

**CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CBAC)
RECOMMENDATION TO THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
FRANKLIN SQUARE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The CBAC has been charged by the Board of Education to review the proposed 2021/2022 School District budget and be involved with the planned direction of expenditures and initiatives for the coming school year. We, as representatives of the parents and community, are pleased to be included in the budgeting process. As members of the community who care about the future of the children of our community and the quality of their education, we appreciate the efforts, and dedication of the members of the Board to help make our schools the quality facilities they are today and what they will hopefully continue to be for all of our children in the future.

The members of the CBAC would like to note with pleasure, the comparative expense per student ratio, and our ranking as the lowest of the 56 school districts in Nassau County.

Our committee acknowledges the difficulties associated with creating a new budget each year. We feel that the Administration and the Board of Education do an outstanding job, particularly in light of the current economic conditions.

The Committee has been briefed on the significant items in the budget that is submitted for consideration. We are pleased to be in the position to approve a levy that represents a 1.4% increase and complies with the Property Tax Cap Legislation, while it continues to offer the programs and improvements that best serve our children and our community.

The committee fully supports the overall budget as crafted and in particular note the following proposed initiatives, as we believe that they represent the ideals of our community.

- Addition of staffing in the Math Lab of 3 Full-Time Educators to provide enhanced educational opportunities and address the evaluation and re-alignment of student progress where required due to Covid-19 deficiencies.
- Addition of staffing for Reading of 1 Full-Time Educator and 1 Full-Time Literacy Coach to provide enhanced educational opportunities and address the evaluation and re-alignment of student progress where required due to Covid-19 deficiencies.
- In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education, there will be an additional Full-Time Educator
- Addition of staffing of 3 School Resource Officers to be assigned one per building. This will provide for supervision for all required areas including indoor areas and lunches and other times for which there is no staffing available.
- Staff Professional Development. Provisions for time and resources will be made available for appropriate professional development and skill training.

The committee is pleased to note the sensible application of the anticipated increase in Federal and State Aid in the crafting of the budget and in the proposals. This is notable, as they are reflected in a true effort to address the immediate need to provide proper guidance and assistance of the students through the difficult learning time presented by the Covid-19 virus restrictions. We commend the district and the board in the efforts to insure that the children and teachers were kept as safe as possible and that every effort was made to continue the school and learning experience. Now as we approach the end of the pandemic, there must be a conscientious effort to find those students who need the extra help, provide support and get them back on track so that all our children can succeed. The committee believes that this budget and proposals provide the groundwork for that effort.

The members of the committee would also like to note the outstanding efforts of Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Ms. Theresa Hennessy in crafting this budget. We would also like to express our continued appreciation to the teachers, staff and administrators whose dedication to our children and our community make this a great place to live and in whom we can confidently entrust our children's education.

In conclusion, we offer our services to the Board of Education to disseminate information regarding the budget and its development. We will continue to attend meetings and share the process with community members at the Board's request.

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April 21, 2021**

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