

January 21, 2025

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

As I wrote in my January 10 letter, <u>linked</u>, at this stage in our budget process at least \$1 million still must be cut from the 2025-2026 budget. Regardless of the March 11 public vote to increase our budget above the 2% cap, staff positions, including administrators, still must be eliminated to help close our budget gap.

Our administrators are dedicated leaders with educational expertise. They have vast experience, are highly skilled, and are committed to the students, families, and staff members they serve. They assist in key decisions and help to create a supportive environment for students and teachers. As much as we value every member of our administrative team, we can no longer afford to maintain every administrator position.

At the January 23 Board of Education meeting, I am recommending the elimination of three supervisor positions: Supervisor of Preschool; Supervisor of Language Arts/Social Studies and Supervisor of Math/Science. If approved by the Board of Education, these positions will be abolished as of June 30, 2025. The positions will be eliminated from the 2025-2026 budget.

Every cut in administration impacts the District. Abolishing these positions will require changes in the roles and responsibilities of the remaining administrators. Restructuring will be needed to complete curriculum updates, provide professional development and staff training, and support teachers in the delivery of instruction and programming.

Cuts may not end there. We still face tough decisions as our District waits to receive our state and federal aid figures. This information likely won't be announced by the state until late February. Until then, we are forced to make assumptions about future funding based on previous years' state aid amounts and informal messages from state officials. We expect our aid to either remain flat or drop. Despite receiving any amount of aid, our district will have to continue to reduce future spending. More staff positions, programs and instructional tools may be eliminated to reduce costs. We'll continue to work toward solutions that overcome our financial challenges with the least impact on students.

The next budget Town Hall meeting will be held in person on Monday, January 27, from 6-7:30 PM at J.P. Case Middle School, or virtually with this Zoom <u>link</u> (Webinar ID: 873 9532 7021 and code: 066752). Click this event flyer <u>link</u> for details. A third Town Hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26. Also, please check our budget web page, <u>linked</u>, which includes an FAQ, a brochure, previous letters, sample ballots, and voting information. Please email questions to: <u>budget@frsd.us</u>.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our school district and student success.

Sincerely, Kari McGann, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Goals:

Goal Area #1: The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways.

Goal Area #2: Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the district to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

Goal Area #3: The district will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school district in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

Goal Area #4: Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

Goal Area #5: Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing district.