Yorktown Central School District

Dr. Ronald Hattar
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May 4, 2023

Dear Yorktown School Community,

I hope this update finds you and your family well. As we turn the calendar to May, we certainly welcome the beautiful spring days ahead. There is so much happening on our campuses and great excitement as we enter the final months of the school year. Our spring athletic season is well underway, and the excitement on our middle school and high school campus is incredible. Our concert season is rapidly approaching, and we eagerly look forward to the amazing music of the students in our band, orchestra, and chorus programs. We also have many celebrations in the coming weeks to acknowledge and applaud the hard work and achievements of our students. This is an exciting time in our school district!

We have been quite active on social media, our website has been updated and expanded, and our newsletter has been re-formatted to provide an enhanced experience for readers. In addition to the many methods of communication that we have incorporated this year, below are some timely notifications that I have included for your review.

2023-24 School Budget Update

The budget vote and trustee election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, at French Hill School from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Over the last several months, we have been presenting a comprehensive school budget to our community. Our goal throughout the budget development process has been to provide our students with the most extraordinary learning opportunities while putting forth a fiscally responsible budget that is respectful of taxpayers. We believe that the 2023-24 budget successfully achieves that balance, despite the challenging inflationary environment. We are pleased to put forth a budget to our community that is below the tax levy cap while making integral investments in our district. Specifically, the 2023-24 school budget includes the hiring of teachers and support staff to meet the needs of our students, as well as expanding programmatic offerings to students. The budget

maintains class sizes at, or below, Board of Education guidelines and keeps all of the incredible programs currently offered to students intact.

Specifically, the 2023-24 budget includes:

- ➢ Teachers and teaching assistants to support student needs and district programs in general and special education;
- ➢ Two additional School Resource Officers (one for Brookside and one for Mohansic). This will provide one SRO in each school.
- ➢ Adding pupil personnel services (PPS) staffing to support student needs;
- ➢ Adding Girls Flag Football and Boys JV Volleyball;
- ➢ Additional investments for instruments and repairs in our music program;
- ➢ Replacement of aging technology, including Chromebooks, laptops, and MacBooks;
- ➢ A strength and conditioning coach to accommodate increased student participation (beginning 2/1/24).

Our other objective during the budget development process is to always be respectful of our taxpayers. We believe that we were once again successful in this goal as the 2023-24 budget is tax-cap compliant and below the tax levy cap. This results in the following:

- ➢ A tax rate increase in Yorktown estimated at 1.78%
- ➢ A tax rate Increase in New Castle estimated at 7.21%
- ➢ A tax rate increase in Cortlandt estimated at 3.63%

I am appreciative that the budget being presented calls for an investment in School Resource Officers for all of our schools while also expanding mental and social-emotional health resources to our students. We believe that these additions will position our district to take the next steps in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students.

The budget vote and trustee election will be held on May 16 at French Hill School from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. I offer my thanks to our Board of Education and our administrative team for their tireless effort in developing a budget that appropriately balances providing our students the high-quality and well-rounded education that they deserve with a genuine sensitivity to taxpayers.

Meet the Candidates Night

The District PTSA will be hosting a “Meet the Candidates” night at Mildred E. Strang Middle School on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the Board of Education candidates. I anticipate the session will be recorded and posted to the District website the following morning.

Kindergarten Registration

If you intend to register your child for kindergarten for September, **please begin the process immediately**. Kindly review this document to begin the registration process. You may contact Patty Sauber (psauber@yorktown.org) or Val Biberaj (vbiberaj@yorktown.org) for additional information.

Pre-K Update

We received an incredibly positive response to our plan to implement a Pre-K program for the coming school year. At this time, we are awaiting responses from various third party providers. With the New York State budget only approved this week, we are working around the clock to ensure we are prepared to offer this program for September. In the interim, we have posted an FAQ document to our website. We will continue to post updates to our website as they become available. We appreciate your continued patience as we work through the details of starting a Pre-K program in our district.

Hiring Updates in the Yorktown Central School District

We continue through our process to hire our new Principal for Crompond School. We look forward to completing the process by the end of this month.

As you know, Mr. Rosen, our Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is retiring this summer. As we begin the recruitment and hiring process for this position, we are interested in hearing the community's feedback. If you are interested in adding your perspective, kindly complete the enclosed form no later than Monday 15, 2023.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7XIoVIjLSgx3ATED3wLZOKGAAa-ughg2T12v8M8tX-jrgzw/viewform?usp=sf_link

We continue to update our website with various job opportunities, both instructional and non-instructional opportunities. If interested, please visit our website for a list of vacancies or you may click here.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our excellent school district. I wish you a terrific remainder of the week.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hattar