



Franklin Township Board of Education 2023-2024

*Security Discussion
&
Budget Presentation
&
Budget Hearing*

**Dr. Nicholas Diaz, Superintendent
Mrs. Lori Tirone, Business Administrator
Dr. Lindsay Gooditis, Principal**



Security at FTS

*Security Highlights

**To ensure the school community's safety, specific upgrades and updates will not be shared.*

- Provided training for faculty, staff, and students on emergency response procedures and active shooter drills
- Scheduled regular security assessments and audits to identify potential vulnerabilities and areas for improvement
- Reviewed and updated school security policies and procedures to ensure they align with current best practices and laws/regulations.





Potential Security Enhancement

Armed Personnel

Common Approaches

- 1. School Resource Officer**
 - a. Potential Cost 120K-130K
- 2. Special Law Enforcement Officer- Class III**
 - a. Potential Cost 60K-65K

Document on key differences between both provided by Franklin Township Police Department. Click [here](#).



Timeline

Initial Discussion: The BOE initially discussed the possibility of hiring an armed officer at a public meeting in June of 2022.

Communication: Throughout the process, the district has made an effort to keep the community informed through various communications. Including several letters from the Superintendent's Office.

Continued Discussions: Additional public discussions were held throughout the 2022-23 school year. Members of the community were invited to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the hiring of a Class III officer.

Survey: In April 2023, we created a survey to gather feedback from the community, students, and staff regarding the hiring of a Class III officer.

Results Shared: The results of the survey were shared during the April BOE meeting in. The BOE presented the survey findings and provided an opportunity for public comment during the meeting.

Final Vote: The BOE held a final vote on the Class III officer proposal during the April public meeting. The meeting was open to the public and community members were allowed to share their thoughts and concerns before the vote.





Survey Results



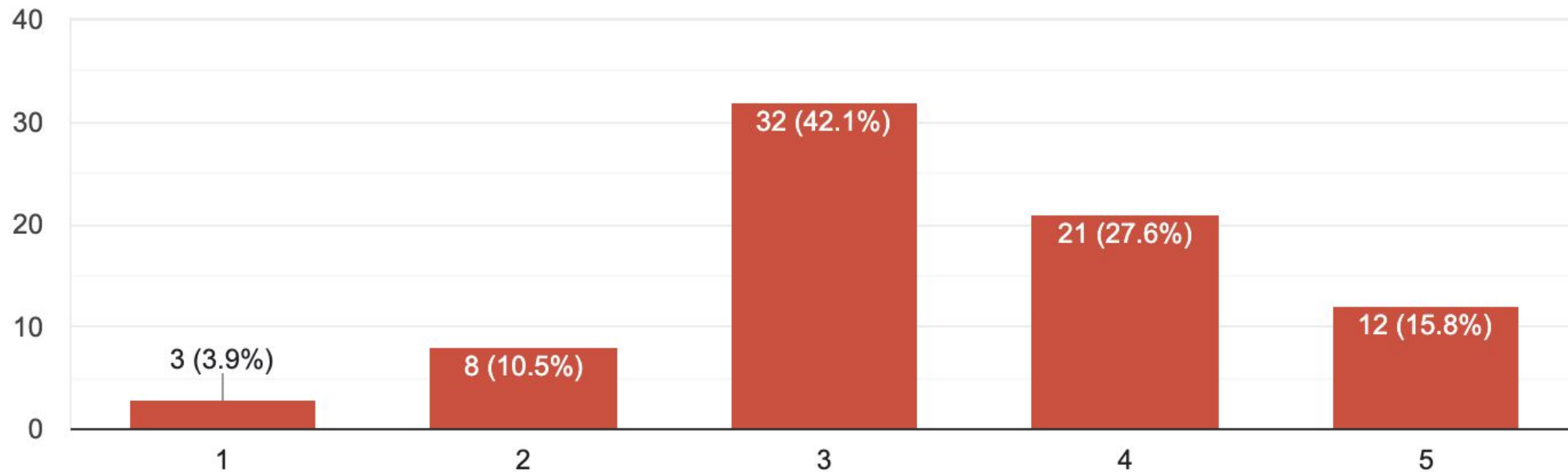
Student Survey Results

Student Results (middle school students)

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "not at all interested" and 5 being "very interested," how interested are you in having a Class III officer on campus?



