



Fall 2017

Update on Kent Schools' finances

District on solid financial footing

Despite another substantial loss in state funding, future financial projections for the Kent City Schools continue to be positive, according to Treasurer **Debbie Krutz**. The district is in its fourth full year of collections from the 2013 levy.

A district-wide commitment to cost-savings and a decrease in health insurance funding requirements has positively impacted the district's finances. Thanks to a 9 percent decrease in health insurance costs in FY2017 and another 6.5 percent decrease in FY2018, the district is paying lower health premiums.

Although salaries and fringe benefits make up the district's largest expense category, these personnel costs across the district continue to drop. In the last four years, personnel costs as a percent of general fund expenditures have declined by nearly 10 percent.

Making improvements to facilities, technology

As part of the FY2018 budget, Kent City Schools is committed to making necessary building repairs and infrastructure upgrades to safeguard the community's investment in our schools. Over the summer, repairs were made to the roofs at Roosevelt High School and Stanton Middle School, and paving projects were completed. Improvements to the Roosevelt tennis courts are scheduled for 2018.

Three buses were replaced this summer, including one with a wheelchair lift. Two of the oldest buses with high mileage were traded in, and a new van and maintenance truck will be purchased this fall. In addition, new bus routing software, which analyzes bus routes and stops to increase efficiency and reduce costs, is now up and running.

Safety and security upgrades are under evaluation. A number of improvements to the district's network infrastructure are also planned. As part of a districtwide focus on technology, Kent Schools is committed to providing 1:1 devices in all K-12 classrooms by 2019. This fall, each building received an additional 50 Chromebooks for student use.

