



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2018

Ewing Board of Education set to Review/Approve 2018-19 Preliminary Budget

On March 19th, at the regular Board of Education Meeting held in Fisher Middle School's auditorium, Superintendent Michael Nitti and School Business Administrator Dennis Nettleton will present the 2018-19 Preliminary School Budget to the public. After the presentation, the preliminary budget will be forwarded for approval by the Board, and then sent to the Mercer County Office of the Department of Education for their review and sanctioning.

The final step in the stipulated process is for the Board to approve the final budget on Monday, April 30th during the required public hearing, which will also be held at Fisher Middle School.

Their presentation, titled *"Focused on Today; Preparing for Tomorrow,"* details the district's path to building its budget and provides an overview of the new spending plan.

"The 2018-19 budget was a challenging one to put together," Nitti stated. "With the budgetary cap on our tax levy and revenues and costs increasing at a much greater percentage, our goal in building this budget was to strive to maintain our staffing, keep all the programs that our district values and look for innovative ways to address issues that are important to our school community."

Programs maintained in the preliminary budget include full-day kindergarten, middle and high school athletics, gifted and honors education, K-12 music and art, and after-school activities and programs. The preliminary budget also has funds dedicate to enhancing school security, and addressing the emotional and psychological needs of the district's students, two areas that have emerged as a focus for the Board and administration.

Again, the school budget is not presented to voters, as the Board does not need to have budget referendums for spending plans that fall within the 2 percent tax cap.

Superintendent Nitti thanked Mr. Nettleton and the Board of Education for their work on the budget. "Each year, the Board and the administration meet in a retreat to prioritize values and evaluate budgetary options. Each Board member makes vital contributions to this process and Mr. Nettleton is very good at explaining variables and challenges."

The preliminary budget reflects a 2% increase on the tax levy, in addition to the use of previously "banked cap" that was not expended in prior year's spending plans. This sets the preliminary tax rate at \$2.9147 and represents an increase of approximately \$.0205 per \$100 of assessed property value. This correlates to roughly a \$2.10 monthly increase in the average Ewing homeowner's tax bill, or \$25.24 annually.

After final approval, the spending plan will go into effect on July 1, 2018.

All information pertaining to the 2018-19 budget can be found on our website www.ewing.k12.nj.us under the Board of Education tab (Ewing Board Docs/Library/General/Budget Docs/18-19 Budget Year).

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