



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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With all the discussion surrounding Delaware's public school districts' ability to collect additional revenue up to 10% of the prior year's receipts, I want to set the record straight about the decisions and actions taken by The Smyrna School District Board of Education. In July of 2024, after the Kent County reassessment, the board had the ability to collect additional revenue up to 10% within the Kent County portion of our district. The Smyrna School District Board of Education voted not to collect the additional revenue of 10%, but rather just the amount that would have been collected through natural growth, calculated at 2%. Earlier this month, the Smyrna School District Board of Education had the same opportunity, because of the reassessment, for the New Castle County portion of our District and voted to take the same course of action as we had the previous year. There were minor adjustments to tuition, matching fund, and debt service as is typical of any year. If we had voted to set the tax rate to collect the full 10% of additional revenue in either or both years, it would not have offset the current or future need for a referendum. A referendum is one of the last true forms of democracy left in Delaware. Every eligible voter within our boundaries has the ability to have their voice heard, through their vote, on tax increases by the district. As such, I believe that your vote does matter, and I look forward to your support whenever another referendum arises.

We have heard from many of our constituents during the last two years, as we have tried to pass a referendum for operating costs, that we need to look for ways to reduce and/or better prioritize our spending. We hear you and have taken many steps over the last few years to do just that. During our July meeting, the Smyrna School District Board of Education voted unanimously to adjust the salary multiplier for all administrators. We can repurpose these savings to help offset inflationary increases in operational costs. We are in active negotiations to bring additional solar panels, at no additional expense, to the district. This will help to offset the increase in utilities cost we face, just like each of you. We have also chosen not to fill various administrative positions to be used for the state mandated budget reduction give back and other needs.

All of our meetings are open to the public if you would like to come and learn about what is happening. Thank you for the various ways you support the Smyrna School District. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the other Board Members, our emails are available on the district website.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Snow

President, Smyrna School District Board of Education

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, marital status, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other protected category or status in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries should be directed to the District Superintendent.