

WEST ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Ronald L. Charles - President
Mark A. Robertson - Vice President
Ken Alper - Board Member
Sandra Mordecai - Board Member
Irving Schwarzbaum - Board Member
Jeffrey Rutzky – Superintendent of Schools
John Calavano - Board Secretary

July 30, 2018

Board of Education to Reduce Taxes From Adopted Budget For 2018-2019 School Year:

The West Orange Board of Education is pleased to announce it will return \$3 million of the \$3.5 million dollars allocated as additional State Aid as immediate tax relief for the residents of West Orange. As a result, **the tax levy for the School District portion of property taxes will decrease .49% for the 2018-2019 school year.** Compared to the adopted budget for 2018-2019, the average homeowner will see a \$91.24 decrease.

This is the second straight year the Board has returned additional State Aid to taxpayers; last year, the Board returned \$500,000 of \$1.5 million in additional State Aid.

The additional State Aid for the 2018-2019 school year, an increase of 43.8% from the 2017-2018 school year, is coming to West Orange due to Governor Murphy's signing of Senate Bill No. 2 (P.L. 2018, ch. 67) into law. The Board anticipates receiving this additional State Aid in future years based on its current student enrollment figures.

“The West Orange Board of Education is thankful for this additional State Aid, as it will allow us to continue being a premier school district and to provide tax relief for the residents of West Orange,” stated Board President Ron Charles.

The West Orange Board of Education has vigorously advocated for a change in the State Aid funding formula utilized for public schools. As our residents know, the West Orange School District has been severely under-funded by the State, placing an unfair burden on our local taxpayers. Specifically, our Board of Education members advocated for the passage of Senate Bill No. 2, which will phase out adjustment aid and eliminate growth caps so that school districts with growing enrollment, such as ours, can receive additional State funding.

Sincerely,

The West Orange Board of Education