



Stafford Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Newsletter *May 17, 2018 (Updated May 22, 2018)*

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 21, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

*BOE Meeting – Stafford Elementary School
Celebration of Excellence*

Thursday, May 31, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

BOE Meeting – Stafford Elementary School

Monday, June 4, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

BOE Meeting – Stafford Elementary School

Thursday, June 7, 2018 (tentative)

Town Budget Referendum – Stafford Public Library

Monday, June 25, 2018

Class of 2018 Graduation

If there are items that you'd like included in this newsletter, please notify my administrative assistant, Christine Marinelli, at marinelli@stafford.k12.ct.us.

Data Snapshot

- ✓ Enrollment for May 1, 2018, was 1,547 (as compared to 1,527 on October 1, 2017)

Budget Process

- ✓ Superintendent's proposed 18-19 budget reflecting a 1.76% increase presented to the Board of Education (BOE) on January 29, 2018
- ✓ Following presentations & deliberation, the BOE reduced the budget to a 1.49% increase
- ✓ Upon further consideration, the BOE reduced the budget to a 0.98% increase. This budget was presented to the Stafford community and Board of Finance (BOF) at the First Public Hearing on March 28, 2018.
- ✓ The BOF reduced the district's budget to a 0% increase, resulting in a total of \$487,162.76 in reductions
- ✓ The BOE approved reductions to the budget on April 9, 2018
- ✓ The revised budget was presented to the community and BOF on April 25, 2018, at the Second Public Hearing

The finalized budget maintains services while strategically reorganizing current staff to meet the needs in following three priority areas:

- Middle and High School Restructuring
- Stafford Learning Center (K-5 Special Education Program)
- NEASC & NAEYC Accreditation Process

Attachments / Correspondence:

- Town Flyer Regarding Mill Rate
- Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year Press Release

From Mr. Moccio's Desk:

Budget Update:

In an effort to provide parents, guardians and the community with information about the district's budget, I met with various PTO/PTA groups and shared the proposed 18-19 budget and responded to questions. Additionally, on April 23, 2018, my office sent a letter home to parents and guardians with details regarding the budget process. Earlier this month, I also sent home the first edition of my newsletter, which provided an update regarding the status of the budget.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, although the district and town budgets were reduced considerably, coming in at or below a 0% increase, the proposed mill rate increase was projected to be 1.85, due to anticipated reductions in State funding. Following the close of the legislative session on May 9, 2018, the General Assembly adopted State budget adjustments, which are expected to reinstate most of the town's funding. **Using the preliminary figures provided by the State, Stafford's proposed mill rate for 18-19 was recalculated. The proposed 18-19 mill rate increase is now .33 as compared to this year. Information regarding the mill rate calculation and how it will affect the average taxpayer is provided on the attached flyer,** which was prepared by the town's CFO. On May 14, 2018, the Board of Finance voted to approve and move this budget forward to a Board of Selectmen's meeting. The Board of Selectmen met on Monday morning, May 21, and set the town meeting date for Thursday, May 31, 2018. The budget referendum is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Additional information regarding the district's proposed 2018 – 2019 budget is available here-
<http://stafford.k12.ct.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=64940&pageId=194088>

Additional information regarding the town's 2018 – 2019 budget is available here-
http://www.staffordct.org/news.php?table=news_budget&id=201

SRO Update:

At the May 7, 2018, Board of Education meeting, I began a conversation regarding the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO). Lt. Duncan was present at the Board meeting and shared his perspective. At the Board meeting on June 4, 2018, this item will again be discussed, and I will provide responses to questions asked by the Board and community members. Community perspective and input is requested and continues to be appreciated throughout this process.