76 responses

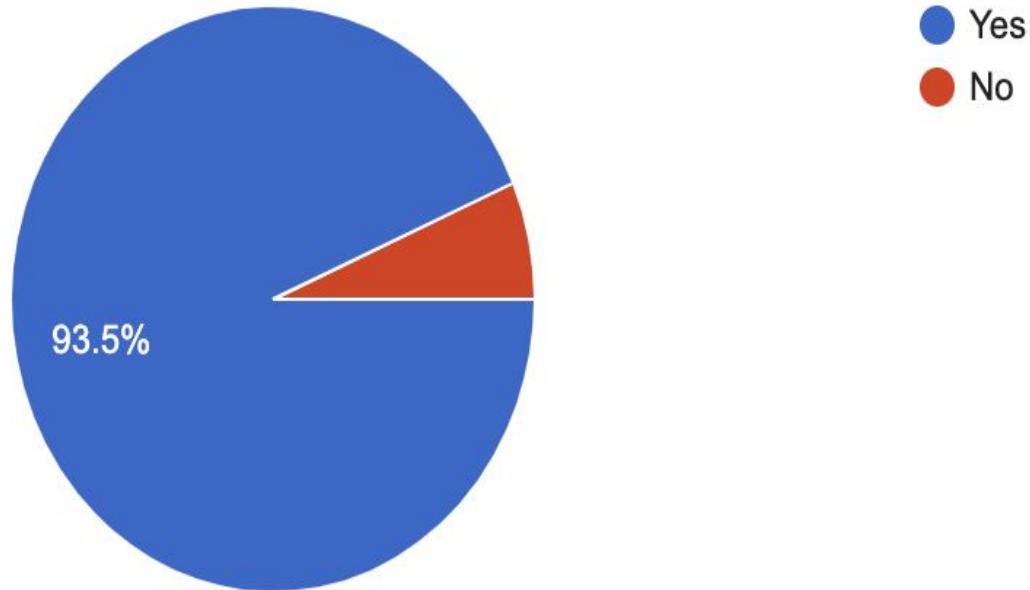


Student Results (middle school students)

Do you believe having a Class III officer on campus would improve the safety and security of our school community? (Yes/No)



77 responses



Common Themes from the Student Survey

Safety and security: The majority of the students feel that having a Class III officer on campus will improve the overall safety and security of the school environment.

Getting to know the officer: Some students expressed the desire to have the opportunity to get to know the officer before they officially begin their role on campus.

Concerns about the officer's age and physical abilities: A smaller group of students raised concerns about whether an older officer would be physically fit enough to effectively protect the students.





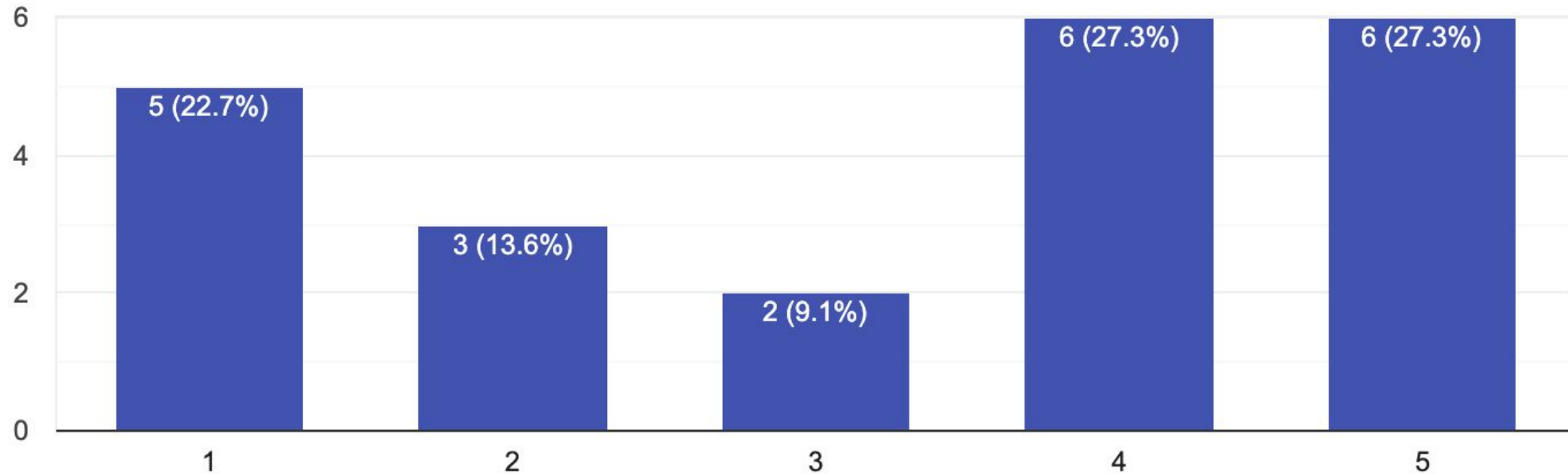
Staff Survey Results

Staff Results

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "not at all interested" and 5 being "very interested," how interested are you in having a Class III officer on campus?



