



### Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

I hope this issue finds you well and enjoying the onset of spring. Once again, it is time for us as a district to renew our financial plan for the upcoming school year. To that end, we have engaged our school community in the budget development process, producing a spending plan that is mission-driven and fiscally responsible.

#### Some highlights of the 2019-2020 proposed budget include:

- Tax levy increase of 1.99%, which is within the property tax cap
- \$100,000 capital outlay project for repairs at our middle school
- Purchase of six new school buses, as part of the district's bus replacement program (more details on page 3)
- Expansion of Mandarin Chinese to include grade 7, via distance learning
- Expansion of American Sign Language (ASL) to include grade 9, via distance learning
- Continued presence of Special Patrol Officers (SPOs) in each of our seven school buildings
- Expansion of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students

Later in this issue, you will read about our proposed capital project which will be placed on our ballot on May 21, 2019. As mentioned in prior communications, this project will have zero impact on our tax levy. We are able to accomplish this by using \$1M from our existing capital reserve funds. The balance of the project will be funded using building aid we receive from NYS. Our aid ratio is .84 meaning 84% of the cost will be paid using these funds. The remaining 16% will be paid using the reserve funds previously mentioned.

The public budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the high school cafeteria. This is an opportunity for all community members to learn more about our financial plan for next year, and to hear from the three candidates seeking a seat on the Board of Education. The budget vote/board election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Thank you for your continued support of our district. Together, we will help shape the future of our students and broaden the opportunities that lie ahead for them.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*