



May 11, 2018

Dear Families and Staff,

I am writing to update you on the budget approval process for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Committee on Appropriations (COA) held a hearing Wednesday night to seek public comment on the four proposed budgets, including the School Department. (Download the presentation from the hearing [here](#).) As we reported last month, after extensive deliberation, the COA has recommended a budget allocation for the Barrington Public Schools of \$50,628,214. This includes an increase of about \$1.46 million over the current fiscal year – approximately 2.97 percent – in order to cover the increased cost of doing business next year. During its review process, the School Committee and the Administration reduced its original budget proposal by \$210,000, primarily a result of joining a new purchasing collaborative for employee health insurance. This reduction brought the proposed budget increase below 3 percent.

The residents of Barrington will vote on the proposed budget at the **Financial Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Barrington High School Auditorium**. We encourage the voters of Barrington to participate in this critical step in the process in order to have a voice in determining what resources are available to our students and schools next year.

We have updated the [FY 2019 Budget](#) page of the District website with the latest information, including an updated version of [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) about the budget.

It is important to note that a resident has submitted a motion to be considered at the Financial Town Meeting that proposes a \$500,000 reduction in the appropriation to the Barrington Public Schools. We are exploring different scenarios for the potential impact of this reduction if it is approved. I presented several options to the School Committee at its meeting last night. Without question, this significant decrease would require elimination of staff positions and would result in reduction or elimination of various academic, enrichment, and/or athletic programs. We believe these cuts would have a negative impact on our students and schools, and we strongly advise against any allocation lower than the funding level recommended by the COA.

Please click this link to view last night's [Potential Options for the FY19 Operating Budget](#).

We will continue to keep you informed about developments and encourage your participation at the Financial Town Meeting on May 23.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Messore III
Superintendent
Barrington Public Schools