



2020-21 Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget

\$88,298,298

Proposed budget increase

\$2,423,616 or 2.82%

Estimated tax rate increase 0.50%

Proposed school tax levy

\$65,592,550

School tax levy increase

\$2,112,405 or 3.33%

Voting will be by absentee ballot only

In an executive order issued May 1, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the June 9 school budget vote and board of education election will take place exclusively by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The district will send all qualified voters within the district an absentee ballot with a prepaid return envelope. Qualified voters are defined as U.S. citizens 18 years or older who have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Ballots may be returned by mail or dropped off at the F-M District Office, 8199 E. Seneca Turnpike, Manlius, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 3, 4 and 5 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 8 and 9. Ballots received after 5 p.m. June 9 will not be counted.

District braces for potential mid-year state aid cuts

The Fayetteville-Manlius School District is bracing for a challenging budget year for 2020-21 as the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a state budget gap that New York state officials are partially filling with monies that had been promised to schools.

The adopted state budget freezes foundation aid at the current school year's level, which is \$250,000 less than what had been allocated to the F-M district when the governor released his executive budget proposal in January, before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

In addition to less state aid for schools in the adopted state budget, the governor has forecast possible mid-year state aid reductions for schools statewide.

In response, F-M officials are proposing an \$88.30 million operating budget for the 2020-21 school year that includes reductions in such areas as buildings and grounds, transportation and athletics.

"Our strategic plan served as a guide as

we developed this budget proposal against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic," Superintendent Craig J. Tice said. "We recognize the significant impact it is having on state and local finances and our community members. As such, this budget proposal includes reductions in spending where there would be the least impact on the district's instructional programming and ongoing security enhancements."

On April 20, the F-M Board of Education adopted the budget proposal. Residents will vote on June 9 by absentee ballot only.

Tax levy increase at district's 'cap'

The district has two primary revenue sources: state aid and the property tax levy. The tax levy is the total amount of money the district collects from property owners within the district to support the school budget.

State aid would support 22.80% of the proposed budget while the tax levy would support

► Please see "Budget Plan" on Page 6

Strategic plan guides budget development

The 2019-20 school year was the first year of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District's new three-year strategic plan.

Feedback that students, parents, board of education members, administrators, faculty and staff members shared through a series of surveys and focus groups helped shape the final plan, which the district unveiled in fall 2019.

Some goals within the plan are targeted for completion within the first year while others will take longer to fully implement and, therefore, stretch into years two and three. At the end of each school year, administrators will evaluate

the goals, and those achieved will be removed so new goals can be added.

Priority areas

The plan identifies four enduring priority areas: teaching and learning, positive school environment, service learning and community partnerships and fiscal capacity and responsibility. Each school has its own individual action plan that follows the framework of the district strategic plan.

"Our strategic plan is a living document and will grow and expand as we seek to continually improve our students' and staff members'

► Please see "Strategic Plan" on Page 6

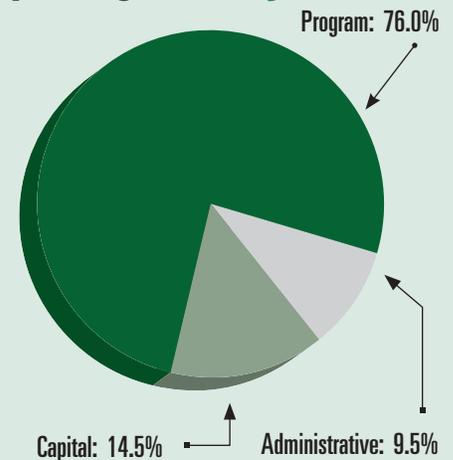
Three-part budget summary

All public schools in New York state are required by law to report their spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital. Fayetteville-Manlius' spending and revenue summaries are below, and spending details are on page 3.

