



Vision

A special budget newsletter for residents of the Gettysburg Area School District

Spring 2017

A Budget to Advance our Vision

Dr. Larry R. Redding, Superintendent

The Vision Statement for the Gettysburg Area School District says we aspire to provide a safe and caring learning environment where students develop skills to learn in an ever-changing world. We recognize our responsibility to help all students use those skills to learn, grow and graduate ready to learn, work, serve and succeed in a world we cannot yet define or imagine.

What impact did the resources of the Gettysburg Area School District have on the students we worked with during the year? Did we help them acquire the skills they will need? What will the graduating seniors of the class of 2017 say, when they are working professionals, about the experiences we provided as part of their readiness for a future undefined?

For most students, one singular experience will not be easy to identify; rather the collective experiences or the cumulative effect of their experiences will be credited for their career and life success. We submit that the nearly 2900 students we served this past year had top-quality experiences that challenged their academic, physical, civic, social and emotional development. And every one of our employees played a vital role. Our secretaries, custodians, teachers, counselors, nurses, food service staff, administrators, buildings & grounds staff, all the professionals and paraprofessionals had a positive impact on helping our graduates earn a diploma.

The core of our mission is obviously academic preparation around the PA Core Standards. We cannot take for granted that this district invested over \$60 million to provide quality experiences in the classrooms and labs and outside the classroom on field experiences and athletic opportunities. We are fortunate for the support public education receives from our local citizens, especially in these times of difficult budgeting.

This newsletter serves two vital purposes: first to provide a few examples of the wide range of educational programs and services the GASD Budget supports and secondly, to provide a summary of the financial components of the 2017-2018 proposed budget.

US News and World Report released its annual ranking of American high schools

For the third consecutive year, Gettysburg Area High School has landed among the top schools in the State of Pennsylvania and in the nation. After evaluating more than 22,000 public and private high schools, US News has awarded GAHS a third straight silver medal for finishing among the top 10% nationally. GAHS is the only Adams County school in the top 100. There are a number of data sources used to produce the Best High School rankings. The core data comes from the U.S. Department of Education and includes the basic data on enrollment, student ethnicity and other profile information. The College Board is the source of the Advanced Placement test data for each public high school and creates calculated values used in the rankings. The PA Department of Education provides the statewide accountability proficiency test results and graduation rates. The rankings are based first on how students perform on the state assessments relative to their predicted scores. If a school succeeds in this area, the remaining steps include at-risk student performance, graduation rates, and college-readiness scores on assessments such as Advanced Placement and SATs.

Blue Ribbon Award for one and all

The United States Department of Education selected James Gettys Elementary School for a 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award, to recognize their outstanding achievement. James Gettys is one of only 279 public schools in the entire nation receiving this honor. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is proof that our public schools in Gettysburg are preparing every child to be lifelong learners.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are on education's cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices like professional learning communities, project-based learning, social and emotional learning, and positive behavior systems. James Gettys Elementary School was nominated by the PA Department of Education to be considered for this high honor. We received the award for "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing"—schools making the fastest progress in their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

While the award recognition is for James Gettys Elementary students, staff and families, the fact that Franklin Township Elementary and Lincoln Elementary have similar programs and services means the culture and dedication to helping all students succeed is the foundation of all three elementary schools. Yes, all three Gettysburg Area School District elementary schools have the "Blue Ribbon ingredients."

Congratulations to all three elementary schools, especially James Gettys Elementary; we are proud of the many key strategies you use to "achieve maximum growth through high expectations."

The Hybrid Learning Institute names best educators for integrating technology with classroom instruction

The Hybrid Learning Institute (HLI) selected educators from Gettysburg Area School District as their big winners in the “Rock Star” awards for outstanding teacher performance. The awards are given annually to teachers and administrators who best use technology to help their students succeed in school. Also recognized by HLI was Ms. Lisa Gormley, a fourth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, for the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award,” which recognizes educators for making creative contributions of outstanding significance to the field of personalized learning. It is considered a capstone award for an exceptional teaching career. Three teachers working together at Gettysburg Area High School earned honors for “Best New Group.” They are Mr. Michael Rupp, Mr. Joe Tesoriero and Mr. Shawn Waybrant, who are recognized for their work in helping students who struggle in math gain confidence in the subject and improve student performance.

The Gettysburg teachers beat out more than 1,400 eligible teachers and administrators from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to earn these awards. “The Gettysburg Area School District administration is extremely proud of the Rock Star Award 2016-17 recipients. All of the teachers have worked tirelessly to implement the hybrid station rotation model with their learners on a daily basis. They are reflective in their practice and frequently adjust their instruction to meet the needs of their learners. Gettysburg Area School District is fortunate to employ such a dedicated group of educators,” Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Christine Lay said.

GASD World Language Department receives award

The Pennsylvania State Modern Languages Association has awarded the Gettysburg Area School Districts’ World Language Program a Bronze Globe Award for implementing best practices into the teaching of world languages. The methods are based on ACTFL (American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages) standards and recognize that our World Language Programs provide a variety of languages and levels. French, German, and Latin classes offer Levels 1 through Level 5. In addition to Levels 1 through 4 in Spanish, we offer the Advanced Placement Level. All modern language teachers administer ACTFL Standards Based Assessment in French, German, and Spanish languages at Levels I and II and 100% of World Language teachers maintain current membership in their professional organizations. Special program features that connect students to outside resources include trips to Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Berlin, Dresden, Nurnberg and Munich in Germany.

