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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chartiers Valley School Board passes proposed final 2020-2021 budget

District sites fiscal history, state funding, and responsible future planning in rationale

[COLLIER TWP., PA, May 2020] The Chartiers Valley School District Board of Directors passed a proposed final budget Tuesday, May 5, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year of \$68,026,350, a 1% increase of the current budget.

Chartiers Valley is one of only a handful of districts in Allegheny County whose 2020-2021 proposed millage rate remains lower than it was prior to the 2013 Allegheny county-wide reassessment in 2013. The 2012 millage rate was 19.88 mills seventeen years ago (Source: <https://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/millsd.asp>).

School Board President Bob Kearney commented, “Our board and the boards before us wrestle with the decision to raise taxes every year. We are a frugal and value-oriented community. This is only the seventh time in twenty years we are raising taxes. State and federal funding just isn’t keeping pace with the costs of education.”

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s proposed 2020-2021 budget yields an increase of only 1.6%, placing the burden of educational funding on districts and local tax payers.

The District’s proposed budget increase would mean a property tax increase of .6523 mills, which equates to \$65.23 per \$100,000 assessment. Chartiers Valley School District residents continue to pay one of the lowest millage rates in the region.

1	Brentwood	31.5450	11	Mt. Lebanon	24.7900	21	Moon Area	21.9200	31	Avonworth	19.5300
2	Wilkinsburg	29.5000	12	Elizabeth-Forward	24.7899	22	Baldwin-Whitehall	21.7600	32	South Allegheny	19.5000
3	Penn Hills	28.6646	13	West Mifflin Area	24.4965	23	West Jefferson	21.4470	33	Keystone Oaks	19.4990
4	East Allegheny	26.9722	14	Steel Valley	24.2170	24	Plum	21.0757	34	Quaker Valley	19.4711
5	South Fayette	26.7000	15	Carlynton	24.1815	25	Bethel Park	21.0000	35	Hampton	19.3800
6	Upper St. Clair	26.3775	16	Sto-Rox	24.0900	26	Allegheny Valley	20.8377	36	North Allegheny	19.1408
7	Woodland Hills	26.1105	17	Cornell	23.6750	27	McKeesport Area	20.1600	37	North Hills	18.6500
8	South Park	25.9600	18	Shaler Area	23.5319	28	Gateway	19.8675	38	West Allegheny	18.5100
9	Northgate	25.5000	19	Riverview	23.2719	29	Pine-Richland	19.5867	39	Montour	17.9638
10	Highlands	24.8800	20	Deer Lakes	21.9530	30	Fox Chapel Area	19.5750	40	Chartiers Valley	17.5595
									41	Duquesne Area	17.5000

Despite a very conservative approach to taxes, Chartiers Valley continues to expand its commitment to educating the whole child as an essential component in preparing students to achieve personal success. Chartiers Valley High School was recognized by U.S. News and World Report based, in part, on its vast offering of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which represent the most rigorous academic experience for students. Chartiers Valley augments this rich curriculum with highly-competitive sports teams and nationally ranked music and dance programs.

“I cannot tell you how exciting this year was for us as our students reached academic, athletic and artistic acclaim at the regional and national levels,” said Superintendent, Dr. Johanna Vanatta. “In alignment with the District’s [mission, values](#), and Comprehensive Plan, we have continued to provide an exceptional academic foundation through robust curricular and extra-curricular offerings, while maintaining sound fiscal responsibility.”

Many districts, however, cannot afford to remain committed to the breadth of academic, athletic, arts, and cultural programs like those at Chartiers Valley. As it stands, state and federal funding will not support increases in committed expenditures and infrastructure improvements necessary to support the best interest of the District.

“Our challenge, like most districts, is to navigate federal and state funding shortfalls on the revenue side while absorbing the pressure of consistently increasing, non-discretionary expenses,” added Beth Eckenrode, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee. “Teacher pensions alone increased 626% since 2008. The financial pressures on our district are significant, but we are very proud of how our current and previous administrations, teachers and staff persevere and deliver tremendous individual performances, day in and day out, irrespective of what is thrown at them.”

The board will vote on the final budget during the regularly scheduled meeting on June 16, 2020.

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