



2017-2018

Preliminary Budget Details:  
Putting the Puzzle Pieces  
Together

# Problem/Challenge:

Continue to provide a rich academic and instructional program that supports the mission statement and District Goals of Gardner-Dickinson, but while maintaining **sustainable** good-standing financial status.

*The mission of our community based school is to create a safe, compassionate, progressive learning environment that recognizes individual needs and encourages all students to strive for personal and educational excellence.*

*As a small, suburban school district, rich with pride, we believe that by working together we can: create a dynamic program based on character, tolerance and diversity; provide opportunities for all to reach their fullest potential; empower all to achieve personal excellence and encourage a life-long love of learning.*

# The District Goals

**Increase academic achievement for all students.**

**Value continuous school improvement.**

**Foster a safe, respectful, responsible and positive school community.**

**Promote open and effective communication.**

**Provide a quality educational program while remaining fiscally responsible.**

# As of February 16, 2017, what do we know?

1. At present moment, we can expect a **total** state aid increase of \$21,620 (continuously evaluated by State Aid Planning Specialists)
  2. With the two percent tax levy law and the District's lack of significant taxable growth (construction), total tax levy for 17-18 can be increased only by approximately \$91,087\*(1.8% levy increase)
- \*please note individual tax/equalization rates are determined by the NYSORPTS (Office of Real Property Tax Services)
3. Carry over of remaining \$33,853 from last year (we carried over \$33,853 last year, approx. 2.45% total levy increase if we use the remaining carry over.)
  4. Total "Guaranteed" revenue increase from last year's budget year is approximately **\$112,707** (without carryover)

\*All subject to change

# More Money is Great, But...

- \* Contractual salary increases are mandatory. Combined mandatory pay increase for Teachers' union (WTA) is **\$137,000** (approx.). WTAA contract is being negotiated (expires this year).

**This does not include non-unionized 10/12 month employee increases**

**(bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria, secretaries, administration)**

- \* Health/Dental insurance coverage rate increases estimated at **6% overall**
- \* **Prescription drug coverage** (last year was approximately **23% increase**)

- \* Special Education Placements (each placement cost approximately \$60,000); important to budget for these students and also **unexpected/unanticipated** student arrivals
- \* Charter School Tuition / G-D High School Tuition; changes daily!
- \* Determination of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class High school choice.
- \* The above are non-negotiables (“open your doors” expenses)
- \* Purchase of 2 new vehicles (one 27 passenger with wheelchair access and one 66 passenger) aid able/ no extra cost to the District but will be part of our overall budget considerations (short-term vs. long-term expenses)

# Program Priority Needs to Address:

- \* In addition to maintaining current level of programming, the District would like to consider the following needs:
  - Maintain current supplemental resources to support “larger” second grade (next year’s third grade class)
  - Maintenance of support for K-8 staff professional development opportunities
  - Special Education program delivery (services for 17-18 being determined over next two months).
  - Maintain appropriate textbook allocation to meet needs of Math/ELA Series plus classroom/book rooms
  - Maintenance of Technology Support and Resources for instructional program, devices, and ever-increasing infrastructure
  - Examination of P/T Librarian position increase to support K-8 research and literacy collaboration
  - Minimal disruption to the Fund Balance to keep us in solid fiscal standing
  - Capital Project Reserve Fund
  - Pre-K Coming Soon!



## **BOTTOM LINE:**

**Balance revenues with mandatory and desired program expenses to present a viable school budget**

### **BUT, THERE'S HOPE (THE MISSING PUZZLE PIECES):**

1. Legislative/Executive lobbying is successful in advocating for an increase in overall Foundation Aid / Revision of Tax Cap Formula
2. Tuition Revenue (gain greater than loss)
3. Successful administrative restructure over past two years (Business Consultant, Data Management) has assisted in easing burden of increased cost (doing more with less).

# NEXT STEPS:

1. Use available data to ensure needs of fixed costs will be met
2. Re-examination of last year's line item allocations to determine if appropriate (too high, too low, etc.)
3. Use enrollment data and examine financials after the "open the door" needs are met to ensure class sizes are adequately but responsibly addressed (short-term versus long-term)
4. Be patient, ask/answer questions, advocate, and think "outside of the box!"

Questions?