Madison School Administrative District No. 59

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June 9, 2020

**Dear Madison Residents**,

The MSAD59 Board of Directors signed warrants for the 2020-2021 school budget last night at their board meeting. The Governor’s new executive order now waivers information meetings prior to district budget meetings because of the COVID-19 restrictions. So, I have made a brief video to try and explain some of the increases and decreases to the 20/21 budget. That video has been posted on the district website (msad59.com). The entire budget book is posted on the website, and will be available at the Madison Town Office in paper format.

The budget has an increase of approximately 3% as a result of increases in the cost of health insurance, property insurance, salaries for staff, a one-time cost to pave the parking lot at Madison Elementary School, and now that the EMBRACE grant funding is done – to sustain the Multiply Pathways Academy program that has had so much success in offering our at-risk students a hands-on approach to their education and keeping them in school.

There are decreases in the administrative line because of the reconfiguration of the principal/athletic director/dean of students positions to one position, and in the transportation line as a result of removing the cost of a bus and replacing it with the cost of a van that we so desperately need.

So even though the budget is up a little, the actual amount to the taxpayer is **DOWN** by 4%, or nearly $200,000, as a result of additional revenues and state allocations. The MSAD59 budget **will not increase** property taxes for the citizens of Madison.

Once you have had a chance to look over the budget, and if you still have any questions – please feel free to email me at bonnie.levesque@msad59.org. You can ask the question(s) and I will do my best to get right back to you, or you can leave your phone number and I will be glad to return your call.

The District Budget Meeting will be held Monday, June 15, 2020, at 7:00PM at Madison Junior High School. We will be following CDC guidelines for gathering. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at the door. We are asking everyone to enter through the doors down by the auditorium (Nichols Street). The sidewalk with be marked for social distancing while you wait to register, and packets will be made up that contain the budget book, the ballot, and a pencil for each individual voter.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unusual time, and I look forward to seeing you in person on Monday, June 15 at 7:00PM

Bonnie Levesque