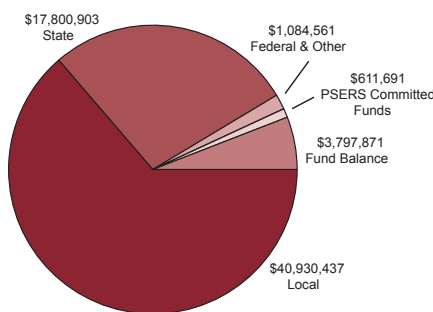
In Gettysburg, world language instruction begins in grade 8 with German, French and Spanish languages.

Two student-athletes selected for National Leadership Summit

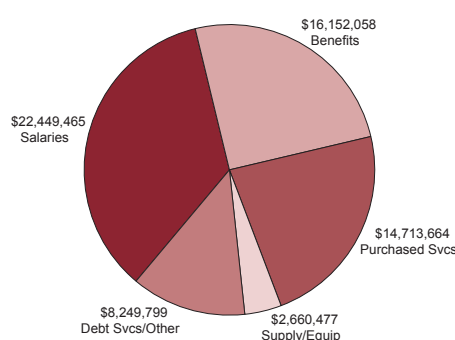
The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) completed a thorough review across the state and ten students will represent Pennsylvania at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Leadership Summit. Two Gettysburg student-athletes, Cameron Bishop and Jared Herr are part of the ten students. The NFHS National Student Leadership Summit provides a forum for student leaders to discuss contemporary issues facing educational-based athletics and activities. Through interactive, large and small group discussions, these leaders will learn to promote respect, positive values, sportsmanship, team-work, healthy lifestyles and community service.

The PIAA and the YAIAA (York-Adams league) have selected several of our teams for sportsmanship awards, including the field hockey, football, boys basketball and both boys and girls swimming teams.

2017-18 Revenue Sources
Total Revenue Budget & Use of Fund Balance is \$64,225,463



2017-18 Expenses By Object
Total Expense Budget is \$64,225,463



Important Tax Payment Information

Please watch for your school tax bills, which should arrive around July 1, 2017. If you do not receive a bill, please contact your local tax collector immediately. The deadlines for payment of your real estate taxes are as follows:

2% Discount Period - July 1 - August 31

Par Period - September 1 - October 31

10% Penalty Period - November 1- December 31

Payments made after August 31 will not qualify for the 2% discount. Please make a note of this important date. You may also wish to remind your mortgage holder, if it makes your real estate tax payment for you.

All taxpayers may elect the installment payment option to pay the real estate tax at par in three (3) equal installment payments of one-third (1/3) of the full tax amount. The installments are due on or before July 31, September 15, and November 15 of the year in which the tax is levied. Payment of the first installment in full by July 31 will constitute taxpayer election to pay tax in installments. Please see details on your tax bill.

For more information call the GASD Business Office at 334-6254 ext. 1226 or visit our website www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us

GASD Proposed 2017-18 Budget	Final Budget 2016-17	Proposed Budget 2017-18	Change From Prior Year		% of Total Proposed Budget
			\$	%	
Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance	11,517,083	8,541,013	(2,976,070)	-25.84%	
Revenues & Other Sources:					
Local Sources	\$39,439,338	\$40,930,437	1,491,099	3.78%	67.73%
State Sources	17,246,240	17,800,903	554,663	3.22%	29.46%
Federal Sources	1,163,812	1,082,561	(81,251)	-6.98%	1.79%
Other Sources	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%	0.00%
Use of PSERS Committed Funds	426,942	611,691	184,749	43.27%	1.01%
Total Revenues & Other Sources	\$58,278,332	\$60,427,592	2,149,260	3.69%	100.00%
Expenses:					
Salaries and Wages	\$22,072,551	\$22,449,465	376,914	1.71%	34.95%
Employee Benefits	15,054,149	16,152,058	1,097,909	7.29%	25.15%
Sub-Total	37,126,700	38,601,523	1,474,823	3.97%	60.10%
Purchased Services	14,348,875	14,713,664	364,789	2.54%	22.91%
Supplies, Property, & Equipment	2,216,737	2,660,477	443,740	20.02%	4.14%
Other Objects & Financing Uses	7,562,090	8,249,799	687,709	9.09%	12.85%
Total Expenses	\$61,254,402	\$64,225,463	2,971,061	4.85%	100.00%
Decrease in Unassigned Fund Balance					
General Fund - Per Budget	(2,976,070)	(3,797,871)	(821,801)	27.61%	
Ending Unassigned Fund Balance	\$8,541,013	\$4,743,142	(3,797,871)	-44.47%	
<i>Real Estate Tax Rate (mills)</i>	<i>10.5529</i>	<i>10.8167</i>	<i>0.2638</i>	<i>2.50%</i>	

Revenues

Projected local real estate taxes are expected to be \$28,835,802 which is 3.0% more than last year. This is due to assessment changes, an adjustment to the projected collection rate, and \$703,254 from a 0.2638 mill rate increase, (2.5%), which is the Act 1 index for 2017-18. Overall, local revenue sources are up \$1,491,099 or 3.8% over last year.