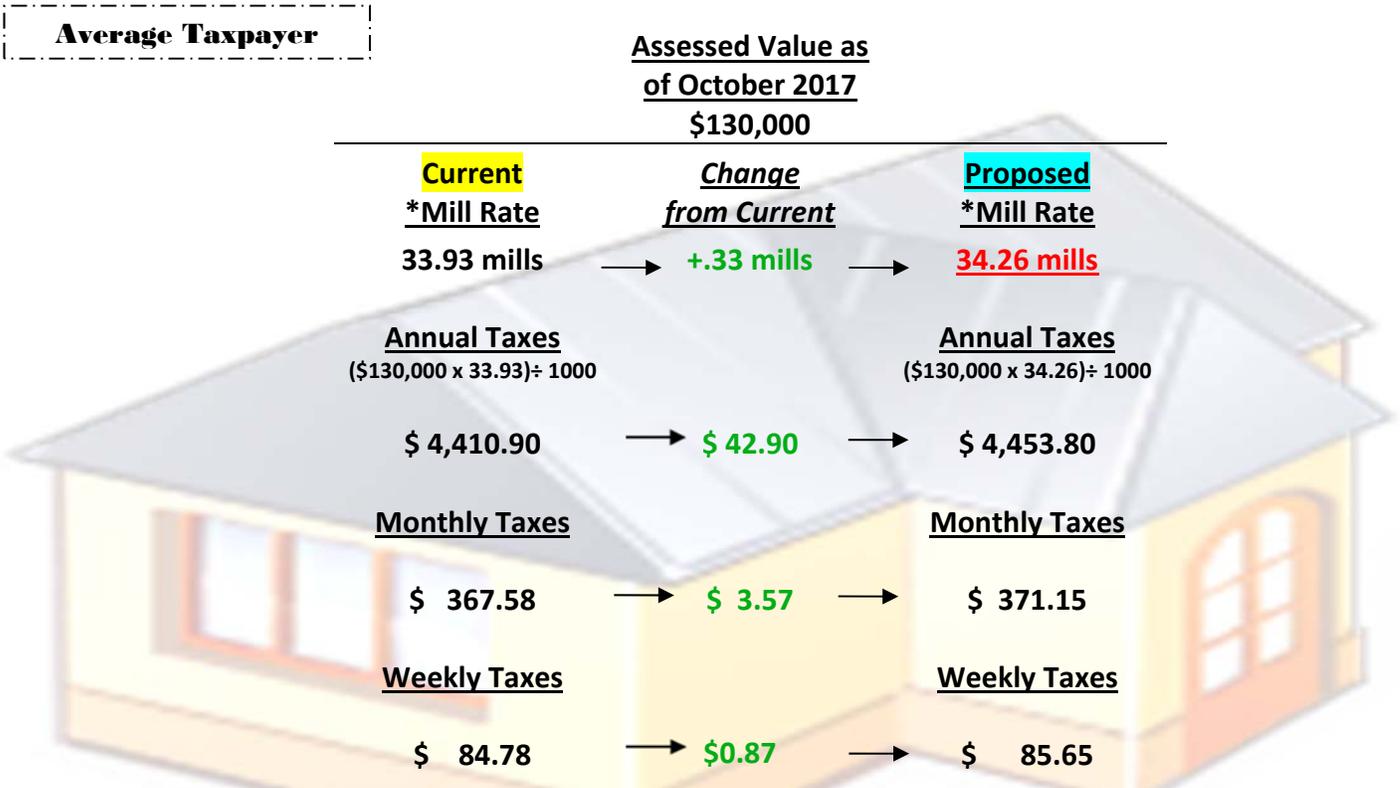
Upcoming Events:

On Monday, May 21, 2018, the Board of Education will hold its annual Celebration of Excellence at Stafford Elementary School, beginning at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, the district's Teacher of the Year, Paraeducator of the Year, retirees, CABE Student Leaders, and Board Student Representatives will be honored. Everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

STAFFORD MILL RATE INFORMATION

The median assessed value of single family homes/condos (Average Taxpayer's house) as of 2018 is \$130,000.

In 2017, Average Taxpayer paid \$4,410.90 in taxes. With a proposed mill rate of 34.26 (+33 mills) for 2018, Average taxpayer would pay \$4,453.80 in taxes. **This means that Average taxpayer will pay a total of \$42.90 more in property taxes on his/her house in 2018 than he/she did in 2017, which is \$3.57 more a month or \$.87 more a week (see details below).**



What is a Mill Rate?	The amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. The mill rate is based on "mills"; as each mill is one-thousandth of a dollar; one mill is equal to one-tenth of a cent or \$0.001.
How are my taxes calculated?	To calculate your exact yearly property tax, use the following formula: (assessed value of property) multiplied by (mill rate), then divide by 1,000 (SEE ABOVE)
What is our current Mill Rate	In May 2017, a mill rate of 33.93 was passed at referendum.
Why is my house assessment so low? I thought my house was worth more	Assessed value = only <i>seventy percent</i> of appraised market value—you are not taxed on the <i>full</i> market value of your home. You can find out your home's assessed value from the Tax Assessor in Town Hall; at http://gis.vgsi.com/staffordct/Search.aspx

Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property in the Service District are taxed at a different mill rate in order to finance the provision and administration of Service District services.



