



Mr. Thomas W. Giard III
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Craig C. Powers
Assistant Superintendent

TO: Waterford Board of Education

FROM: Thomas W. Giard III, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: January 22, 2016

Enclosed is the Superintendent's Recommended 2016-2017 Budget for your consideration and review. The 2017 fiscal plan was developed by our administrative team and we look forward to presenting the details at the budget workshops scheduled for February 4th and 11th. After careful review and consideration, I am proposing a budget of \$46,942,568.26. This budget request represents a budget increase of 3.46% from FY16.

In the course of developing this budget, several factors required us to take a meticulous approach. In addition to fixed costs and contractual obligations, the cost of magnet school tuition represents a significant increase in this budget: \$1,034,862 or 2.28% of the total 3.46% increase. Of this amount, \$938,602 or 2.07% represents the tuition increase at The Friendship School. This expense was able to be offset in previous years by state funding for early childhood education of \$250K per year towards the district share of this expense. That funding is no longer available from the state and the district must now carry the expense. Other factors have served to exacerbate the issue such as per-pupil funding support of magnet schools which has remained stagnant for at least the last five years, the significant increase in the cost of educating students with autism and other significant needs, and the statutory requirement that the Friendship School become NAEYC accredited.

Aside from magnet school funding which represents the most significant driver in the FY17 budget, fixed costs and contractual obligations continue to impact the budget. This budget proposal includes level staffing of certified positions and an increase of a half-time non-certified support position. The funding request to address the instructional and operational needs of the district is also a modest sum of \$123,615, based in part on spending trend data and the need for services and supplies to support the Board goals and priorities. The proposed budget does continue with the district's curriculum renewal and implementation cycle and the professional development to support instruction. In addition, the proposed budget will benefit students in other ways with funding to support the district's five-year technology plan.

In our ongoing attempts to reduce costs, we continue to explore any and all potential areas where savings may be realized. We were pro-active in renegotiating our student transportation contract and soliciting competitive bids for services where possible.

The result is a realistic needs-based budget which preserves the current programs and offerings, provides for maintenance of our school facilities, promotes the professional growth of our teachers, advances the curricular content offered in our schools, fosters the development of our students from early childhood through college acceptance and career exploration, and sustains the success we have achieved.

I look forward to your thoughtful review of this budget proposal and welcome your suggestions, comments and questions.