

Superintendent's Bulletin

"SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS"



April 28, 2017

TO: ALL RSD Staff & Families
FROM: Dr. DiNinno
SUBJ: Updates

Superintendent's Bulletin

This Bulletin is published periodically to provide families with updates and other important information.

New Social Media Policy

Parents and students are reminded that during the April Regular School Board Meeting, the Riverview Board of School Directors adopted a New Social Media Policy. Principals from each school have shared the new policy with students, staff, and families. Please review Policy 817 and contact your child's principal if you have any questions.

2017-2018 School District Budget

The Board of School Directors is required to approve an annual school district budget for the upcoming school year by June 30th. Please see the back of this bulletin for more details pertaining to this topic.

IMPACT Day (6/2/17)

Do you know someone who has impacted the life of one of our students in a way that often goes unrecognized? Please consider nominating that unsung hero for our first annual IMPACT Award. To

meet the submission deadline, kindly turn in your nomination form at any District or school office by May 1st. Awards will be presented on June 2nd during a very special ceremony at Tenth Street Elementary School's auditorium. Nomination forms can be obtained at any school office.

Superintendent/Parent Workshops

I would like to genuinely thank those parents who took the time to attend the Superintendent/Parent Workshops this year. We hope to continue offering these workshops next year with the goal of including topics of parental interests on the agenda. Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Events

Parents are advised to regularly check the District web page, District Facebook page, and communications sent from your child's school to learn about end of year events. These events include recognizing the success of our students in areas such as academics, STEAM, the arts, and athletics.

Class of 2017

Please join us as we congratulate the class of 2017 during Graduation ceremonies on June 1st.

Educational Foundation

Special thanks to the REF for their support of several STEAM initiatives. Through five generous grants, our students were provided with resources to implement a Drone project, a SMART document camera, laptops for STEM events, a 3D printer for engineering, and innovative resources to support etiquette, science and the arts. Thank you REF!

District Webpage/Facebook

Our School District website serves as a valuable tool for sharing and communicating important information to staff and families. Please visit the site regularly and review the information. www.rsd.k12.pa.us.

A new Facebook page has also been added this year to assist with communication efforts.

Building Security

Parents are reminded that visitors to any school building must follow appropriate sign-in procedures and obtain a proper I.D. at the school office.

Sprigeo and Bullying

Keep in mind that this tool (known as Sprigeo), located on the school district webpage, is available for reporting bullying.

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A Message from the Riverview School District Board of School Directors Finance Committee 2017-2018 School District Budget

As you may know, the Board of School Directors is required to approve an annual school district budget for the upcoming school year by June 30th. As part of this budget process, annually, the Board's Finance Committee undertakes a financial analysis to assess how past and current decisions are likely to affect the outlook of the district into the future. A few important themes have emerged this year:

1. There are significant forecasted capital expenditures that will be necessary to keep aging buildings safe and useful over the next ten years. The Finance Committee has been looking into a number of options to perform the building repairs, without increasing the expenditure costs. The Board settled on coupling a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract with a capital projects building renovations project. Through the use of fund balance and attractive bond financing, no net increase to annual expenses will occur. The innovative financing models that come along with

a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract can reduce and often negate any financing costs. In addition, such a project brings an important side benefit of reducing fossil fuel consumption.

2. A concern that costs are rising faster than revenues has been an emerging concern and is the result of multiple years of level funding in State Revenues and an Act 1 tax index that has stalled. 70% of the District's costs are fixed costs associated with salaries and benefits. These costs are dictated by contracts or mandated by state law and contain escalation clauses which are uncontrollable by the Board in the short term. Revenues, on the other hand, do not escalate as fast, both because of caps imposed on us by state law and for reasons stated below.

3. Roughly one-third of the district's revenues are apportioned by the state and we forecast them to be flat in our most optimistic scenarios. The other two-thirds of the district's revenue derive from local taxes, and mainly from local property taxes. The District recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy tax rate. Riverview's tax rate is comparable and average to

the surrounding districts in Allegheny County. The School Board has maintained the same tax rate for the past three school years. However, a tax increase for 17-18 is being considered.

4. Population of the district has declined rather sharply over the last 20 years, yet the infrastructure remains in place for a larger district. In order to realize economies of scale, an ambitious plan of marketing the district's virtues to attract families from outside the district is necessary for our long-term viability.

We remain upbeat about the District's future but there are some realities we face which demand difficult choices. The things that make Riverview distinctive: small class sizes, neighborhood schools, and substantial investment in the arts and athletics are important and expensive. This tension will be at the heart of the Board's budget deliberations for the upcoming year and beyond.

*Mr. John Hackworth
Mr. Jon Nehlsen
Ms. Tammy Good*

[For more information, please reference the "17-18 Budget at a Glance" document which will be available on the District website in the coming weeks.](#)