

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Offers Preview of Next Year's Budget

- The Board is dedicated to crafting a budget that preserves our district's excellence, maintains property values, and minimizes the financial impact on our community. As part of its process, the Board held a special Work Session on Monday, March 11 to preview the district's proposed 2024-25 budget.
- This [budget presentation](#) offered an initial look at the \$119,971,622 proposal which includes a 3.5% tax increase - below this year's Act 1 index of 5.3%.
- [This primer](#) provides an overview of the budget components, insights about fiscal stressors created by limited federal and state revenues and spending mandates, and a summary of the district's current financial position.

2024-25 BUDGET TIMELINE



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Special Budget Work Session on March 11, a Work Session on March 14, and a Legislative Meeting on March 21, 2024

Board of Education

- Theresa Napson-Williams
President
- Ken Dinitz
Vice President
- Hillary Fletcher
- Jackie Gusic
- Susan Henderson-Utis
- Shelley Hunt
- Robert Kelly
- Karlene Krenicky
- Cameron Stevens

Student Liaisons

- Joy Chen
- Carys Doyle
- Jason Lanka

Superintendent

Dr. Joseph Meloche

Equitable Funding Resolution

The Board of School Directors approved [a resolution](#) urging equitable funding and accountability in Pennsylvania public education and opposing the expansion of school vouchers.

Specifically, the resolution expresses the Board's opposition to any proposal that:

- diverts additional public funds away from public education in the absence of any data indicating that such programs provide better academic outcomes
- lacks robust academic and fiscal accountability
- allows public funds to support non-public school scholarships for students who are neither low-income nor residing within the boundaries of low-achieving schools

The resolution also calls on Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly to work together to quickly enact legislation that builds upon the common ground provided in the two [Basic Education Funding Commission](#) reports including specific funding targets and a timeline for implementation. It also opposes the consideration of any legislative proposal that would divert additional public funds away from public education.



More information available at www.rtmsd.org/domain/60

Communications Audit Completed

The results of an audit of district communications was shared with the Board at the March Work Session. Completed by the Donovan Group, an independent education communications firm, the analysis included an inventory of district communications, a website audit, and a survey of district community members, including residents, families, and staff.

Audit recommendations included:

1. Expand Communications To All District Residents
2. Enhance Staff Engagement
3. Target Community Engagement And Outreach In Edgmont
4. Broaden Distribution Of Board Meeting Summaries
5. Increase Media Relations

The audit informed the development of a strategic communications plan that will structure and inform district communications during the 2024-25 school year.

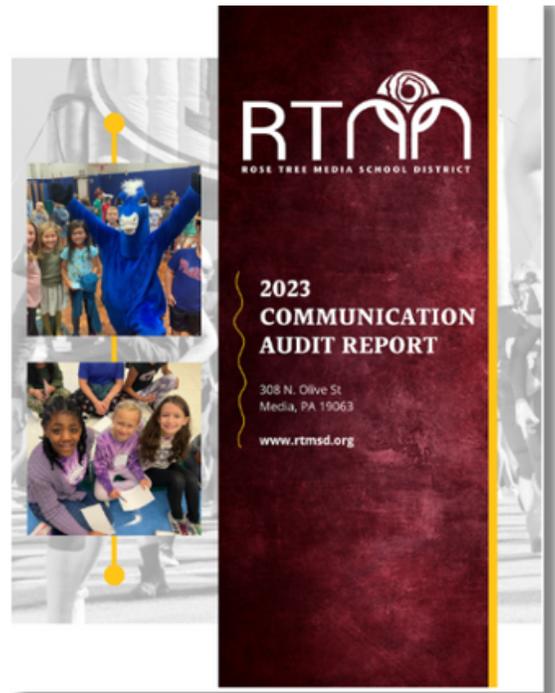
Goals of the Strategic Communication Plan:

1. Actively communicate about the great things happening in its schools.
2. Engage residents who do not have a direct connection to the district and its schools.
3. Communicate more effectively with teachers and staff, leading to a strong internal understanding of its vision, goals, and key messages.
4. Establish clear internal processes for communicating with and engaging internal and external audiences.

[View the Presentation](#)



Or watch the presentation portion of the March Work Session on our YouTube channel.



Multi-Tiered System of Supports

At the March Work Session, the Board heard a presentation about MTSS at Springton Lake Middle School and Penncrest High School.

The components of MTSS include:

- Universal research-based instruction
- Universal screening
- Team-driven problem solving and decision making
- Multi-tiered approach to interventions
- Continuous progress monitoring and response

[View the Presentation](#)



Or watch the presentation portion of the March Work Session on our YouTube channel.

Other Board Actions

At the March Legislative Meeting, upon second reading, the Board approved two policies and retired one policy:

- Policy 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers, and Network Resources
- Policy 338.1 Compensated Professional Leave
- Retire Policy 815.1 Acceptable Use of District Information Technology



Terry Haskell-McDonald, 3rd Grade Teacher, Indian Lane Elementary. She is **retiring after 27 years** of dedicated service to the district.

Congratulations to the **Penncrest High School National Science Olympiad team** for qualifying for the national tournament to be held in Lansing, Michigan on May 24-25, 2024.

Upcoming Board Meetings

All board meetings, work sessions, and legislative meetings are live-streamed on the District's YouTube Channel, [RTMSD Media](#).

Work Session: Thu, 4/11 @ 6:30 p.m.
Springton Lake Middle School Library

Legislative Meeting: Thu, 4/25 @ 6:30 p.m.
Penncrest High School Auditorium