22 responses

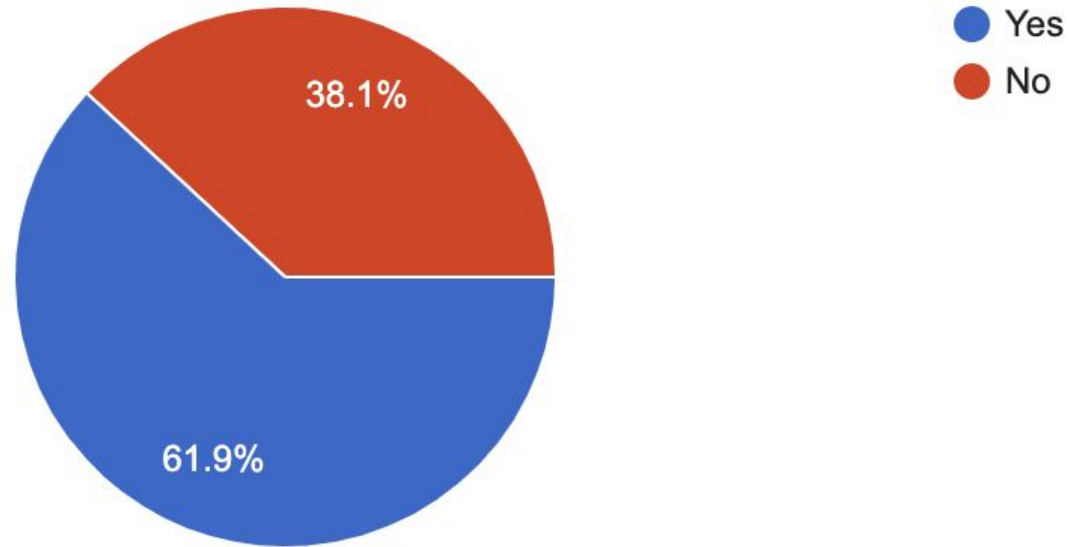


Staff Results

Do you believe having a Class III officer on campus would improve the safety and security of our school community? (Yes/No)



21 responses



Common Themes from the Staff Survey

Safety and security: The majority of the staff feel that having a Class III officer on campus will improve the overall safety and security of the school environment.

Concerns about the effectiveness and necessity of a Class III officer: Many staff members question the evidence supporting the idea that having a Class III officer on campus actually improves school safety. They also express concerns about whether the presence of an officer would have a significant impact on security outcomes.

Budget and resource allocation: Staff members raise concerns about the financial implications of hiring a Class III officer, especially in light of potential cuts to teaching staff and educational programs. They suggest that the money allocated for hiring an officer could be better spent on other resources, such as additional teaching staff or support programs for students.

Impact on school environment and culture: Some staff members worry about the potential negative effects of having an armed officer in the school, such as increased anxiety levels among students or a change in the school's atmosphere from a small, family-like environment to a more institutionalized one. They emphasize the importance of building rapport between the officer and the students to mitigate these concerns.





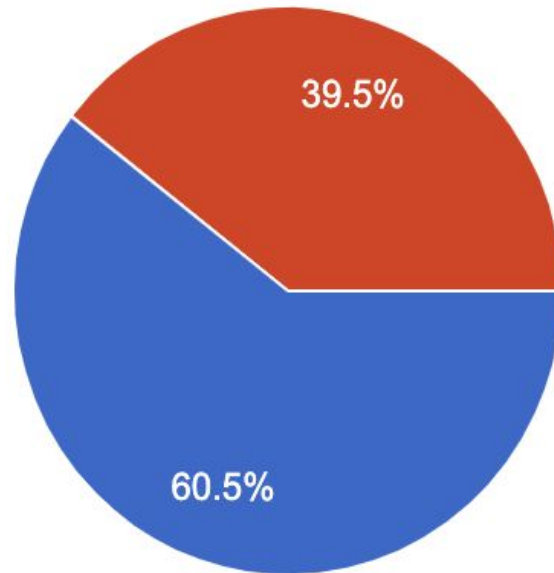
Community Survey Results

Community Results

Please indicate your role in the school.