Spending summary

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change
Program Expenditures	\$65,378,048	\$67,074,927	\$1,696,879
Administrative Expenditures	8,218,687	8,366,274	147,587
Capital Expenditures	12,277,947	12,857,097	579,150
TOTAL	85,874,682	88,298,298	2,423,616

Spending summary



Revenue summary

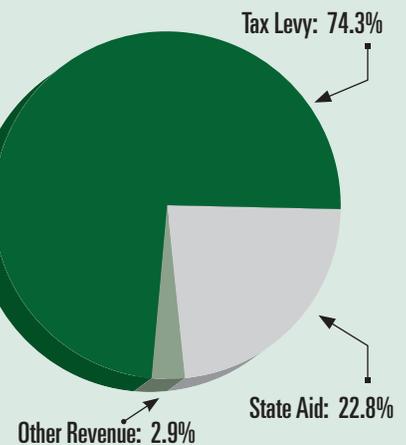
	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$19,914,385	\$20,159,374	244,989
Foundation aid	9,726,208	9,726,199	(9)
BOCES aid	2,274,750	2,473,111	198,361
Excess/High cost aid	681,953	677,383	(4,570)
Hardware aid	72,104	73,103	999
Software/Textbook/Library aid	354,778	357,051	2,273
Transportation aid	3,918,718	4,129,058	210,340
Building aid	2,885,874	3,393,495	507,621
Pandemic Adjustment	0	(670,026)	(670,026)
Tax Levy	\$ 63,480,145	\$65,592,550	\$2,112,405
Other Revenue	\$2,480,152	\$2,546,374	\$66,222
Charges/Rental/Fees/Misc.	462,152	561,694	99,542
Interest income	308,000	113,000	(195,000)
County sales tax	135,000	125,000	(10,000)
Medicare/Medicaid/Refunds	810,000	890,517	80,517
Interest & Penalties	15,000	16,163	1,163
Appropriated fund balance	750,000	840,000	90,000
TOTAL	\$85,874,682	\$88,298,298	\$2,423,616

What are capital transfer funds?

Capital transfer funds are to be used for building and/or reconstruction projects of immediate need in any of the district's buildings or grounds.

If voters approve the proposed 2020-21 budget, the district would be authorized to spend up to \$450,000 for work that would include repaving Pride Lane, security-related work at F-M High School and replacing carpets and asbestos abatement at Enders Road Elementary School.

Revenue summary



Proposed 2020-21 budget line-by-line summary

Program: 76.0% of proposed budget

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed
Instruction		
Teaching/regular school	\$29,098,703	\$29,688,795
Special education	6,852,446	6,281,354
Special school	19,315	25,500
Instructional media	2,059,925	2,962,827
Student services	1,815,132	1,895,400
Athletics & extracurricular activities	1,850,832	1,793,601
Subtotal	41,696,353	42,647,477
Student transportation		
Transportation	\$4,216,251	\$4,141,397
Garage expenses	80,438	63,598
Contract transportation	3,045	3,045
Subtotal	4,299,734	4,208,040
Employee benefits		
Health, dental & vision insurance	\$11,834,461	\$12,622,341
Social Security	2,926,483	2,851,358
Retirement systems/Incentives	4,104,450	4,187,527
Workers' comp./Unemployment/Disability	446,567	488,184
Subtotal	19,311,961	20,149,410
Interfund transfers		
Special education/Summer school	\$70,000	\$70,000
Subtotal	70,000	70,000
TOTAL PROGRAM	65,378,048	67,074,927

Administrative: 9.5% of proposed budget

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed
Administration		
Board of Education/Clerk/Superintendent	\$360,085	\$393,997
Business office	1,008,774	944,943
Legal fees	150,000	140,000
Personnel	108,567	135,978
Public information & central services	506,634	526,327
Insurance	237,000	233,850
BOCES administration	403,606	393,876
Curriculum development & supervision	2,955,740	2,997,584
Subtotal	5,730,406	5,766,555
Employee benefits		
Health, dental & vision insurance	\$1,264,698	\$1,348,895
Social Security	273,277	266,262
Retirement systems/Incentives	881,300	907,110
Workers' comp./Unemployment/Disability	69,006	77,452
Subtotal	2,488,281	2,599,719
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	8,218,687	8,366,274

Capital: 14.5% of proposed budget

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed
Operations & maintenance		
Custodial services	\$1,782,301	\$1,282,832
Custodial salaries	2,271,471	2,230,406
Maintenance expenses	1,024,401	1,200,353
Maintenance salaries	1,397,164	1,341,689
Subtotal	6,475,337	6,055,280
Employee benefits		
Health, dental & vision insurance	\$1,031,541	\$1,100,216
Social Security	259,440	252,780
Retirement systems/Incentives	614,250	636,197
Workers' comp./Unemployment/Disability	237,503	271,056
Subtotal	2,142,734	2,260,249
Debt service		
Energy performance contracts	\$199,048	\$204,319
Bus bonds/BANs	375,465	506,216
School construction bonds/BANs	2,635,363	3,381,033
Revenue anticipation notes/RANs	0	0
Subtotal	3,209,876	4,091,568
Interfund transfers		
Capital transfer (see page 2)	\$450,000	\$450,000
Subtotal	450,000	450,000
TOTAL CAPITAL	12,277,947	12,857,097

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET \$85,874,682 \$88,298,298



Voters to decide on library propositions

New York state education law allows libraries to place a funding proposition on school district ballots and requires school districts, at the libraries' requests, to levy and collect taxes for libraries.

The libraries are separate legal entities from the school district, with their own funding and budgets. The amount of the tax levy collected by a school district for a library remains the same each year until the library requests a proposition to change that amount.

The school district does not endorse, control or recommend any aspect of how the libraries spend money.

On June 9, when Fayetteville-Manlius School District residents vote on the proposed 2020-21 school budget, they will also have the opportunity to vote on two library propositions: one to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,894,382 for the Fayetteville Free Library and the other to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,358,675 for the Manlius Library.

If voters approve the propositions, the school district would annually levy and collect taxes in the new amount for the libraries beginning in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The amount authorized for library services is listed as a separate line on residents' tax bills.

Library Budget Information

More information about each library and its budget is available at their respective websites.

Fayetteville Free Library

315-637-6374; extension 307

www.fflib.org

Manlius Library

315-682-6400

www.manliuslibrary.org/about/board-of-trustees/

Bus purchases proposed to reduce future costs

On June 9, voters will decide on the purchase of five buses: four 71-passenger school buses and one 35-passenger bus. Each of the buses would include air conditioning, and the total purchase cost would not exceed \$681,556.

The district's fleet includes 60 school buses and three Suburbans. All school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection twice annually. For the 2019-20 school year, F-M buses had a 100% passing rate.

F-M normally replaces its buses after 10 years, when it is no longer cost effective to make the repairs necessary to meet those standards. Maintenance costs on school buses increase significantly each year after a bus reaches 10 years in age.

Each of the vehicles the district is proposing to replace is at least 10 years old and has been driven an average of 152,158 miles.



If voters approve the purchase, the state would reimburse the district over a five-year period for about 72% of the cost of the new vehicles. Local property taxes would pay the remainder of the cost, which would be \$38,048 annually for five years beginning in 2021-22. The district plans to auction the five buses to be replaced.

During the 2018-19 school year, F-M buses served 4,682 public and private school students, traveling a total of 850,013 miles.

Board of education student member position to be on ballot

On June 9, voters will decide whether the Fayetteville-Manlius School District Board of Education will continue the practice of including a non-voting student member.

Voters must reauthorize the measure every two years. The board approved a policy in 2015 that allows the board to add a student member, pending voter approval. In 2016, voters approved the proposition, and four students, including the 2019-20 school year member, have held the position.

There is no financial compensation for any board member, including a student member, for

serving on the board of education. The student member attends all public board meetings and is allowed to participate in all public discussions and voice his or her opinions.

The student member is not allowed to attend executive or exempt sessions, which are portions of the meeting in which the law allows board members to privately discuss such matters as proposed, pending or current litigation.

If approved, the board would appoint an F-M High School senior who has attended the school for at least two years prior to the appointment for the 2020-21 school year.

Q&A Frequently Asked Questions Q&A

What is the difference between the tax levy and tax rate?

The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises in taxes each year from all property owners in the district. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in a community.

Tax rates are affected by changes in municipal assessments and state equalization rates, which are determined in the summer. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner actually pays in school taxes.

What is the tax levy limit, or tax cap?

