

## LRR Budget Hearing - 2016-2017 Opening Remarks

The purpose of this Budget Hearing is to provide another opportunity for the Board to hear your concerns prior to the June 20<sup>th</sup> Board Action on the 2016-2017 School District Budget. Public work sessions and public meetings on this budget were held on January 4, January 19, February 29, March 7, March 21, March 29 April 18, May 5, and May 16.

Let me begin by reinforcing that our final budget recommendations tonight follows the pattern of the current Gettysburg Area School Board and previous Boards in not using all or parts of Act 1 allowable Exceptions and not using the full Act 1 allowable Index. With the past 11 school district budgets, our recommendations have been targeted at current and future financial needs of the district. This District has a tradition of budgeting for the new school year and budgeting for future school years. In effect, we are making a promise to the children entering kindergarten in the fall (the Class of 2029), we'll do our best to continue the programs and services children in all the other grades, - the same programs and services that the 230 graduates of the Class of 2016, have found necessary for academic success.

The full Act 1 allowable 2.4% tax index increase was not used for the budget recommended for approval. **The recommended tax rate increase is 1%. New revenue from this tax assessment will increase \$287,533 which by itself does not cover all cost increases in this budget.**

Again, as you consider the recommendations for the budget, please consider not only the programs and services being funded in 2016-2017, but your obligations to the Class of 2029.