

JTPS Budget Update: Advocacy Efforts

January 21, 2025

Mrs. Jeanne Howe, Superintendent

Mrs. Rita Oroho Giacchi, Business Administrator

25-26 Budget Challenges

- State Aid uncertainty
- Anticipated limited availability of Surplus (funds remaining at the end of the current year)
- Depletion of Reserves & Excess Surplus (funds remaining from 23-24 school year)
- Sustained upward pressure on expenditures far outpacing the rate of revenue growth
 - Insurance
 - Salaries
 - Transportation
 - Other goods & services

Recent Advocacy & Communication Efforts

- Met with Senator Bucco
- Attended each school's faculty meeting to address the 25/26 budget
- Connected with a new advocacy group, The NJ Fair Funding Collective
- NJDOE School Funding Reform Act Outreach
 - Provided testimony at two regional public hearings

SFRA Outreach Testimony

- Jefferson represented at two of four public hearings
 - December 17, 2024, NJ DOE, Trenton, NJ
 - Jeanne Howe, Superintendent
 - Rita Oroho Giacchi, School Business Administrator
 - January 8, 2025, Somerset County Office, Somerville, NJ
 - Michael Stewart, Board Member
 - Peggy Widgren, JTMS Principal
 - Jeanne Howe, Superintendent
 - Rita Oroho Giacchi, School Business Administrator
- School Community encouraged to submit written comment

Next Steps

- Monitor funding-related legislation
- Prioritize potential cuts focusing on those least impactful to students
- Testify at Assembly & Senate Budget Hearings
- Prepare a Jefferson-specific request for supplementary aid to avoid the most catastrophic cuts