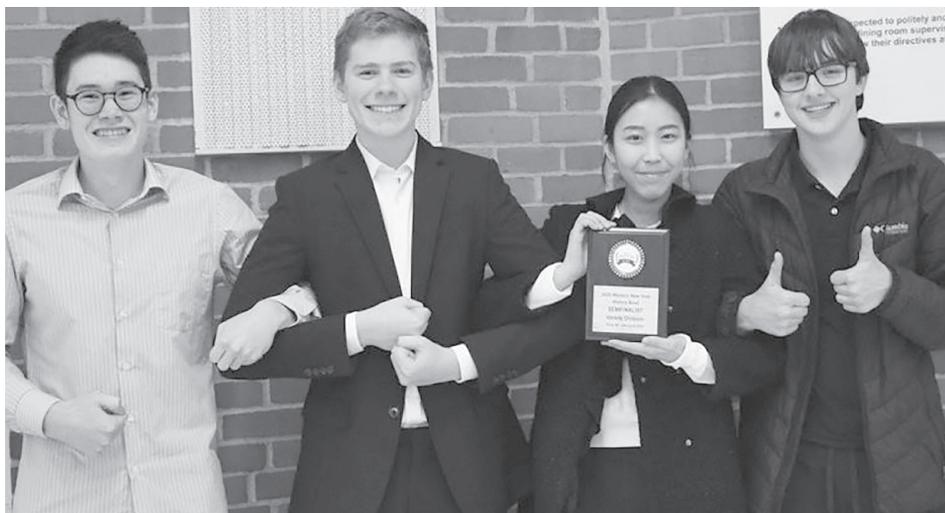
The tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget for which a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) would be required for authorization. Any proposed tax levy amount above this limit would require budget approval by a supermajority (60% or more) of voters.

The tax levy limit sets a threshold requiring districts to obtain a higher level of community support for a proposed tax levy above a certain amount. F-M's tax levy limit for 2020-21 is 3.33%, and the district is proposing a tax levy increase of \$2,112,405, or 3.33%, which is at the district's tax levy limit.

What's driving the tax levy increase?

The tax levy increase is driven by several factors. The tax levy increase is based upon a formula that includes an inflation factor (Consumer Price Index) and growth in the tax base from new construction.

In addition, the tax levy increase can be influenced by voter approved building projects. Of the 3.33% tax levy increase, 1.09% is directly related to the recently completed building projects at Fayetteville Elementary, Enders Road Elementary and F-M High School.



How would the proposed budget affect my taxes?

The proposed tax levy increase of 3.33% is at the district's tax levy limit. While final tax rates cannot be determined until the summer, when assessment and equalization rates become available, the district is estimating a tax rate increase of 0.50%. The tax rate increase is usually lower than the tax levy increase due to tax base growth.

What is a "fund balance" and how does it help offset the amount of my school taxes?

A fund balance is created when a district receives more revenue than expected and/or spends less than the amount budgeted. As part of the 2020-21 budget, the district plans to allocate \$840,000 from its fund balance to lower the total tax levy and reduce the tax impact on district residents in the upcoming year.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

Under New York state law, if the school budget is defeated, the board of education can either put the same or a modified budget up for another vote, or adopt a contingent budget. If residents defeat the proposed budget during a second vote, the board must adopt a contingent budget.

What is a contingent budget?

State law mandates that under a contingent budget a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses, such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and the free community use of school facilities (the district must charge a fee). The administrative budget would also be subject to certain restrictions. If F-M adopts a contingent budget for 2020-21, it would have to cut \$2,112,405 from programs, staff and all areas of the budget.

IMPACT ON TAX RATES

Estimated taxes per household –	Current	Estimated	Percent
*Town of Manlius	2019-20	2020-21	change
**Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value	\$25.49	\$25.61	0.50%

* The town of Manlius is the largest part of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District and pays 82% of the district's tax levy. Portions of Cazenovia, DeWitt, Fabius, Pompey and Sullivan pay the remaining 18%.

** Dollar figures used here have been rounded. The actual tax rate is calculated out to the sixth decimal place.

Budget Plan ▶ *continued from page 1*

74.30%. All other revenue sources would account for the remaining 2.90% of the district's anticipated revenue.

Compared to the current school year's budget, the district is proposing a tax levy increase of 3.33%, which includes a 2.24% increase to fund ongoing programs and a 1.09% increase to cover capital project debt related to recently completed projects at Enders Road Elementary School, F-M High School and Fayetteville Elementary School.

The levy increase is at the district's tax levy limit, or cap, so a simple majority of voters will be required to authorize the proposal.