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www.stafford.k12.ct.us

Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools

May 16, 2018

Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program was initiated in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most prestigious honors through which excellence in teaching is recognized. Through an annual process beginning at the local school district level and continuing to the national level, the program celebrates teachers that have distinguished themselves in the profession and have inspired a love of learning in their students.

Nominated by her colleagues and selected by a district committee of her peers, I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Jacqueline Sidor is the Stafford 2019 Teacher of the Year**. Jackie is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University where she earned a B.S.E.D. in Art Education and a Master of Science degree in Art Education. She began her career as a 0.8 FTE art teacher travelling between Staffordville School, West Stafford School, and Stafford Elementary School. Jackie was appointed as the full-time art teacher at Stafford Elementary School in 2014 where she invigorates the school with creativity and enthusiasm while providing students with a venue to showcase their talents through school displays. Her personal commitment transcends the traditional art class, as she can often be found before school with students in her room weaving. Whether it be concert decorations or when she created a fast motion video on how to make a mural of the community, Jackie leads the way and brings people together. School culture and climate are instilled in students through Jackie's work as she collaborates with teachers to make Stafford Elementary School a warm, welcoming environment. Her use of a positive behavior system allows students to be rewarded for good behavior with either the Golden Paint Brush or Silver Paint Brush Award that can be proudly displayed outside of the classrooms.

Within Jackie's essay for consideration she speaks of building her students' confidence, sparking imagination, and inspiring students to explore and think creatively. Her work within the classroom is not solely regarding their artistic ability, but rather instilling the power in each student to believe in themselves and become extraordinary problem solvers. Jackie recognizes the cross-curricular possibilities present in the art classroom and maximizes the opportunity to allow students to be themselves while celebrating the differences within others. Collaboration and creativity go hand-in-hand as Jackie helps students build connections to their local community through displays within the schools and community. Jackie's students have worked alongside the Main Street Business Association where they displayed work on Main Street and worked on a collaborative mural downtown. Through Jackie's hard work and dedication to her students, she has created an environment where students are comfortable and their imaginations can run wild.

Other staff members who participated in the selection process include: Mrs. Adrian DePellegrini, SES; Ms. Jennifer Forziati, SVS; Mr. Scott Martin, SHS; Ms. Kim Robbins, WSS. Also nominated, but who chose not to go forward with district consideration were: Ms. Donna Bourque, SMS; Ms. Laurie Dillon, SHS; Ms. Patricia Kritzman, SMS; and Ms. Lisa Lobik, PK-8. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Jackie well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the State competition.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools



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May 16, 2018

Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council have established the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program to recognize the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement. The program honors paraeducators that have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication while earning the respect and admiration of staff, students, and parents.

Through the program, each school district is allowed to nominate one paraeducator for the award. Nominations were collected from each of the five schools and evaluated based on the key competencies for Connecticut paraeducators as defined by the CSDE. The model defines the following six primary areas of responsibilities for paraeducators:

1. Assisting teachers/providers with building and maintaining effective instructional teams.
2. Assisting teachers/providers with maintaining learner-centered supportive environments.
3. Supporting teachers/providers with planning and organizing learning experiences.
4. Assisting teachers/providers with engaging students in learning and assisting in instruction.
5. Assisting teachers/providers with assessing learner needs, progress and achievement.
6. Meeting standards of professional and ethical conduct.

The administrative team is pleased to announce the selection of **Mrs. Deborah Richard as Stafford's 2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year**. Deborah will now be asked to submit an application for consideration as the Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year, which is announced next December at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Ceremony at The Bushnell Auditorium.

Deborah has been a hardworking and dedicated paraeducator at Stafford High School since 2011. She is a caring, thoughtful, and flexible individual that far exceeds her responsibilities. Her positive encouragement allows students to truly know she cares about them as she continually checks their understanding and progress. Students absolutely know she has their best interest in mind as she takes the time to hear their concerns and even learns their individual content so she can better assist them in understanding the material presented. Deborah is well known for her practical suggestions and insight as to how students may understand a concept in a different way. According to her colleagues, Deborah "needs no direction as to what works best for our identified students and is proactive in her approach to daily tasks... She is extremely organized and offers insights into areas she feels students may or may not experience difficulties."

Other staff members nominated for this honor were the following: Ms. Meagan Coporale, WSS; Ms. Pat Laska, SVS; Ms. Amanda Mayer, SMS; Ms. Lisa Ostrowski, SMS; and Ms. Cheryl Verney, SES. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Deborah well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the state competition.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools