

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### 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 2018-2019 proposed budget include:

- Tax levy increase of 1.87%, which is within the property tax cap
- \$100,000 capital outlay project to remediate water infiltration issues in the façade located at Deerfield Elementary School
- Purchase of five new school buses, as part of the district's bus replacement program (more details on page 3)
- Restoration of French and Spanish at grade 7
- Addition of Mandarin Chinese at grade 6, via distance learning
- Addition of American Sign Language (ASL) at grade 8, via distance learning
- Continued presence of Special Patrol Officers (SPOs) in every school building
- Expansion of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students



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The safety of our school community is a top priority for our district. Given this importance, we are developing plans to make our schools even safer.

Last year, voters approved the creation of a capital reserve account to be funded up to \$5 million. Currently, the account balance is \$2.7 million. The district is seeking authorization to use \$1.5 million of these funds for safety and security initiatives. Use of these funds will have no impact on the tax levy, as these funds are already in reserve.\*

The public budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 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 six candidates seeking a seat on the Board of Education. The budget vote/board election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15.

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,

**Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*

*\*Regarding the proposed use of \$1.5 million dollars from the Capital Reserve Fund for safety/security upgrades.*