

# Celebrations of the Fairfield Public Schools

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## Superintendent's Message



Dear Faculty and Staff:

As we head towards warmer weather, I thought I would take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the budget process so far.

The Board of Education endorsed my proposed operating budget of \$148,505,841 and sent it to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for consideration. This represented a 4.9 percent increase over the current year spending plan. After a month of deliberations, presentations and discussion, the Board of Finance approved a budget of \$146,480,350 for next year. While this represents a 3.47 percent increase in our current budget, it also represents a reduction of \$2,025,491 from the Board of Education's request.

The budget now goes to the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) for final approval. The RTM cannot increase this figure, but may reduce it. The RTM will discuss the budget in its committee meetings on April 11 and 13 and then with the full RTM on April 25 and May 2.

Once the RTM officially acts, the Board of Education will then adjust its proposed operating budget to the new bottom line, which we know will be at least \$2 million lower than proposed. I will be working to develop a list of proposed budget adjustments (cuts) to bring forward for the Board of Education's consideration. The decision is up to the Board of Education. The Board of Finance and RTM does not have the authority to determine where these adjustments are made; they can adjust only the total number. It is up to the Board of Education to make the line item changes to bring the budget into balance with the approved number.

Additionally, the Board of Education forwarded a number of capital improvement projects to the Town for bonding that are relatively small in scope. The good news is that several of these have made it all the way through the approval process, culminating with an RTM vote on March 25. They are as follows:

- Jennings Elementary School - Bathroom Renovation Project (\$125,000)
- Roger Ludlowe Middle School - Roof Repair Project (\$35,000)
- Early Childhood Center - Playground Project (\$105,000)

There are three additional projects that are also working their way through the approval process, with a final decision

expected by the RTM at its April 25 meeting. They are:

- Holland Hill Elementary School - Underground Oil Tank Project (\$100,000)
- McKinley Elementary School - Roof Leak Project (\$30,000)
- Tomlinson Middle School - Exterior Façade and Cornice Project (\$250,000)

The Board of Education is also completing its Long Range Facilities Plan. A second draft of the Plan was presented to the Board of Education on Tuesday, March 29. Board members suggested some revisions, and it will be back on the agenda for a vote on May 10. This is a four-year plan to outline the school district's blueprint for facilities needs. Once the Board gives its approval, we will send a letter to the Town asking that the approval process begin for the first projects on the list.


Over the past several months, the Board has also approved revised curriculum in the Broadcast Media area and Health (grades PK-5). Both were met with positive comments from all Board members.




**Sara Hoefler**, Tomlinson MS Choral Director, organized *A Cappella Night*, a night of entertainment for the secondary schools and the Fairfield community. A cappella groups from both high schools and all three middle schools performed together in the Tomlinson MS auditorium.




**Patti Kassay**, North Stratfield PE teacher, led the annual *Jump Rope for Heart* activities for the entire school. Over \$10,000 was raised to help the *American Heart Association* fight heart disease and stroke.

**Kim Longobucco**, Fairfield Ludlowe HS PE teacher and  Gymnastics Coach, has been named the *Connecticut Post Coach of the Year*. Congratulations!


**Dorna Persson**, Burr LMS, presented a workshop to the Burr PTA on *Technology in the Classroom*. She was joined by many of the Burr teachers sharing how they use technology in their classrooms. 


**Dave Schulz**, FLHS Athletic Director, once again participated in the *Freezin' For A Reason* fundraiser. Dave, along with approximately 50 other "penguin plungers" ran through the snow and ice on Jennings Beach before they could dive into Long Island Sound. The group raised \$40,000 for the *Burroughs Community Center* in Bridgeport.



**Jennings** - The Jennings community donated 302 mitten sets to *The Thomas Merton Family Center* to provide a little warmth to the families over the winter season. 


**Osborn Hill** - Grade 4 teacher **Inara Coleman's** class pledged to *Scholastic* that they would read 230 books so that *Scholastic* would donate 1 million books across the nation. The class passed their goal by reading 988 books so far this year!

**Osborn Hill** held its annual variety show at RLMS. Students showcased their talents and creativity by performing a variety of skits including singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. 

**Sherman** - During the month of February, all of the students and staff read and discussed *The Lemonade War*. The staff explained to the students that *One Book, One School* means that everyone read (or listen to) the same book, discussed the story, social issues and vocabulary. Every effort was made to make this an exciting experience for the students. The PTA created posters with vocabulary words and their meanings and hung them all over the building. The PTA then served lemonade at the annual Read-In at the beginning of the month. 




**Burr - Rachael Previti**, took the 2nd place title in the *State PTA Reflections Contest*.


**Dwight - Olivia Eichrodt** wrote a poem entitled "Peace" which has been published on the *Poetry for Peace* publication at Fairfield University; and **Rose Luczaj** wrote a 

poem about winter that has been published in the *Fairfield Minuteman*.


**Jennings - Alexandra DiPierro** took 1st place in literature for the *Connecticut Reflections Contest*. Her entry will be sent to Virginia and judged at the national level.

**McKinley** - The grade 5 students participated in a joint assembly with students from Burr and Stratfield. The assembly focused on the life of Harriet Tubman and was one of several events for the cluster of students that will go to TMS in the fall. 


**Mill Hill** - The Fire Marshal's office informed Mill Hill that **Hailey Honegger's** fire prevention poster was the local winner and will be sent to the State competition. She has a chance to win at the county level. Hailey has already won a savings bond from the local firefighter's union.

**Riverfield** - The grade 2 students celebrated *Chinese New Year* by exploring the Chinese culture through books from the library. The parents also got involved by giving the students an opportunity to taste Chinese food. The students dressed as the official dragon of the parade as they celebrated the Year of the Rabbit. 

**Fairfield Woods MS** - The following students have been selected for the Western Middle School Concert and Jazz Band: **Aaron Beinstein, Ted Carraro, Erica Block, Carson Greene, Tim Jones, Janice Lui, Francesca Moorman and Grace Orben**. **Francesca Moorman** scored second highest out of 300 hundred auditions. The selected musicians worked with students from 25 middle schools at *Western Connecticut State University*.

**Sam Ferleger** received notice that she will be published in an upcoming issue of *Creative Kids Magazine*. 

**Roger Ludlowe MS - Kelsy Llewelyn** wrote a story about her *Ludlowe Corps* experience on Ecuador last year; and it has been published in the *Amazing Kids* web magazine.

**Anne Rasmussen**, and her teammates who won the *New England Softball Championship* and placed 2nd in the *Nationals*, appeared as guests on *Good Morning America* in January! 

**Fairfield Warde HS - Benjamin Kraus** recently won the *Stamford Symphony Instrumental Scholarship Competition* for percussion performance. He was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship! 