



CLIFFSIDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Support
Your
Schools!
VOTE!**

VOTE, Tuesday, April 25th 2pm-8pm

A SPECIAL BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Cliffside Park School District's Annual Budget for the 2017-18 school year reflects the Board of Education's continued commitment to our PreK-12 academic, co-curricular, and athletic programs. The proposed budget addresses increased costs related to our growing student population throughout the district. The budget includes additional staff in our elementary, middle and high schools to address our population growth while also providing additional funding for our rapidly expanding need for services for students with special needs and our early language learners.

At the same time, funds were allocated for the rising costs of textbooks, technology equipment (every 7th-12th grade student will receive a Chrome Book vital for today's instruction), software, and other instructional supplies. These are essential for preparing our graduates for college and careers in the 21st Century.

During the budget preparation process, the Board and administration also had to concentrate on the rising costs of medical premiums, special education tuitions for out-of-district students, speech services and additional staffing for our ESL population.

Why is your support so important?

Your vote makes a tremendous difference in the operation of our school programs on a daily basis. For example, as a result of your approval of the 2016-17 budget, we were able to maintain all of our existing programs while adding additional staff and services for our students.

We also continued to upgrade our technology services to keep pace with the ever-changing tech world. This included purchasing additional Chrome Books necessary for PARCC testing and classroom use and maintaining our cycle of upgrading our textbooks throughout the district.

In addition, we were able to continue our 5-year maintenance plan by improving and upgrading our schools; the remodeling of bathrooms and flooring, roof at School 4, other projects throughout the district that are needed to provide for a safe, working environment for our staff and students.

With the help of the Borough's Mayor and Council we

were also able to continue the employment of our security guards for each of our schools. This was essential as the security of your children is our upmost priority. **These accomplishments are the result of your support!**

The Board and administration will continue to find alternative sources of income to offset many local expenditures. This includes developing grant opportunities and bringing in outside revenue by continuing to increase our transportation services for surrounding school districts. This past year our income for transportation increased by 30%.

During this school year, we were once again the recipients of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant for \$525,000. Monies from this grant are used to offset local costs for professional development, staff salaries for our after school and summer programs, and counseling and support services for students in need. This year, unfortunately, is the last year of this grant. Although we have applied for a continuation, there is a possibility due to federal and local funding that we will not receive this grant for 2017-18. This would result in the local budget having to fund some of these programs.

In total, the proposed 2017-18 Annual Budget reflects a 3.30% tax levy increase over 2016-17, which remains **within state guidelines** due to allowable increases for healthcare costs. This equates to an increase of approximately **\$89** for a house assessed at \$354,000 or **about \$7.42 per month**.

As always, this budget reflects the Board of Education's deep commitment to giving our students and staff the tools and resources they need to strive to provide a world class education, all while presenting a budget that is fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Michael J. Romagnino

Please click on the link "User Friendly Budget" on the right for more information.