District plans for less revenue

New provisions in the state budget contribute to uncertainty for school districts as they plan for the next school year. The provisions include three periodic reviews of state revenue that could result in mid-year school aid cuts. There is also a new "Pandemic Adjustment" state aid reduction that the state is using to help fill its budget gap.

F-M is losing \$170,000 in state aid due to the Pandemic Adjustment, and while federal stimulus dollars will replace those funds, the possibility for mid-year aid cuts means that schools may receive even less state funding than was promised in the adopted state budget. In response, F-M is budgeting for an additional loss of state aid in the amount of \$500,000.

"The COVID-19 crisis is having far-reaching impacts across the state, including drastically impacting educational funding," said William Furlong, the district's assistant superintendent for business services. "The governor has said school districts could see further reductions in state aid so we developed a budget proposal that takes this uncertainty into account while preserving the integrity of our academic programs and balancing our fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers."

District officials have identified a number of potential budget reductions totalling \$1.1 million in the areas of transportation, utilities, maintenance, conferences, supplies and equipment that will help offset mid-year reductions in state aid.

Tax rate estimated to be less than 0.50%

The school tax levy is just one factor, along with assessment rates and equalization rates, that municipalities use to determine residents' tax rates, which are used to calculate what each property owner will ultimately pay in school taxes.

The tax rate is typically less than the tax levy because of growth in the property tax base.

The district estimates that the proposed 3.33% school tax levy increase would generate a tax rate increase of about 0.50% for town of Manlius residents. (The town of Manlius makes up the majority of homeowners within the school district.)

On a taxable value of \$100,000, the tax increase is estimated to be \$12.74.

Strategic Plan ▶ *continued from page 1*

experiences," Superintendent Craig J. Tice said. "As we developed the 2020-21 budget proposal, we relied on the strategic plan to align our budgetary decisions with our institutional priorities and goals."

Per the plan, many teachers shifted to inquiry-based learning opportunities with the goal of better engaging students, and that will continue in 2020-21. The district, and specifically Mott Road Elementary School, was recently recognized nationally for implementing such techniques (see page 8).

"While it's an honor to be recognized on the national stage, more important is the feedback from our teachers who are reporting anecdotally that their students are more engaged and excited —and the data that backs that up," Tice said.

Over the past three years, Mott Road's English language arts, math and science scores on the New York state assessments have increased as personalization is meeting the needs of more students.

The district plans to publish an annual report in the fall that will highlight its progress on 2019-20 goals.

Four seek election to board of education

On June 9, residents will elect three members of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District Board of Education.

The board is the official policy-making body of the school district. It is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of the community's children. It adopts school district policy, curriculum and programs of study, approves the hiring of all personnel and establishes the conditions of employment.

In addition, the board has the responsibility of maintaining facilities, establishing an annual budget and setting a tax levy. The school board adopts a proposed operating budget each year at a public meeting. Eligible residents then have the opportunity to vote upon the proposal.

The F-M Board of Education is comprised of nine school district residents who are elected by voters to three-year terms in an annual election. Terms are staggered so that three members are elected each year. Board members are not compensated for their work.

In addition to the elected members, the board includes a non-voting student member selected each year by the administration to serve a one-year term. The student, who must be a senior at F-M High School, attends all public meetings and is allowed to participate in all public discussions.

Four candidates filed nominating petitions for the three available seats: Jason Catalino, Rebecca Cohen, Kelly Fumarola and Christopher McKee.

The three with the highest number of votes will serve three-year terms, beginning July 1, 2020.

Photos and candidate profiles that were submitted to the district are available on the district website, www.fmschools.org.

Mental health supports critical to student success

As Fayetteville-Manlius officials prepare for what a return to in-person education may look like in the fall, they recognize that directing resources to the district's support of student mental health and social-emotional learning is going to be paramount.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district had already planned to propose a budget that enhanced the district's strategic plan priority area of creating and maintaining a positive school environment.

With the loss of in-person education for the last three months of the 2019-20 school year and social distancing practices that have disrupted students' everyday lives, the district recognizes that mental health support for students during the 2020-21 school year will be even more important than anticipated.

Because of this, the district is proposing to maintain its staffing related to psychologists, counselors and home-school liaisons and offer professional development for teachers, such as guest speakers, book studies and inservice courses, on understanding and supporting student mental health and social-emotional learning.

