

Honeywell Update- January 20, 2016

Good evening Highland Park. This is Dr. Taylor with my second message about the budget planning process for the 2016-2017 school year.

I talked last week about the importance of leveraging the school budget to support goals that will be identified through the strategic planning process, slated to begin this spring and to involve the entire Highland Park community. The 2016-2017 school budget will support the outcomes of the planning process however possible.

As promised, tonight's message provides more details about how the board and the Leadership Team will create a budget in a wholly transparent manner, purposed to help our efforts make our school system world class while being fair to the local taxpayer.

Starting February 8, each member of the Leadership Team responsible for managing a section of the school budget will sit down with the Board of Education Finance and Facilities Committee and review, line by line, proposed expenditures for the next school year. This will give the four-member committee of elected representatives an opportunity to ask detailed questions about the rationale for spending. Three intense meetings will culminate in a committee presentation to the full board in early March. This will be the first time in recent memory that the board will have vetted the budget so comprehensively and over such a slow and steady process of review. The first draft of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget will have been given a thorough inspection by the time the public has the opportunity to see this first iteration of proposed expenses.

My next Honeywell, scheduled for February 3, will provide details about what will be my effort to meet with local community leaders to talk about the proposed budget in small focus groups. Until then, please have a great night.

#35225