 Copy

114 responses



- Parent/Guardian
- Franklin Township Community Member (non-school parent/guardian)

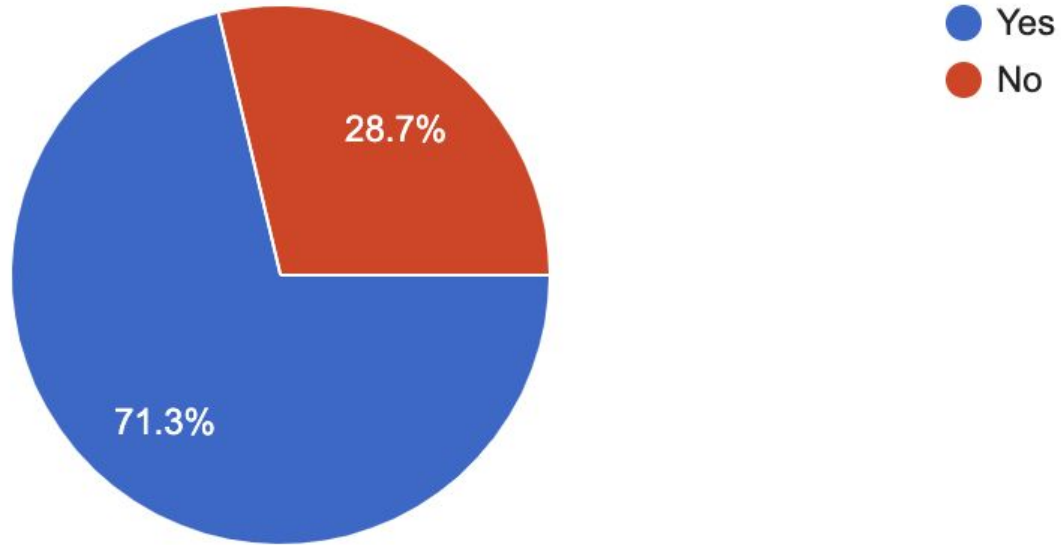


Community Results

Do you believe having a Class III officer on campus would improve the safety and security of our school community? (Yes/No)



115 responses

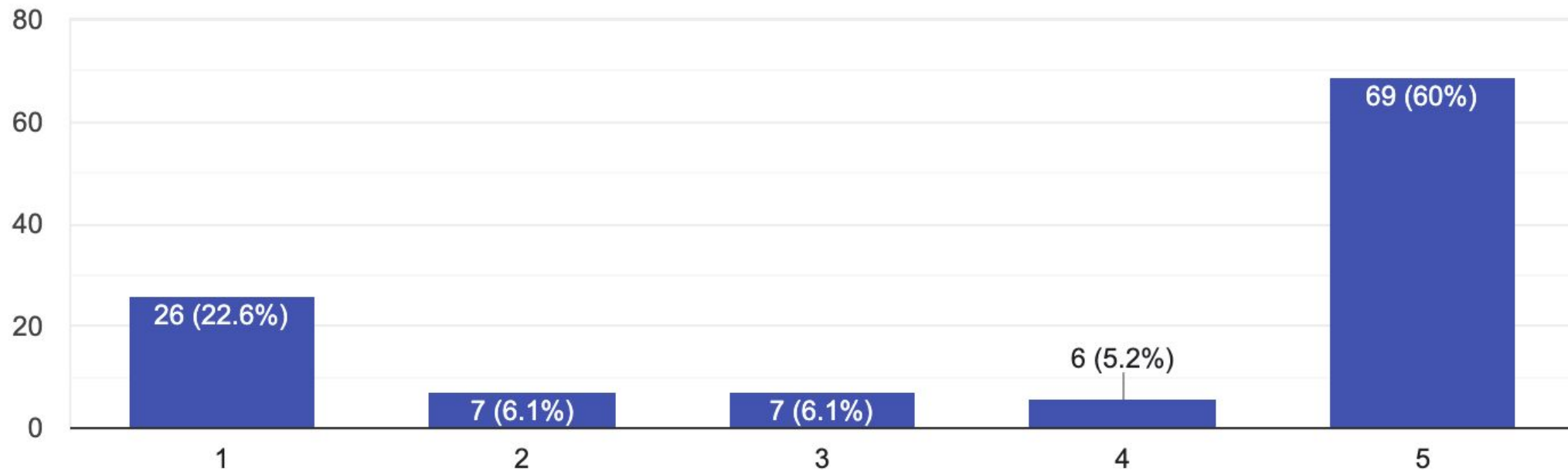


Community Results

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "not at all interested" and 5 being "very interested," how interested are you in having a Class III officer on campus?



