A SPECIAL BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It is a relief to present a budget that, for the first time in several years, doesn’t include dramatic cuts to staffing and programs. With that said, the Board of Education members and school administration are painfully aware of how slowly the fiscal recovery is reaching Cliffside Park families who are still feeling the impact of the crisis. Therefore, with the community in mind, Cliffside Park School District presents a 2012-2013 School Budget which stays under the 2% cap. This budget illustrates that the Board of Education and I are deeply committed to restoring staff and programs while being fiscally responsible.

In order to prepare graduates to compete in the global economy of tomorrow, it is essential to regularly upgrade curriculum materials to keep pace with educational research. As part of this process, the 2012-2013 Budget includes new textbooks for elementary, middle and high school classrooms. This is part of our ongoing curriculum appraisal schedule which facilitates the review of curriculum and text books on a five year cycle.

At the same time, technology, software and digital resources have enabled teachers to be more flexible to tailor learning to the individual needs of our diverse students. As you know, technology is transforming rapidly and it is essential to prepare students for the workforce by maintaining and replacing technology on a regular basis. Therefore, funds have been appropriated to ensure access to state of the art technologies.

I’m pleased to report that the 2012-2013 Budget will also allow us to restore some staff members and educational programs which were cut in 2010 due to the Governor’s initial reduction of 2.8 million dollars in state aid. At the same time, funds have been budgeted to improve facilities as well; including the installation of new high school gym bleachers which are in dire need of replacement. Ensuring that our students begin each school day in safe and healthful environment will always be a top priority.

I invite you to review the budget and offer your feedback as I appreciate your continued partnership. You’ll have the opportunity to show support for your schools by voting on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Please check the district website at www.cliffsidepark.edu for voting locations and updated information.

Michael J. Romagnino