



ELIZABETH FORWARD School District

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For Immediate Release:

ELIZABETH FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVES 2018-19 BUDGET

EFSD School Board votes for 1 mill tax increase to balance school budget, pay faculty, staff, retirement benefits while increasing school security

Elizabeth, PA - May 16, 2018 - The Elizabeth Forward School Board voted to approve the proposed 2018-19 school district budget. The new budget includes planned wage and salary increases per contractual obligations along with a 33.43 percent contribution to the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). These two items were key drivers in leading the board to raise property taxes just over 1 mill to generate an additional \$839,000 in revenue.

“The school board made the difficult, but responsible decision to balance the school’s budget” stated Dr. Bart Rocco, Superintendent, Elizabeth Forward School District. “The alternative would have been to eliminate educational programs which would have led to the detriment of every student’s educational experience in the district. The board wrestled with this decision, but this budget reflects the hard work put forth by the board to put our children first.”

In addition to the salary and wage increases and the continually growing contribution to PSERS, the board also earmarked \$173,000 to employ six-armed security personnel to be placed at each school for added security.

“Considering the tragic events that have taken place far too frequently in schools across our country and most notably in Florida, the board addressed the concerns of parents and provided funding to keep our schools safe,” added Rocco. “The security personnel will ensure another level of safety at each school building and will complement the ALICE training each of our faculty and staff undergo to keep our kids safe.”

The district’s \$43.8 million budget has very little discretionary room for cuts. Nearly 80 percent of the entire school’s budget is spent on wages, benefits and to pay back past debt obligations.

“This current board inherited the fiscal irresponsibility of previous boards who chose to kick the can down to road to future boards,” said Tom Sharkey, Jr., President of the Elizabeth Forward School Board. “This board made the fiscally responsible decision that does not sacrifice the education and safety of our children. I thank each board member for their hard work and dedication in passing this budget and putting the district back on solid financial ground.”

To view the 2018-19 budget online and for more information about the Elizabeth Forward School District, visit the school district’s website at www.efsd.net.

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