

Norristown Area School District 2017-18 Budget

Budget Bulletin # 1 March 20, 2017

NASD Budget Committee Meetings:

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|----------------|--------|------------|
| April 17, 2017 | 6:00pm | Admin Bldg |
| May 1, 2017 | 7:00pm | Admin Bldg |
| May 8, 2017 | 7:00pm | Admin Bldg |
| June 12, 2017 | 7:00pm | Admin Bldg |

2017-18 Final Budget Adoption Date: June 26, 2017

Additional budget information is posted on the NASD website; choose "Departments", "Business", and then the "Budget" dropdown box on the left. You may also contact:

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Chief Financial Officer
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The preparation of our 2017-18 school year budget is underway. Our District, along with many other public school districts in the Commonwealth of Pa, is currently facing some significant financial challenges.

We need our staff, parents, and residents to help us **remind our elected officials that public education needs to be a priority** as they develop the state and federal budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Public school districts simply do not receive an adequate level of financial support from our federal and/or state government; which is resulting in a burden on our local community.

Please let us share a few key facts that can be used when talking about the need to invest in public education:

- ✓ The Commonwealth of Pa has the widest funding gap between wealthy school districts and poor school districts in the country!
- ✓ State and local per-pupil spending in the poorest districts is 33% less than in Pennsylvania's wealthiest districts.
- ✓ Because public school districts do not get adequate and/or equitable funding from the federal/state government, the majority of each district's money comes from local property taxes.
 - The Commonwealth of Pa only provides about 22% of the cost of public education.
 - And, the federal government only funds about 5%-7% of public education.
- ✓ Norristown Area School District has a limited commercial tax base; which means that the property taxes paid by our residential homeowners are disproportionately high.
- ✓ While the federal/state governments do not provide significant funds to support our programs; they do issue mandates (or rules) about how many of our programs must operate. **Complying with these unfunded /underfunded mandates costs school districts millions of dollars each year.**
- ✓ The Trump administration just released its "skinny budget" proposal, **which includes \$9 billion in cuts to the U.S. Dept. of Education.** The plan does call for a \$1 billion increase in Title I funds, however, these funds are earmarked for portability/school choice, along with \$250 million for a new school choice program and a \$168 million increase for charter schools.