Disciplinary actions, removal from BOE should take place if 1 member gets vicious w/another.

399 The BOE needs to listen to the taxpayers

- 400 I'm actually not happy with some cuts, but voted yes because I know the budget never goes up the second time around.
- 401 Get more creative on acquiring open space - st funds - conservation easments
Move for land acquisition -
Separate B/E budget out of town budget
Too much development - too little land acquisition
Keep the cows in Hebron!
Support agri-businesses
- 402 This town has lost its focus
With the terrible management Hebron has become a joke
This from a 30+ year resident.
- 403 I am a parent of two school aged children who are both a product of the half day Hebron Kindergarten program. To pursue ADK at this time is fiscally irresponsible and I am vehemently opposed to it. The BOE should be ashamed in the current economy, to propose town subsidized "day care".
- 404 No ADK!! Too many unfunded mandates

BOE is dishonest in budget process
More money for CIP and Open Space
Cut spending
Regionalize services
- 405 Separate the RHAM budget from the Town Budget
- 406 ADK is good but the timing for 2010 is bad. It is a nice gift if we could afford it. The stated savings of 48,000 I feel is not true. The math is 5 ADK classes with 1 1/2 = 6 teachers or 6 1/2 day sessions = 3 teachers - so that means 3 teachers make 48,000. I do not think so. RHAM budget is very good except do not cut sports programs.
I may be a young homeowner but isn't it a given that taxes go up? I have no problem with this, just be smart, be practice and not sneaky about it.
- 407 All major budget item should be separate.
Go to a 2 1/2 full day kindergarten first
- 408 Cut the teachers 4.8% raise. It is too much and it is not sacred
- 409 Taxes are too high
- 410 Many towns are keeping budgets flat, no increase. I would wager Hebron never considered a plan to have no increase or to cut back. I would also wager that Hebron never looked at what other towns or states have done to control costs. Hebron is out of control.
- 411 We elected the Board to do our bidding so we should back them or elect somebody else.

- 412 No increases in this economy. People are loosing their homes and jobs and everything is desperate
- 413 Should be separate. Teachers salary should be public knowledge.
- 414 All day kindergarten (ADK) is an expensive proposition with little (if any) long term benefits. BOE should focus on maintaining current programs that provide measurable benefits to our children.
- 415 We should invest in our schools and add programs only when we have the ability to do so without jeopardizing other programs.
The BOE needs to entertain debate on ADK
- 416 I see no reason to have all day kindergarten when our present program serves our children so well.
- 417 We need to try and reduce our expenses across the board.
- 418 Look for create alternatives to support struggling learners in kindergarten. These alternatives are currently being implemented in nearby towns.
- 419 If the budget is defeated, Spanish program should be evaluated and justified as to why it is a 21st century skill.
My children have succeeded so far in a 1/2 day kindergarten program so I am not an advocate.
- 420 We need bifurcation - Open space should be funded @ the original amount voted on 1/2 mil.
- 421 I have lived in Hebron for 16 years. This is the first budget I have voted against - including all of the RHAM budgets. All day kindergarten should be eliminated. Not the last thing cut. The BOE budget is OK \$ but wrong priorities. The BOE has lost its way.
- 422 Director of curriculum position at \$100,000+ for a 10 month position should be done by our superintendent who only has 2 schools. All day Kind. Should not be expanded during these bad economic times. It is daycare & let the parents pay for it privately.
- 423 Support our kids & this great community!
- 424 The value of education should not be undervalued. For Hebron to grow in a tough economy, we need to have competitive advantage which includes services, education at a tax rate comparable to other CT Towns. At a
- 425 Town BOE budget should not be further reduced. Programs are already limited and classrooms growing in size.
- 426 Boards & commissions are doing a great job!
- 427 Strongly feel all day kindergarten is needed for children's well being - if anything is to be cut there are many many other places to start with - esp since school systems are tied to property value.

- 428 I could not support the town budget only because of the BOE budget. The town government budget is very acceptable, but I was afraid a "yes" vote would result undesirable cuts in the BOE budget. Thank you for providing this survey - I hope it yields good data.
- 429 ADK is wrong emphasis for BOE to pursue at expense of text books and other programs. Will continue to vote no until there is at least some negotiation on ADK. Thanks for the exit poll.
- 430 Thank you.
- 431 The biggest problem with the Hebron BOE budget is the issue of ADK. Not needed at expense of personnel & it will add pressure to the students by confining programs & classes.
- 432 NO ADK
- 433 I think that All day kindergarten is unnecessary even in good economic times. Screening information taken by educational professionals should be used to determine "at risk" children. These children should be offered ADK or some form of extended service to provide the early intervention they require to succeed. Not all children need this service and have done extremely well without it. In fact, this is true for the majority of children in Hebron. I am a strong support of education, but not ADK. Open Space should have a very high priority in our budget!
- 434 I will continue to vote no until all day kindergarten is eliminated. Please think of Priorities!
- 435 Salaries increase of 4.9% too high.
- 436 Do not reduce the C&E program. During this economic time a new program ADK should not be added and the expense of existing programs.
- 437 Thank you for the exit poll! All areas did their best to keep \$ down except the Hebron BOE who took advantage of everyone else's hard work. BOE math is questionable and incompetent - we need technology more than ADK. Wait for 2 yrs on ADK! Please!
- 438 I want line item vote on town budget- Transparency on budget items posted for all to see read & understand - I want new budget w/ teachers union and or new union or no union - I want the town to vote on teachers contracts - I want open space to not be slush fund for other projects - I want prosecution of Non-Tax Paying Residents - I want town employees to not drive to Colchester Star Bucks daily in a town car.
- 439 Taxes are going to naturally raise over time - the town boards need to realize this and better educate the voters. The whole town should work together to support the work the volunteers do without being political - Bann dollars and non sense!! They just cause trouble.
- 440 No ADK
- 441 Too bad the BOE doesn't listen to the people.

- 442 No ADK. No tech & Curriculum Position (super & Principles should handle this!) No payment of tuition for super. BOE Admin way too top heavy
- 443 A study has shown that a child going to all day kindergarten only gains 45 min of class time. By the time you add in lunch, recess & nap time that is all you gain 45 min! No need too expensive
- 444 Consolidation is needed to leverage the regional system already in place for education. There are at least 4 super in 3 towns which is a waste.
- 445 All day kindergarten should have been offered as a total program or not as it is today. (3 classes/lottery) I was told last year the economy was the reason an all day program was not proposed. The economy has not improved enough to support full day. At least in the Private industry.
- 446 Implement All day kindergarten in two years
- 447 Please give more \$ to Open Space.
- 448 All day kindergarten is supposed to be expanded next year. It is not daycare and would be a step backward for the kids of Hebron to remove it. We should not wait until it's a mandate-who knows what would have to be cut then.
- 449 No all day daycare!
- 450 To high
- 451 Full day kindergarten is a great program for kids. It really gives them a head start. If it goes to full day kindergarten for all kids, make sure 1st, 2nd, etc.. Is modified to account for the advanced learning so kids do not stagnate in 1st grade.
- 452 Items need to be explained clearly & completely - Mandates need to be followed upfront & not be pushed through later. If teachers/planning time is required that should be put up front in the budget.
- 453 Senior Citizen can't afford any more taxes!!!