

The Executive Committee of the Garden City PTA thanks the administration for your time, care, and tireless effort in preparing the budget for the 2021-2022 school year. We also thank the Board of Education for your time and care in reviewing the budget.

We thank the members of our community who attended these budget presentations, asked questions of the administration, and showed an active interest in the future of our schools. We thank those who participated in the New York State PTA advocacy campaign to ensure funding for Medicaid home and community-based services for our students. We are confident that grassroots campaigns such as these raise awareness within our community, and to our elected representatives, about the critical issues that continue to face public education. As parents, our role as public education advocates cannot be overstated, and we must remain engaged in the school budget process by speaking on behalf of our students here in Garden City, and with our elected representatives in Albany.

We understand that many challenges face an administration in preparing a school budget, and a Board of Education in submitting that budget for public vote. A school budget must uphold our community's high expectations for quality public education while maintaining the Board's commitment to not exceed the allowable tax levy. This year, the budget does just that. It is at once fiscally conservative and academically ambitious, guided by the district mission statement, with a focus on students at its core.

This budget promises exciting instructional additions and enhancements for all students in grades K through 12, including restoring all K-5 special area teachers, reading and math specialists, evaluating new math programs for 2022-2023, increasing the FTE in mathematics and science to decrease class size in the High School, developing a sustainability research center and greenhouse, implementing 1:1 technology program in all schools, continuing Science 21 curriculum implementation at the primary and elementary level, increasing active learning in all grades, piloting an augmented/virtual reality station at the

Middle School & High School, a focus on data privacy and cyber security to detect vulnerabilities, and the continued focus on technology to keep students and faculty up-to-date on the latest developments. The budget also promises to maintain the district's commitment to enriching professional development, our fine extracurricular and athletic programs, and ensuring our facilities are safe and well-maintained.

Looking ahead, we understand our district is not without challenges. A global pandemic has resulted in unprecedented times. COVID continues to alter the traditional methods of learning and educating. We encourage the Board of Education to identify every alternative that will benefit the overall development of our students and support our teachers and staff. As enrollment continues to grow, we must continue offering solutions that maintain our classroom sizes. It is imperative for the success of our students that we avoid the implications of overcrowding and less teacher-student attention. Finally, thank you for listening to the community and keeping Quest next year.

This budget continues the Garden City School District's commitment to inspire and challenge students to accomplish their personal best, while also maintaining the Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility. The Executive Committee of the Garden City PTA strongly supports the 2021-2022 school budget. We urge all community members to vote "YES" for the budget on May 18th, in support of our children, public education, and community.

We appreciate all of the Board of Education's current and continuing efforts to meet the challenges ahead, and we encourage you to continue to work collaboratively with parents through PTA and SEPTA to tackle future challenges to our budget together.

Thank you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Garden City PTA.