State revenues for the school district are expected to increase by 3.2% overall. This is primarily due to increased PSERS (retirement) subsidy of \$337,309, which covers only about one-half our increased cost for that required plan. The state budget has not yet been finalized and is subject to change by the legislature. Federal revenues are expected to decrease by 7.0% or \$81,251 from last year due to projected decreases in Title I program funding.

Overall revenues and uses of fund balance are projected to increase 3.7% over last year. This includes a planned use of \$611,691 of the PSERS committed fund balance, which is a long term plan established to mitigate the impacts of very significant rate increases. To balance the budget, \$3,797,871 of the unassigned general fund balance is needed. This is the equivalent of 1.4246 mills of real estate taxes, and is being used to reduce the need for higher tax rates. Though the District was eligible to increase taxes further, using PSERS and Special Education exceptions to the Act 1 limit, the Board opted not to apply for those exceptions, which could have resulted in additional taxes.

Expenses

Payroll and benefits account for 60.1% of the expense budget. Staffing levels and programming are continually reviewed to achieve optimum utilization for minimum cost. Payroll expenses are projected to increase \$376,914 or 1.7% over the current year. The District is currently involved in teacher contract negotiations and anticipates an agreement prior to the 2017-18 fiscal year. Benefits are projected to be 25.15% more than last year, mainly due to increased retirement costs mandated by the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) of \$7,302,480, which is an increase of 10.3% over last year. Medical benefits are also expected to increase 7.3% or \$430,448 over last year. All other benefit costs have a net decrease of \$15,038 from last year.

Other increasing areas include special education costs, which are projected to be \$7,466,385, an increase of 10.1%. Charter school tuition is a very significant expense, and continues to increase each year. The District is projecting VIDA, Montessori, and other charter school tuition costs for 2017-18 of about \$3,375,117, which is a 23.3% increase (\$638,422) over last year. The 2017-18 expense budget includes \$1,244,200 of funding for on-going annual capital needs and 5 year capital plans. This is the 2nd year of including these expenses in the budget which increased \$660,450 over the prior year. Also, this is the 2nd year of funding an additional \$300,000 per

year for future facility improvement projects (FIP) and \$600,000 is now included for those needs. Utility costs are projected to decrease \$109,400 or 12.5% overall due to the District's ongoing efforts in energy management and active participation in joint purchasing programs.

Another way of looking at expenses is by expense function rather than object. When looking at expenses by function the direct instructional expenses make up 56.4% of the budget, support services expenses (library, guidance, nurses, & admin.) 29.0%, non-instructional expenses (student activities & athletics) 1.9% and other/financing expenses (debt services) 12.7%.

The District continues to implement cost saving ideas through efficiency, new technology, joint and bulk purchasing, personnel reductions, and more.

Overall the budget is projected to increase \$2,971,061 or 4.9% over last year. The increase in charter schools' mandated costs, payroll, PSERS, medical benefits, special education costs, annual capital needs, and future FIP is \$3,770,692 or 126.9% of this increase. All other changes in expense net to a decrease of \$799,631 over last year which includes reductions in the cost of utilities, tech software & support, and interest on long-term debt.

For more information and updates on projected revenues, costs and cost-saving efforts, please see our budget information at www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us or contact the Business Office at 334-6254, ext. 1226.

Gettysburg Students excel in National Occupational Testing

Each year, NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) administers vocational content-specific exams for high school students and adults. The NOCTI exams have two parts - a multiple choice written exam consisting of approximately 200 questions and a performance-based exam with multiple tasks completed in a shop setting. The NOCTI assessment is completed by all students who are in their final year of their Career and Technical Education program who have completed at least 50% of the program hours. NOCTI scores are reported similarly to PSSA and Keystone Exams. Students receive a score of Advanced, Competent or Basic.

During the previous school year, 93% of GASD test takers scored at the Advanced or Competent level in Accounting Technology, Allied Health, Building Trades, Communication Technology, Culinary Arts, Diesel Mechanics, Engineering Technology, Early Learning and Law Enforcement.

Gettysburg and Adams County Tech Prep graduates routinely out-perform the state completers by nearly double-digit margins.

Important Dates

June 5, 2017
Regular Board Meeting - 7p.m.

June 12, 2017
Final vote on budget
7p.m.

All meetings:
Administration Building
900 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg

Figure Your School Taxes

You will need your most recent assessment notice or your March 1, 2017 County/Township tax bill.

Real Estate: Multiply the Assessed Value of your property by 0.0108167

Assessed Value: _____ **Millage Rate:** x 0.0108167 = **Your Tax \$** _____

Less: Homestead Exclusion of about \$169 (if applicable)

Less: Farmstead Exclusion of about \$169 (if applicable)

Your Net Tax \$ _____

Communicating our Vision of Learning

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