

Chesterfield Township Board of Education

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Dear Chesterfield Community Members,

This past spring the Chesterfield Township Board of Education approved the final budget for the 2024-2025 school year. For the seventh consecutive year, the Chesterfield Township School District presented a budget with a 0% impact to the taxpayer. As some of you are aware, our district was severely underfunded by the State for over a decade. As State funding has increased from 11% in 2018 to 100% in 2023, the Board has been able to utilize that funding to consistently lower the amount local residents pay for Chesterfield Elementary School taxes. Thus, for an average house with an approximate valuation of \$393,696, taxes have been reduced \$181.50 since 2018. A chart of the school tax rates and cumulative savings since 2018 is below.

In creating the 2024-2025 school year budget, the Board was also able to benefit from the sale of a piece of property in the Crosswicks section of the township. With the consolidation of the Township's Fire Companies, the ownership of the Crosswicks Firehouse located on New

Street reverted back to the Board. The Board sold this property in the spring which allowed the Board to use a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the firehouse to decrease taxes by paying down our debt service¹. In the 2025-2026 school year budget, the Board will have the option to use the remaining proceeds from the firehouse with the goal of maintaining no increase in taxes.

In addition to reducing the Chesterfield Elementary School tax, we have been able to stabilize the district's financial position by increasing our reserve and maintenance accounts.² As such, if the school were to require major renovations, such as a new roof, these funds would be available so that the Board would not have to increase school taxes in the future.

In addition to lowering Chesterfield Elementary School taxes and creating savings to stabilize the district, the district has also been able to make improvements long denied to our students because of State underfunding. These improvements include:

- Continued improvements to the curriculum such as our new math curriculum and program that was implemented during the 2023-2024 school year
- Improvements to the playground including new safety fencing and equipment for our younger students
- Development of a Life Skills Program
- Targeted professional development for staff in various areas such as specific content areas, teaching strategies, diversity/equity/inclusion and safety and

¹ The Debt Service Fund accounts for revenues, other financing sources, & related expenditures for the district's long-term debt, including the construction costs for our school. This includes payments on bond principal, interest, and other debt related expenditures.

² For those not familiar with these accounts, they exist per State law. The County Superintendent recommends that all schools maintain capital and maintenance reserves in order to ensure that schools have available resources for repairs, improvements and other inevitable expenses a district encounters.

security

- Expansion of our summer program to include more students
- Security upgrades
- Expansion of our English Second Language Program to include activities to engage the families of our students
- Expansion of the school supplies the BOE provides to students to limit the cost to parents
- Additional social worker to support mental health
- Implementation of our new Multi-Tiered System of Supports which allows us to ensure proper support for all students whether it is providing academic support, academic challenge, or social/emotional support.

The positive impact mentioned above is not a complete list of all our improvements and growth, but it clearly demonstrates the district's forethought and goal to continually improve the educational opportunities we have for our students as we prepare them for learning beyond 6th grade while being fiscally responsible to all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott J. Hogan
Business Administrator &
Board Secretary

Amount School Tax		
Year	Average Assess Home Value	Reduced By
2024-2025 Budget	\$393,696	\$(1.03)
2023-2024 Budget	\$393,319	\$(5.23)
2022-2023 Budget	\$392,604	\$(24.86)
2021-2022 Budget	\$392,031	\$(69.61)
2020-2021 Budget	\$390,612	\$(52.11)
2019-2020 Budget	\$391,516	\$(12.61)
2018-2019 Budget	\$390,496	\$(16.05)