

Floral Park-Bellerose School District

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KATHLEEN SOTTILE, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent for
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Dear Members of the Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Superintendent of Schools during these past nine months. We have faced, and continue to face, unprecedented challenges in both our schools and our community as we adapt to the effects brought about by this global pandemic.

I would like to thank the entire staff for their tireless effort in bringing continuity to the education of our children. Teachers were asked, literally on a moment's notice, to adapt instruction and learn the technology skills necessary to provide remote instruction. We may or may not be physically back in September, but we must continue to move forward with a plan to educate our children - no matter what the future holds. When we do return to school, it will only be done in a manner that is safe and protects both children and staff members.

We must also be prepared for the fiscal implications of the pandemic as well. The Floral Park-Bellerose School District must provide for the resources necessary to make our schools safe with additional cleaning protocols and personal protective equipment and supplies. Additionally, the Governor has continued to advise that New York State revenue shortfalls may necessitate mid-year school district State Aid cuts.

We realize that many members of our school community are experiencing tough economic circumstances; to this end, we have limited our proposed spending increase to 1.53%, less than the current rate of inflation. Additionally, the Floral Park-Bellerose School District is ranked as the second lowest spending school district in the county. Yet despite having less money to work with, the Floral Park-Bellerose School District has once again significantly outperformed our Nassau County peers in six of the eight New York State proficiency measures in English and Mathematics. This is even more significant when you consider Nassau County is one of the highest performing counties in all of New York State. This demonstrates our commitment to value and results.

I would also like to thank our local heroes, including the many health care providers that live in our community, as well as our own front-line workers. Our food service staff is preparing and serving hundreds of meals each week. Several members of our teaching and administrative staff deliver many of these meals to Floral Park and Bellerose families that do not have access to transportation. Finally, I would be remiss in not thanking our technology department for their dedication and professionalism during this crisis.

This year's Budget Vote and School Board Elections are being conducted completely by absentee ballot per the Governor's Executive Order. Ballots will be mailed to every registered voter and must be **returned to the District by Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 pm**. For additional information on our proposed budget, please join us for our **Annual Budget Hearing, scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2020 at 8:00 pm**. Additional information as well as budget presentations can be viewed on our website at www.fpbsd.org.

The schools are the hub of this community, and together we will continue to make great things happen.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Sottile
Superintendent of Schools