

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

2020 / 2021 General Fund Budget

The administration will soon begin preparation of the 2020 / 2021 Proposed General Fund Budget. The Act 1 Index, as set by the PA Department of Education, determines the maximum tax increase that can be levied by the school district. Southeast Delco’s Act 1 Index for the 2020 / 2021 budget year is 3.9%. (Note: The base index is 2.6%)



At the November 14 committee of the whole meeting, administration will discuss with the Board the option to adopt the resolution to not exceed the index. Adopting the resolution to not exceed the index does not mean that the district will increase taxes by 3.9%. By adopting the resolution, the district is setting the **limit** of the tax increase at 3.9%.

2020 / 2021 Tentative Budget Timeframe

January 9, 2020	Deadline to Adopt Resolution Not to Exceed Index
January 23, 2020	Deadline to Adopt 2020 / 2021 Preliminary Budget if Resolution to Not Exceed Index is Not Adopted
February 20, 2020	Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
March 19, 2020	Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
April 16, 2020	Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
April 23, 2020	Board Meeting – Adopt Proposed Final Budget
May 21, 2020	Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
May 28, 2020	Board Meeting – Adopt Final Budget

Healthcare Trust and Savings

Southeast Delco is one of 14 Delaware County school districts participating in the DELCO Public School Healthcare Trust. As a member of the Trust, Southeast Delco has experienced the 2nd lowest medical cost among the group for 2018 / 2019. The district also had the lowest prescription cost for the same year.

A 3-year reflective review from 2017 / 2018 through 2019 / 2020, points to savings in medical and prescription drugs for each year. District savings are as follows:

- 2017 / 2018 – \$830,517
- 2018 / 2019 – \$1,337,417
- 2019 / 2020 – \$1,976,177 – *Projected*

An estimated 3-year savings of \$4,144,111



The district healthcare plan, along with other cost saving strategies, focused on staff well-being. District sponsored events, such as biometric screenings, have had the intended effect of empowering employees to make more informed decisions regarding their health and how they spend their healthcare dollars.

Yearly Audit and Fund Balance



The local financial audit of the 2018 / 2019 fiscal year will begin on October 28. Preliminary audit reports show that there was a significant decrease in the fund balance in the last school year. Factors that led to the decrease include charter school tuition, special education and transportation expenses, along with budgeted use of fund balance and capital projects. Administration will continue closely monitoring current year expenditures.

Board Policy

Southeast Delco School District reviews and updates school board policies several times throughout the school year. The most recent review is of policy #226 Searches. This policy governs the manner in which the district balances student rights with the safety and security of our students and staff. The policy allows for individualized searches, random searches, and inspections of student and school property. It is important to review the guidelines for searches with administration and the public so that everyone is sufficiently educated in the process. The full policy can be found online at the Southeast Delco School District website at www.sedelco.org.

The most recent updates of school board policy will occur during first readings at the October school board meeting. If approved, a second reading will take place at the November school board meeting. Once approved for the second time, these updated policies will become official.

The policies slated to be adopted include Professional Development, which is being updated to include training on trauma-informed care and several policies under Safety and Security. These policies are being updated due to legislative changes, specifically Act 44, which governs the coordination of safety and security in schools.

Safety / Security Focused Professional Development

The October 2nd teacher in-service day's professional development for staff focused on district-wide emergency preparedness. In the morning, all staff reported to the high school for a series of five trainings.

These trainings consisted of *Cyber Security*, *Trauma Informed Care*, *Stop the Bleed*, *Standard Response Protocols*, and *Safe2Say*. In addition to district staff, local emergency responders participated in the day's activities.



The participants were divided into five different groups and each group rotated through the five topics throughout the morning. After lunch, district staff returned to their respective schools where several short meetings were held in preparation for an emergency drill.

Initially, the schools' BERTs (Building Emergency Response Teams) school leadership teams and local emergency responders met to review how the upcoming emergency drill would be conducted. This same group then participated in a tabletop exercise in preparation for the drill.

Upon completion of the drill participants began to evaluate how the exercise played-out. The assessment looked at many factors and participants began to examine data for inclusion in a report that will be used to improve the district's and community's response capability.

Overall, the training and drill were seen as successful and will help the district improve on future drills.

Skin in the Game Grant Update

The district is off to a great start in year two of the Skin in the Game grant. Teachers who trained last year - 4th and 6th grades, art, library and interventionists at Harris and Sharon Hill School - have begun implementing game design techniques into their current designated curriculum and utilizing the different Apple applications in their lessons and assignments throughout each week.

Beginning the week of October 14, teaching artists started assisting teachers in their classrooms. Funded through the grant, a teaching artist is a practicing professional artist who also works with students by sharing their practice, techniques, skills, and perspectives on a variety of art forms.



