The MTSD Board of Trustees has voted to approve the new draft FY20 budget. We have compiled these questions based on feedback from Community Comments and General Inquiries. You can contact the Board of Trustees if you have any questions. Their contact information can be found on the MTSD District website under – School Board, Board Members.

1st Budget
March 6th Vote

- Budget $32,647,786
  10.97% Increase
- Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil $14,971.16
  4.21% Increase
- Estimated Income Tax Rate Without Income Sensitivity 1.80%

Revised Budget
April 16th Vote

- Budget $31,124,619
  5.76% Increase
- Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil $14,928.17
  3.91% Increase
- Estimated Income Tax Rate Without Income Sensitivity 1.85%

What reductions were made to create the Revised Proposed FY 2020 Budget?

- Budgeted Special Education expenditures were re-calculated to match to the FY 2020 Special Education Service plan submitted in September. ($897,912)
- Staffing changes, adjustments and savings due to attrition. ($533,631)
- Line-by-line review of all budgeted General Fund account codes. ($91,624)

What impact do these changes have on the local tax rate?

- 3.91% increase to education spending is equal to 2.65 pennies or a 1.85% increase to the existing local tax rate. The estimated 1.85% increase would have the following maximum impact to these homesite values (assuming no Income Sensitivity):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homesite Value</th>
<th>Maximum Increase for Year</th>
<th>Maximum Increase per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$66.25</td>
<td>$5.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$79.50</td>
<td>$6.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How were we able to find savings in our projected special education expenditures?

The Superintendent, Director of Student Services, School Board Chair and Vice Chair met with the Business Manager to review our historical (FY 2015-2019) Special Education Service Plans and Budgets. This meeting prompted a further review of the existing and projected expenses for special education staffing, Out of District Placement Tuition and Out of District Transportation. The revised special education budget better reflects our actual expenditures and revenues for the upcoming year.

What is a fund balance and how does it pertain to the budget?

The fund balance is made of multiple components which vary year-to-year. Vermont Education Law requires Districts to use a portion of their fund balance to offset the tax rate, unless voters authorize it to be used for a specific purpose. The District’s 2018 fund balance is $1,008,414 and includes:

1. The difference at the end of the FY 2018 year between expenditures and revenues, ($382,597)
2. The District’s fiscal year 2018 Non-spendable fund balance (prepaid expenses holding fund balance as an offset) ($103,529)

3. The amount the District retained from the previous year ($230,000)

4. The amount of transfers for projects that came from the Capital Reserve Fund thus reducing General Fund expenditures ($292,288)

**What amount of Unassigned fund balance has the District utilized to offset the local tax rate over the previous three (3) years?**

- 2017 - $1,230,700
- 2018 - $1,000,000
- 2019 - $894,557

**What will the revised School Budget Article look like?**

**Article 1:** Shall the voters of Milton Town School District authorize the school board to expend Thirty-One Million, One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred Nineteen Dollars ($31,124,619), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $14,928.17 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.91% higher than spending for the current year.

The above article:
- Identifies the General Fund expenditures that the District proposes for fiscal year 2020 - $31,124,619
- This revised budget article is a $1,523,167 reduction to the original fiscal year 2020 proposed budget defeated on March 6, 2019.
- The article language is required by the State of Vermont to communicate the amount of Education Spending per Equalized Pupil. The revised budget reflects education spending of $14,928.17 per equalized pupil. The FY20 statewide average Education Spending per equalized pupil for Vermont is $16,159.00. Our proposed budget projects that MTSD students will receive $2,012,123.96 less in educational opportunities.

**Do I have to wait until April 16th to Vote?**

No! You don’t have to wait to vote – early voting is available once the Town Clerk receives the ballots!

- Vote in person - **THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO VOTE.** Any registered Milton voter can walk into the Municipal Building and VOTE! The town Clerk’s office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Request an absentee ballot by mail - You can call and request that the town clerk mail you an early voter absentee ballot. The ballot will arrive with a return envelope so that the ballot, once voted, can be returned to the clerk and safely stored to be counted on Election Day. The clerk must receive the ballot by the close of polls on Election Day in order for it to be counted. **(802) 893-6655 Option 1**
- Vote on April 16th - A voter may walk into the Municipal Building on April 16, 2019, to vote in person between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Do I qualify for a Property Tax Adjustment (income sensitivity provision)?**

If you make less than $135,000 a year, you may be eligible for the income sensitivity provision, meaning your taxes are capped on your income...But, you have to file your Homestead Declaration form and State Taxes by April 15th! For more information please visit the Vermont Department of Taxes – Property Tax Adjustment Claim webpage. If you have question, call the Vermont Dept. of Taxes for assistance. 

[Vermont – Property Tax Adjustment Claims](#)