



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EWING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES 2015-2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

On March 16th, at a special Board of Education Meeting held in Fisher Middle School's auditorium, Superintendent Michael Nitti and new School Business Administrator Dennis Nettleton presented the 2015-16 Preliminary School Budget to the public. After presentation, the preliminary budget was approved by the Board, 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 April 27th during the required public hearing, which will also be held at Fisher Middle School.

Their presentation, titled *"Prudent Past, Proven Accountability, Providing a Foundation for Life,"* detailed the district's path to building its budget and provided an overview of the new spending plan.

"It is certainly a challenging time to build a school budget," Nitti stated. "We have a 2% cap on revenues and costs increasing at a much greater percentage. So our goal in building this budget was to maintain our personnel, keep all the programs that our community values and look for innovative ways to move our schools forward."

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 for capital projects and to maintain favorable class size.

The school budget is no longer presented to voters, as the Board adopted a resolution allowing the district to move its board election to November and eliminate budget votes entirely for spending that falls within the 2 percent tax cap.

Nitti praised the work of Nettleton on the budget. "Being new, but also quite experienced, Mr. Nettleton certainly brought in a fresh perspective and viewpoint to the budget-building process," the Superintendent commented. "He worked closely with our administrative team to craft a budget that preserved the core values of the Board, but is also respectful to the taxpaying community."

The preliminary budget reflects a 2% increase on the tax levy. This equates to a 2.9 cent increase on the tax rate, or an annual increase of \$36 on the average assessed home in the township.

After final approval, the spending plan will go into effect on July 1, 2015.

All information pertaining to the 2015-16 budget can be found on our website www.ewing.k12.nj.us under the homepage Site Shortcuts menu.

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Providing a Foundation for Life