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April 13, 2015

At the April 13th board meeting, which also marked the fourth budget presentation, Superintendent Mr. Finello announced that the tax levy gap currently stands at just \$100,000, which was most recently \$298,147 as per the March 9th meeting. The school has also been successful in bringing the Unassigned Unrestricted Fund balance down to 4% of the ensuing year's budget, as required by the state. "We managed to hold on to all the services and programs that we provide to our students," said Mr. Finello.

A proposition will be included on this year's ballot for voter approval to release \$2 million from the Capital Reserve to fund capital projects, such as re-configuring car line, moving the existing two ball fields, and modifying the rear parking lot. Board of Education President Liz Mendelman remarked that it's imperative to expand parking and modify car line because it's currently unsafe and causes hazardous driving conditions on Old Stone Highway, especially during drop-off times in the morning. The resolution will be put on the ballot for voters this May.

Administration recommends moving funds from the unassigned Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund (\$840,000) and the Repair Reserve (\$200,000).

District treasurer Thomas Primiano announced that there's been marked savings since the last meeting. A net savings of \$12,582 was found for the budget, based on a tuition rate reduction at the high school. Reductions were also found in Charter School-related services, tutoring costs, professional development

reductions, facilities equipment, and others. Further reductions are sought in E.R.S. (non-instructional staff retirement) reserve. "We think we're in pretty good shape, but it is a tight budget," Mr. Finello remarked. The proposed budget for 2015-2016 is \$27,363,316. If the proposed budget is adopted by the Board and approved by voters, the District will have met the tax cap limitation for two consecutive years, resulting in a "tax freeze credit" check to the taxpayers of the Springs community. (Please see the "Tax Levy Gap" page on the attached budget presentation)

The meeting also included a presentation by Assistant Principal Panagiosoulos and math teachers Christine Cleary and Laura Foti announcing the success of Springs School's participation in "Math Con." The national math competition was offered to students in grades 5-8. Springs students received 29 "Honorable Mentions" and one student even placed in the 98.5 percentile!

"This was the first year that Math Con went nationwide," said Assistant Principal Mrs. Panagiosoulis. "We had a great turn-out and great results from our students." Nationwide, 42 states, 330 schools, and 45,000 participated. Springs School had 29 students receiving honorable mentions, including ten students who scored at or above the 90th percentile. Out of the thousands of students who participated, Annelise Mendelman scored in the 98.5 percentile! "We are so proud of her," said Principal Mr. Casale. "We had over twenty students who placed above the 90th percentile nationwide. It's amazing to see the kids be so proud of this accomplishment, especially with this being our first time out." Mr. Casale is hoping to expand Math Con to include more grades next year. "To see so many kids excited about math is so great," he added.

Math Con is a nationwide math competition for grades 5-12 and has two main goals: To contribute to academics by challenging and entertaining students with insightful math problems, and to promote high quality math education. Originally open only to midwestern schools, the program has recently expanded to include schools from all over the country. The contest took place this February, as an online challenge - 40 questions in 50 minutes. Students who scored at the top of their grade level.

Fourth grade teachers Melissa Knight and Crystal Reiner, along with a few fourth graders themselves, presented the fourth grade program of one-to-one technology device program. The fourth grade is piloting this program this year. In a "Chromebook Classroom," students are able to bring home their Chromebooks each day. According to Mrs. Knight, the program has increased communication between teacher and student, and has also increased collaboration between students.

The Budget Adoption will be held Monday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. The Budget Hearing will be held Monday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m. All budget documents, board meeting highlights, and presentations can be found on the Springs School homepage (www.springschool.org) under the “Board of Education” menu.

Mission Statement

“Springs School is dedicated to providing a foundation for personal and social growth in order to develop students of exemplary character who become responsible, productive and caring citizens.”