

Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome to the first CPC meeting of 2024! It's hard to believe we are coming into the second half of the school year. Still, with all the exciting things the district has on the horizon, from the new Science Wing opening to winter concerts, musicals, robotics competitions, and more, it will go by quickly.

The start of the new year is also what our administrators fondly refer to as Budget Season. It may be January, but the district, led by Ms. Costa, is in the early planning stages of preparing for the 2024-2025 school year. Over the next few Board meetings, administrators will present their budget proposals to the Board for review and questions. This is the ideal time for us as parents and community members to speak up and ask questions about proposed budget items and items you would like the Board to consider. This is even more critical since it was announced at the board meeting Tuesday night that our Foundation Aid has been reduced by almost \$600,000. The district must be prudent in its decisions about expenditures both now and into the future. Be mindful that while the CVA settlements have been paid, we are still in litigation with the insurance carriers and have not yet recouped any of those monies. As always, the district must stay within the proposed and voter-approved budget.

If you have not had a chance to watch the last two BOE meetings from December and January, they are up on the website. To quickly highlight those meetings, December's meeting had new course updates for the next school year, where the Board discussed and voted on the honors designation for the Pre-AP World History and Geography class and the new Pre-AP English 1 class. The board also approved alternative teaching materials to the Choices program. On Tuesday, there was a security presentation with the new consulting security firm, Covert, an update on the accelerated math program at the junior high school, and adopted the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

On January 30th, there will be a work session with updates for the 2019 Bond, where a board discussion will take place for the next steps, and the board will give an update on their own board goals as they relate to the budget.

Thank you to the administration and Board for the busy and important work over the next few months, and we look forward to all the fun and exciting events coming up as well.

Today, we welcome Officer Jesse Levy from the Suffolk County Police Department to discuss the dangers of social media, smart device misuse, and online gaming. Next month we will have a presentation on food services. Thank you everyone and again, welcome.