



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

KELLY M. LYMAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Mansfield Community Members,

As an elementary principal, I had the pleasure of welcoming the parents of kindergarten children to the public schools each year. Parents were often anxious to understand how they might become involved in their child's education. Participating in the school's parent organization, supporting learning at home, and volunteering in the classroom are activities that were often shared. In addition, I always reminded parents that the schools are a reflection of the community and they are managed through the process of a representative government. Therefore, one of the best ways to be involved in the schools is to uphold the responsibility of citizenship and participate in the democratic government process. Along with this comes the responsibility to stay informed about what is happening in the schools, not just when it is time to vote for community leaders but throughout the year. Later this spring you will have the opportunity to vote at a town meeting on the operating budget for the next year.

Last evening I presented the Superintendent's 2016-17 proposed budget to the Board of Education. This budget was collaboratively developed with the school administrators and the Director of Finance. The proposed budget was designed to preserve the programming and experiences currently afforded to our students while also addressing identified needs which will strengthen the district as we move forward. All expenses were carefully reviewed as administrators were asked to build their budget from zero. This allowed them to evaluate each expenditure and ensure that expenses were appropriately located in the budget lines. This resulted in the identification of some savings and the realignment of some expenses. Substantial savings were also realized in other accounts such as energy and service accounts. Budget drivers, as in the past, continue to be meeting our obligated expenses for salary and benefits. In addition, the budget proposal includes the addition of 1.2 middle school teachers, a .5 professional librarian, the return of a facility maintainer position (an expense the Board of Education shares with the town), and funds to allow for teacher leadership in the areas of curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation.

The Board of Education will hear more detail about the proposed budget during workshops to be held on January 28 and February 4 at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers. On February 11, the Board will adopt their budget for 2016-17 and forward it on to the Town Council.

This website page includes the Board of Education meeting dates, my introductory presentation made to the Board last evening, and the complete proposed budget. I encourage you to take a look at this page and to attend the upcoming Board of Education workshops and meetings to learn more.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Lyman