



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

February 19, 2021

Good Afternoon,

At last evening's board of education meeting, I provided a presentation about next year's school budget. We are currently hopeful for no **reduction in student programs**. However, our ability to deliver on this goal will be dependent on the state aid figures scheduled to be released next Thursday, February 25th.

Our district has been advocating for increased school funding in partnership with many public school advocacy coalitions. The New Jersey Association of School Administrators Organization has also contacted our Assembly Representatives, Mr. Lou Greenwald, and Ms. Pam Lampitt, on our behalf. As a Haddon Township taxpayer, please feel free to contact them if you desire to advocate for our school funding.

Over the last 12 months, our enrollment has trended down, which could result in a decrease in state aid for the next school year. We believe that would be unfair because we expect many students to re-enroll in September. Furthermore, it is my personal belief that **all** school districts should receive **additional funds** next year to address students' learning loss and social-emotional needs following this challenging time.

Below is a snapshot of how state aid could influence our budget:

Scenario 1- Flat State Aid

Possible Deliverables: (Maintain All K-12 Programs, Math Support for Elementary & Middle School, Additional Elementary School Counselor, and Social/Emotional Resources)

Scenario 2- Additional State Aid

Possible Deliverables: (In addition to the list above, we could add basic skills support staff and purchase additional academic resources)

Scenario 3- Decrease in State Aid

Possible Consequences: (Inability to capture some of the enhancements above along with

possible reductions proportional to the amount of the decrease)

I also presented some short and long-term financial goals. The complete presentation is attached, but an abbreviated summary can be found below:

Additional Short Term Goals

Extend the length of the school day at RMS for 2020-2021, so that it is consistent with the high school (6hrs. 45 minutes) Purchase of new High School Band Uniforms (Current Uniforms are 30 years old) Improvements to High School Fitness Room (surplus of funds earmarked for athletics not spent due to covid with be utilized)

Implementation of Full Day Tuition Based Pilot Pre-K for 2021-2022 is planned, and more information will follow. All-Purpose Room Floor Renovation and Repair at Van Sciver and RMS

Additional Long Term Goals

Full Day Kindergarten Turf Field at Haddon Township School New Roof for RMS Additional Extra-Curricular Activities Work Toward a Zero-Based process to become non-reliant on surplus and fund balance (next year's budget contains \$1.5m of fund balance from the 2019-2020 School Year)

The evening's concluding message was the importance of everyone working together to preserve and protect all of our proudest traditions while finding new ways to grow, change, innovate, and improve. A strategic planning survey has also been constructed, and I will distribute it next Friday, February 26th. I certainly look forward to your input.

Thank you very much for your support, and have a great day.

-Robert J. Fisicaro Superintendent