Teaching artists teach one-on-one, lead group workshops, and work collaboratively with classroom teachers to help communicate the overall concept of game design, as well as working with students to foster their creative ability.

Teachers being trained this year include grades 5 and 7, special education and music teachers at Harris and Sharon Hill. During the October teacher in-service, they learned new strategies and tools they immediately began employing in their classrooms to enhance, engage and extend the learning of their students.

On October 8 and 9, the district hosted their first game night at both Harris and Sharon Hill Schools. Families in attendance learned more about the grant while sharing dinner and playing board games with students and staff. Parents expressed that they had a wonderful time and enjoyed spending time with the teachers and their children. They especially enjoyed the photographer who took pictures to send home with families. Photography ties into one aspect of the grant that students will learn to utilize.

Also through the grant, teachers at Delcroft and Darby Township Schools received training on programs and technology and were introduced to *Engineering is Elementary* and *Teach Wonder*.

Professional Development

The district will deliver a day of professional development for all teaching staff on November 5th. Kindergarten staff will focus on the analysis of Acadience Data and the planning of instruction to address specific skills based on the data trends. They will also spend time working on refining their PBIS process.

Data analysis will also be on the agenda for teachers in grades 1 - 8 as they learn to navigate the new data storage system of PowerSchool, namely Performance Matters. Their goal is to design small group instruction based on the data they glean from Benchmark tests to address gaps in student achievement.

Academy Park High School staff will be offered a variety of choice sessions ranging from Google classroom, mindfulness, instructional best practices to restorative practices, and autistic support in the classroom.

Future Ready PA Index

The Future Ready PA Index is a measure of school quality according to three main categories:

- Statewide Assessment Measures
- On-Track Measures
- College and Career Ready Measures

The Future Ready PA Index is part of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and aims to provide a comprehensive progress report of schools based on meaningful and evidence-based indicators. As a result of what schools report in each of the categories, a dashboard of different data point for each public school in the state is generated.

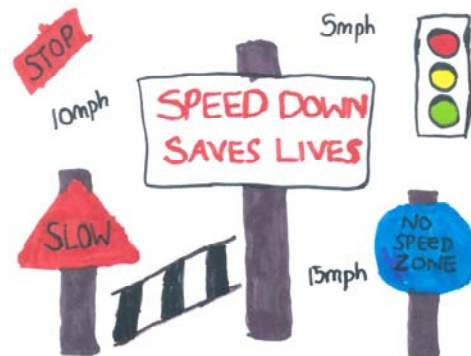
Building and Grounds

Outside Facilities Use

Fine-tuning of the facilities usage procedure continues. With significant input from the board, the process has been reviewed and updated to provide a better, more cost effective operation for the district. Administration is meeting established milestones and will continue to work for improvements.

Slow Down!

The district is repainting directional arrows and adding the word "SLOW", in several locations throughout the parking lots at APHS and Sharon Hill School. In an effort to slow down traffic between the two schools, a crosswalk will be constructed from Sharon Hill School to the light on Calcon Hook Road where a crossing guard is stationed. This has been identified as a troubled area and the district will continue to make changes necessary to keep our children safe while on school property.



Knights Field

Repairs will need to be made on Knights Field during the off season. The landscaping contractor has indicated that the constant use of the field over the years has necessitated some upgrading and repairs. To avoid injuries, the field needs to be leveled to remove all low spots and any sparse areas in the middle of the field need to be addressed.

Kindergarten Center Roof

The multi-purpose room at the Kindergarten Center has reopened for the children and looks fantastic. The exterior capping on the roof was completed on October 11, within the contract's time specifications for all exterior work to be completed. There are some small punch list items remaining in the interior.

DCCC Appreciation Dinner

Delaware County Community College (DCCC) will host school board members from sponsoring county districts at their annual Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, October 30th at the Marple Campus.

Future Board Meetings

Board Business Meeting	Thursday, October 24, 2019	7:00 PM
DCCC Appreciation Dinner	Wednesday, October 30, 2019	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, November 14, 2019	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, November 21, 2019	7:00 PM
Board Organization	Monday, December 2, 2019	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, December 19, 2019	7:00 PM

School Events

- District Math Night – October 29 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – DTS
- End of 1st Marking Period – November 1st
- **Teacher In-service – November 5 – No School for Students**
- Report Cards Issued – November 8
- Early Dismissal – Grades K – 8 – November 25, 26, 27 – 12:45 PM
- Parent / Teacher Conferences – Grades K – 8 – November 25, 26, 27
- **Thanksgiving Holiday – November 28, 29 – No School for Students or Staff**
- Early Dismissal – December 4 – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- Progress Notices – December 6
- **Winter Recess – December 23 – January 1 – No School for Students or Staff**
- End of 2nd Marking Period / 1st Semester – January 24
- **MLK Holiday – January 20 – No School for Students or Staff**