

Amityville Union Free School District 150 Park Avenue, Amityville, New York, 11701

Gina Talbert, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools gtalbert@amityvilleufsd.org

Telephone: (631) 565-6019

Fax: (631) 598-6516

February 12, 2024

Dear Amityville School Community,

As we have shared with the community over the past months, the district is currently dealing with an operational deficit of approximately \$3.6 million from the 2022-23 school year.

We have communicated that the primary drivers contributing to this reduction (some of which are directly associated with mandates required by the state) are issues also faced by school districts across our region and nation. These include services for students with special needs within and outside the District, increased costs for safety and security needs, increased costs due to unanticipated charter school enrollment, and increased health insurance costs. Additionally, several grants used to fund programs and services within the District will expire this year, requiring the District to make personnel adjustments due to loss in funding.

Our Board of Education and administration have discussed how to mitigate the operational deficit in ways that are the least impactful to student programs and services. As a result of cuts made to our teaching staff, looking ahead to the 2024-25 school year, class sizes will increase to pre-pandemic levels.

Unfortunately, contending with our budget deficit, we have made the difficult decision to excess staff members in a variety of positions across the District at the end of the current school year. Positions range from central office and building-level support staff to members of our teaching staff. This is not a decision we came to lightly, as we greatly value all staff who have dedicated themselves to our district and the students of Amityville.

Again, I understand that this is difficult news and will likely raise questions from members of our school community. We will continue to share information with you as we move through the budget planning process for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your understanding and continued participation within the district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gina Talbert

Superintendent of Schools