115 responses



Common Themes from the Community Survey

Safety and security: The majority of the community feels that having a Class III officer on campus will improve the overall safety and security of the school environment.

Effectiveness and necessity: Many respondents question the effectiveness of having an armed officer on campus, citing instances where officers did not stop school shootings. They also wonder whether an officer is necessary if proper safety measures are in place.

Cost and budget concerns: Respondents are concerned about the financial burden of hiring a Class III officer, especially in a small community. They suggest that the funds could be better spent on other safety measures or priorities.

School environment and message: Some respondents believe that having an armed officer in school may create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, which could be detrimental to the students' overall learning experience. They also worry about the message it sends to children about society and safety.

Officer selection, training, and involvement: Several respondents emphasize the importance of selecting the right officer who is friendly, approachable, and properly trained in crisis intervention, mental health first aid, and de-escalation strategies. They also express concerns about the officer's involvement in disciplinary issues and the potential for implicit bias or discrimination.





Current Services

Anticipated Revenue

Source	Amount
Fund Balance / Surplus	\$ 266,766
Local Tax Levy	\$ 6,342,228
Other Revenue	\$ 746,766
ExtraOrdinary Aid (Estimate)	\$ 300,000
Withdrawal Capital Reserve	\$ 200,000
Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve	\$ 200,000
State Aid	\$ 549,627
TOTAL (Fund 10) REVENUE	\$ 8,605,387



Anticipated Appropriations

Program	Amount
Instruction – Regular Education	\$2,031,184
Instruction/Services – Special Education	\$2,212,698
Athletics / Co-curricular Activities	\$ 54,707
Attendance/Social Work/Health Services	\$ 122,547
Instruction / Prof Development	\$ 89,204
Educ. Media / Library	\$ 112,035
Administration	\$ 470,400
Maintenance / Custodial / Grounds	\$ 924,794
Transportation (Regular/Special/Trips/Athletics)	\$ 528,382
Employee Benefits (net of EE contributions)	\$1,567,977
Equipment	\$ 237,136
Loan Repayment	\$ 254,323
TOTAL (Fund 10) APPROPRIATIONS:	\$8,605,387



Debt Service

Debt Service	2022-23	2023-24	\$ Change	% Change
Interest on Bonds	\$71,800	\$48,800		
Redemption of Principal	\$575,000	\$600,000		
Total Debt Service	\$646,800	\$648,800	\$2,000	.31%

Debt Service Remaining: 2024-25 \$644,800
(2010 building addition)





Tax Levy

Local Tax Levy

Tax Levy	2022-23	2023-24	Difference	% Increase	Annual Increase Cost \$400,000 Home
Operating Fund	\$6,217,871	\$6,342,228	\$124,357	2.0%	
Debt Service Fund*	\$ 646,800	\$ 648,800	\$ 2,000	.31%	
TOTAL	\$6,864,671	\$6,991,028	\$ 126,357	2.31%	\$64.55

Municipal Data used for Calculations as of 2022:
 Net Taxable Value Land and Improvements: \$547,081,100

*1 Year left of debt service (24/25)





Shared Services

Looking Forward to 2023-24

Continued Shared Administration & Contracted Services with Union

- Superintendent
- Business Administrator
- Supervisor of Special Services
- Curriculum Supervisor
- Child Study Team (LDTC & Social Worker)
- Groundsperson
- Extended School Year
- Summer Intervention/Enrichment Program
- Professional Development Academy





Staffing Plans

Staffing/Programs

- Budget supports two sections per grade
 - Except one grade level
- Preschool will be reduced to one section (mixed 3&4 year olds)
- Continue to support one full-time interventionist and two part-time interventionists
- Continuing the G&T Program within school hours
- Continue Co-Curricular Activities & Athletics





Strategic Plan Update

#ReimagineFTS

#FTSReimagined

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION	THE WHOLE CHILD	FACILITIES & FISCAL RESILIENCE	ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS
Create PD Academy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase guidance time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Explore Shared Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable NJ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase Tech Usage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expand Peer Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Replace Gym Floor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Digital Star School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create Curriculum Job <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide parent nights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Replace stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kindness Certified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create Intervention Job <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Create Wellness Room <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Explore send/receive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Provide Data Workshops <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Digital Citizenship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Revamp Assessments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Strategic Plan

- Fall 2023 Planning Sessions
 - September 2023- Where are we now?
 - October 2023- Where do we want to be?
 - November 2023- How do we get there?
 - January 2024- BOE approval & present finalized plan to the community
- Strategic Plan
 - Three year plan January 2024-January 2027
or
 - Five year plan January 2024-January 2029



Questions?