



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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*Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

April 30, 2020

Dear Valley Stream Thirteen Families,

Every summer, the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Board of Education and administration partner in developing a budget calendar that is approved in September. In fact, many of the critical dates represented in this document are placed on the school calendar that is sent home to our community. The schedule that had been in place for the budget has been necessarily interrupted by the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Governor's projected state budget, particularly that part of the financial projections associated with the state aid provisioned for public schools. Under the old schedule, we would have made several presentations to the PTA, broader school community, and faculty by now. We did conduct a budget presentation as scheduled at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

The old schedule timed the availability of budget materials to the public this week and our budget hearing would have been on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The newest guidance from the Governor has been that public school budget votes are postponed until at least June 1st. If we considered a hypothetical schedule where the budget vote could take place on Tuesday June 2nd, the budget materials would be made available to the public during the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> and the budget hearing could be on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, much still is unknown relative to how we could appropriately conduct a budget hearing. Additionally, we are not yet sure if the State Aid proposal is final or if there will be additional cuts.

During one of his daily conferences, Governor Cuomo stated that absent assistance at the federal level to state and local governments in the next Stimulus, New York could face an additional 20% reduction in Aid. Our originally projected state aid for the 2020-2021 School Year has already been cut by \$350,000, therefore an additional 20% cut would further erode State Aid resources. The Governor projected that he could communicate more information on the status of next year's funding by May 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we will be able to make changes to our budget, if necessary, and then move towards adoption in time for the upcoming budget vote. We will continue to monitor the daily press conferences on the budget to advance our efforts to present an accurately informed budget to our public.

We wish we had more definite and positive news to share, however, we are hopeful that this provides a critical update. In the meantime, please know, we are working to preserve any expenditures within our current environment to prepare for what we expect and know will be some reduction to the financial resources provided by New York State.

As usual, we wish you good health and safety as our primary concern.

Sincerely,

*Constance D. Evelyn*

Dr. Constance D. Evelyn

On Behalf of the Collective Work of Educators in the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen