



Learning is our Mission

Dear Students, Parents, Colleagues, Alumni and Friends:

This year, a large amount of time, energy and reflection has gone into the development of our fiscal spending plan for the 2018-2019 school year. As a focal point over the past school year, the District has used our three Board of Education Goals as the driving force in our unified effort to provide equitable educational opportunities for our students (Goal I), to further develop improved access to technology for our students and staff (Goal II), and to be fiscally responsible (Goal III.) These Goals have driven our spending plan, which will go before the community via our Annual Budget Presentation on March 22, 2018. Please click [HERE](#) to view our mid-year Goal Review.

Much work and time has been spent balancing the District spending plan of approximately \$22.7 million. Staying within the cap of 2% is possible because of a series of judicious decisions made by the District and the Board of Education dating back to Fall 2017. These strategies included:

- Auditing unnecessary spending
- Prioritizing financial expenditures that can meaningfully impact learning and instruction
- Aggressive pursuit of funding from other sources such as Federal Grants
- Setting minimum class size ranges for PK-12 and elective courses
- Reviewing class size to remain below the maximum thresholds
- Reducing building budgets at a level that corresponds with District-wide spending decreases
- Prioritizing spending in areas of critical need (literacy, mathematics, supervision)
- Hosting Community “Wolverine Den” Forums
- Pursuing Request for Proposals to maximize food service self-sufficiency
- Close examination of our facility needs and building utilization resources

We are still poised to provide all learners the type of enriching environment valued in our community with a firm recognition of our economic reality. What is the District doing about cutting spending to balance the budget at a 2% Cap? We are reducing costs with a keen eye on keeping educational opportunities for our students intact.

How will we get there? Join us for a “Wolverine Den Community Budget Forum” on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7 pm in the Mary Shoemaker Media Center. Your input is valuable to us!

Upcoming Events/Dates

Diversity Summit Woodstown Middle School March 3, 2018

Presented by the NAACP in conjunction with the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District

Students, Parents, Alumni, Colleagues and Friends—Join Us!

Program

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| 9:00—9:20 | <i>Light Refreshments
provided by Nutri-Serve
Vocalist—Isabella Martinez
Irish Dance—Declan Pennal</i> |
| 9:30—10:30 | <i>Panel Discussion</i> |
| 10:30—11:15 | <i>Guest Speaker - James E. Harris</i> |
| 11:15—11:30 | <i>Group Discussion - Next Steps</i> |

Below is a sneak preview of the videos we will be showing at the summit:

Robert F. Kennedy Speech

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCrx_u3825g

Ted Talk – Megan Phelps Roper – Building Bridges

https://www.ted.com/talks/megan_phelps_roper_i_grew_up_in_the_westboro_baptist_church_here_s_why_i_left#t-278351

Student Safety

Our hearts go out to the students and families in Parkland, Florida, and across the nation. It is always an opportune time to share with you some of the steps that the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District takes to ensure the security and safety of our students, which is of the highest priority at all times.

The district has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with Woodstown Police and the New Jersey State Police, enabling the district to share all of our highly confidential security plans with the local authorities.

Information is an important facet of security. If you hear something, call us. When we need to communicate quickly with you, we utilize our global phone alert system. The system uses phone numbers we currently have listed as contacts. Please make sure your numbers are updated.

The New Jersey Department of Education requires that schools conduct one fire drill and one security drill each month students are present. Drills are conducted without prior notification to parents, students and staff. Security drills vary, but must include evacuation drill, bomb threats and lockdowns.

Our first priority is the safety of our students and staff, directly followed by accurate communication to families. Feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have.

Board of Education Agenda

Highlights from the February 22 Board of Education Meeting:

Field trips, volunteers, fund raisers, policies and financial reports were all approved. In addition to routine approvals, the Board has also started the process of upgrading our current Business Administrators job description from Business Administrator to Assistant Superintendent for Business. This is not a new position however it reflects her commitment to the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District.

Not sure when the BOE meetings are or what is on the agenda? Meetings are held once a month usually on the 4th Thursday. They start at 7:00 pm and are generally held in the Mary Shoemaker Library.

Can't make the meeting but want to keep up with what is happening? All board agendas are listed on our website. [Click here](#) to go and check them out!

Moving on to New Chapters

Our Board of Education accepted the following retirement(s).

Name	Date
Arlene Cobb	1/31/2018
Diane Griscom	2/1/2018

Welcome New Staff!

Shoemaker School

Part time Aide Taquan Carey

Next Wolverine Den Meeting!!

“Wolverine Den Community Budget Forum” on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7 pm in the Mary Shoemaker Media Center. Your input is valuable to us!

Just a reminder for everyone that the Superintendent will be holding another Wolverine Den meeting on 04/25/18 pm in the Board of Education Conference room. The topic of this meeting is to create the spring survey. This is an open forum held with the Superintendent and all are welcome!

Upcoming BOE Meeting Dates

Thursday 03/22/18 7:00 pm Shoemaker
Thursday 04/26/18 7:00 pm Shoemaker

Wolverine of the Month!

High School

Madalyn Padlo February 2018
Liam Casey February 2018

Middle School – Junior Wolverine

Abigail Heathwaite February 2018
Andrew Clemente February 2018

Mary Shoemaker – Young Wolverine

Sara Martin February 2018
Colin Schmidt February 2018

