



Toni Jones, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Fairfield Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE for December 2017

Dear Families,

December is upon us and we are quickly approaching the midway point in the school year! This update will provide you with the most recent newsworthy items from a district perspective.

Winter concert season in Fairfield is extraordinary and all are encouraged to take advantage of these impressive events. Congratulations to our entire Music Department for the instrumental and vocal displays of excellence in every school. Next week the high schools will feature the very famous Carillon (FWHS) and Candlelight (FLHS) concerts.

Budget

The current budget year remains challenging. The Town's Education Cost Share grant has been reduced by more than \$2.5 million over the last 3 years, and is currently at \$903,828. This amount may change yet again. The district remains vigilant and cautious, as additional reductions are expected in the coming months. News reports may feature nearby districts experiencing teacher layoffs. Fairfield is not in that situation due to careful planning last spring. The district continues to freeze \$2.3 million as a fiscally prudent measure in planning for the unexpected. I remain optimistic that those funds will be used to address several key maintenance projects later this year.

The 2018-2019 Fairfield Public Schools Superintendent's Proposed Budget will be presented at the January 9th Board of Education meeting. Behind the scenes, staff have been diligent and persistent in their work to provide a budget that maintains Fairfield's standard of excellence. No stone has been left unturned.

Enrollment Projections

The ten-year enrollment projections are now online. The trend follows a fairly typical pattern and shows increased elementary enrollment over the next ten years, with a decline at the secondary level as large cohort groups graduate. The newest projections are on our website:

http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/district-information/enrollment/MM_Projections_Ten_Year_2018to2028_Nov_2017.pdf

Capital Projects

At the December 12th BOE meeting, Mr. Cullen, Executive Director of Operations, presented the capital project funding requests for next year. The two big items are the Sherman Elementary Phase III Project, and the Mill Hill Renovation and Addition “Project Team Initial Funding.” These two school communities are thrilled to see these funding requests moving forward. In the same vein, the Holland Hill Elementary renovation and expansion is progressing on schedule. Project completion is expected by the spring of 2019.

Adhoc Committee for Operational Effectiveness

Members of the public provided the adhoc committee with some good information on cost savings and efficiencies. After some debate, however, the Board of Education voted to disband the committee and move in a different direction. A special thank you to the Adhoc Committee members who gave their time and attention to this process.

New Board Members

Following the November elections, we welcomed four brand new members and one returning member to the Board of Education. The Board will soon be highly engaged in the budget review cycle with weekly BOE meetings in January, followed by Town budget meetings that continue through early May.

2018-2019 Student Calendar

The student calendar for 2018-2019 was approved last month and is posted on the website and on the Fairfield Public Schools Facebook page.

On behalf of Fairfield Public Schools, I wish all of our families a delightful winter break, safe travels and a wonderful start to 2018!



Toni Jones, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
TJones@FairfieldSchools.org
(203) 255-8309
[Twitter.com/DrJonesFPS](https://twitter.com/DrJonesFPS)
[FB.com/FairfieldPublicSchoolsCT](https://www.facebook.com/FairfieldPublicSchoolsCT)