

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Best financial shape ever

Thanks to a substantial infusion of state and federal dollars, and good management, the Pottstown School District is in excellent financial shape — perhaps the best ever.

Last week, the school board ratified a three-year contract with the Federation of Pottstown Teachers, locking in the cost of the district's biggest budget item for the next three years. Salary increases will average 5.4 percent each year.

Meanwhile, the district has been on a hiring spree. Among other positions, the district has added "house principals" for each grade level at the middle school, fifth through eighth, plus a supervising principal.

We also have a counselor for each grade level at the middle school and a mental health professional at each of our four elementary schools. We have a counselor at the Edgewood Learning Center, formerly the Edgewood Elementary School.

The district has reassigned eight veteran teachers as "teacher coaches" with substitute teachers hired to cover their classrooms.

All our students have chrome

books to use at school and at home.

Meanwhile, Pottstown's tax base continues to decline.

Because of increasing state and federal subsidies, however, the school district has its biggest fund balance ever.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board's.

Special Federal Funding
for Pottstown School District
(Elementary and Secondary School
Emergency Relief Fund)

Name	Allocation	Expiration
ESSER I	\$1,084,349	9/30/2022
ESSER II	\$4,819,332	9/30/2023
ESSER III	\$9,741,114	9/30/2024
TOTAL	\$15,651,795	

THESE ONE-TIME FEDERAL FUNDS are not included in the district's budget totals, below.

Pottstown School District budgets, state subsidies, tax increases					
Year	School budget	State subsidies	Local tax increase	Additional local dollars raised over previous year	End of year fund balance
2013-2014	\$52,947,845	\$17,979,352	2.4%	\$678,251	\$6,028,305
2014-2015	\$55,929,737	\$19,505,000	2.9%	\$856,059	\$6,433,796
2015-2016	\$57,136,928	\$20,848,212	0%	-\$117,995	\$6,222,584
2016-2017	\$59,553,150	\$23,128,334	0%	\$11,503	\$8,286,198
2017-2018	\$61,882,242	\$24,691,399	0%	\$395,969	\$9,158,214
2018-2019	\$62,677,927	\$25,991,873	3.5%	\$996,045	\$10,810,047
2019-2020	\$64,284,813	\$27,190,505	3.3%	\$728,628	\$14,363,243
2020-2021	\$65,413,614	\$27,511,731	0%	-\$653,042	\$20,304,588
2021-2022	\$64,583,921	\$28,435,751	0%	-\$108,351	\$14,561,987*
2022-2023	\$68,467,437	\$31,300,001	0%	-\$615,632	\$21,364,456*

STATE SUBSIDIES SOAR — IN THE LAST TEN YEARS:

The Pottstown School District budget has increased 30%

State subsidies to the Pottstown School District have increased 74%

The district's end-of-year fund balance has increased 350%

The figures above do not include \$15.7 million in one-time federal pandemic emergency relief funds.

* estimated