



*Empowering learners to embrace and influence the future with courage and compassion.*

February 2019

Dear Members of the Clinton Community,

The Board of Education unanimously approved an operating budget for the 2019-2020 school year at its meeting held on February 4, 2019. The approved budget represents a total budget of \$33,211,486 or a 1.70% increase over the current year's approved operating budget.

In August 2018, the Board of Education adopted its District Strategic Plan that established the strategic priorities and goals for the schools and district for the next three years. This plan has had a direct influence on the 2019-2020 operating budget development. All requests were vetted and evaluated against the mission of the district and the newly established strategic plan priorities to ensure implementation and achievement of the goals.

In addition, this year's budget process was impacted by the Board of Education's decision in November 2018 to close Pierson Elementary School and realign the grade structures at Joel Elementary (pK-4) and Eliot Middle School (5-8) for the 2019-2020 school year. That decision resulted in the need to determine not only expected operational costs, but also to determine areas of cost-saving and reductions, transition needs, and support for new programming elements. With those considerations included, the operational budget for 2019-2020 was developed after a thorough review of needs and requests, analysis of actual and projected costs, enrollment and staffing decision-making, and questioning and consideration by the administrative team, the Superintendent, and the Board of Education members.

The Board of Education approved 2019-2020 operating budget takes into account the district reorganization needs and costs, and represents an investment in quality programs for students. The budget put forth by the Board of Education represents a balance of stewardship, commitment to our students and their learning, and an understanding of the need to educate the whole child, while at the same time meeting all of the legal mandates required of school systems.

The Clinton Board of Education has worked diligently to make quality budget decisions. The process of budget preparation, development, and consideration has been thorough. We respectfully submit this budget, and the supporting detail contained in the budget book, to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and to the citizens of Clinton. We hope that you will review the information and participate in the public process that leads to the May referendum.

Sincerely,

Erica Gelven  
Board of Education Chair

Maryann R. O'Donnell  
Superintendent of Schools