



Pine-Richland School Board

Focused on Learning for Every Student Every Day

Message from the Pine-Richland School Board

Dear Pine-Richland Families & Community Members:

The Pine-Richland School Board recently passed the proposed final budget for the 2020-2021 school year. A copy is available for [download here](#). The budget will be refined and potentially revised as more data becomes available, with the final vote scheduled for early June.

We are especially pleased that the proposed budget would keep our school taxes unchanged again this year. We know this is important to families during this time of increased economic strain and uncertainty in our community and the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board and administration maintain a consistent focus on responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

We monitor many performance metrics of operational and financial efficiency as well as those of academic achievement. The district takes a deliberate and long-term approach to financial planning. Capital maintenance and improvement projects in the district are thoughtfully considered within a ten-year plan to support our belief in diverse opportunities for our students. Our taxes have remained relatively steady due to mild combined growth in real estate development and values in Pine-Richland, alongside an essentially flat enrollment trend. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of future tax increases. Our budget, like your own household finances, faces some modestly and some quickly increasing costs that may require us to increase local revenue.

One area of continuous monitoring is our existing debt service and our opportunities for savings through refinancing. Even throughout the COVID-19 crises, the board has held on-line public meetings with our advisors and is actively evaluating options that take advantage of the current historically low-interest rates to accrue considerable savings. **If current conditions prevail, we may refinance over 30% of our outstanding long-term debt in the coming months.** Most of the savings realized from refinancing is expected to accrue in future years as we shorten the maturity of existing debt, increase principal repayment, and reduce interest expense to taxpayers.

In these past two months, we have all been asked to make sacrifices and change the way we think and work. As board members, we take our role of oversight and governance especially important in this period of rapidly shifting expectations. We are immensely proud of the response from our administration, staff, community members, families and students who have all come together to create and participate in a continuity of education that is unrivaled during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Lyons
Board President

Ms. Christine Misback
Board Vice President

Mr. Marc Casciani
Board Treasurer

Dr. Benjamin Campbell
Director

Mr. Greg DiTullio
Director

Dr. Matthew Mehalik
Director

Dr. Carla Meyer
Director

Mr. Matthew Moye
Director

Mrs. Katarzyna Swope
Director



Board Website

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