The district is also proposing to enhance several student-focused programs already in place that have shown success, such as its therapy dog program and the Positivity Project, which helps foster positive student-to-student and student-to-teacher relationships and a school-wide culture of other people matter.

The district also plans to continue implementing in kindergarten through grades 2, and with selected grade 5 students, the Second Step Social-Emotional Learning curriculum, which is a research-based program that develops students' social and emotional skills.

"We know strong mental health is critical for students' academic success, and we also recognize that students need to develop coping skills to navigate the challenges in their everyday lives, which due to this current public health crisis have become increasingly more complex," said Mary Coughlin, F-M's assistant superintendent for instruction.



To spread kindness throughout the community, Enders Road Elementary School fourth-grade students decorated 2,760 coffee sleeves with positive and uplifting messages that Starbucks handed out to its customers. This project is one of many taking place across the district as staff and schools embrace the district's mission statement, which includes creating supportive community partnerships and developing social-emotional learning opportunities for students.



Wellness Day allows students to spend time on activities designed to alleviate stress. During a previous Wellness Day at F-M High School, chemistry teacher James Morgan led a session on slime-making. His session, which was one of the many self-care activities held throughout the school, taught students how to make the gooey craft while they learned about chemical reactions and bonds.



Please Vote!

Ballots may be returned by mail or dropped off at the F-M District Office, 8199 E. Seneca Turnpike, Manlius, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 3, 4 and 5 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 8 and 9.

Ballots received after 5 p.m. June 9 will not be counted.

Need a ballot?

If you did not receive an absentee ballot and believe you should have, absentee ballot applications are available online at www.fmschools.org or by calling 315-692-1200.

Applications must be received at the F-M District Office by 4 p.m. June 2 if the ballot is to be mailed, or 4 p.m. June 8 if the ballot is to be picked up.

Budget public hearing

6 p.m. May 26, 2020

The budget public hearing will be held remotely and livestreamed on the district's YouTube channel.

Budget questions? Let's Talk!

During this time of social distancing, community members are encouraged to use the district's Let's Talk! platform to share questions and comments about the proposed 2020-21 budget.

www.fmschools.org/lets-talk

More budget information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's proposed budget is available at the district office. Contact Assistant Superintendent Furlong (wfurlong@fmschools.org) or District Clerk Gridley (sgridley@fmschools.org) to request a copy.

F-M recognized nationally for innovative teaching

The Fayetteville-Manlius School District was recently recognized by a national awards program for its ongoing efforts in implementing curriculum and instructional strategies to best meet students' needs.

District Administration, a monthly print and digital magazine that offers news and school district management information for K-12 leaders and educators, named F-M a 2020 District of Distinction finalist in the curriculum and instruction category for initiatives taking place at Mott Road Elementary School.

The annual District of Distinction program honors home-grown initiatives and innovative projects developed by educators to meet the needs of their school districts and communities, according to the publication's website.

The curriculum and instruction award criteria calls for school districts that are improving curriculum development using effective teaching strategies. F-M was one five districts recognized for its innovative efforts.

The district's application was based on Mott

Road's work with The School Superintendents Association's (AASA) Innovation and Transformational Leadership Network, of which F-M is a member. The AASA network is a cohort of school leaders and educators who work together to refine, develop and implement a district's innovation goals.

"We are reimagining teaching and learning," Mott Road Principal Jonna Johnson said. "We want students to own and explore their work."

Many F-M educators use inquiry-based learning techniques to help engage their students. Unlike the traditional classroom approach where educators provide face-to-face instruction with students, the inquiry-based model encourages learners to explore, ask questions and share ideas in an effort to gain knowledge.

"Finding ways to support innovation with your teachers is invaluable," Johnson said. "Give them permission to try something new and different, and be there to discuss and refine things along the way."

Student projects create awareness



About 200 Eagle Hill Middle School students pledged to have "waste free" lunches for one week in January. Waste Free Week was the initiative of two eighth-grade students enrolled in the school's Agents of Change elective course. Eagle Hill and Wellwood middle schools both offer the 20-week elective in which students identify a community need or issue and work together to generate a solution. They collaborate on discussions, perform research, set goals and craft action plans in support of their case.