Shrewsbury Public Schools
Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

13 December 2018

To: School Committee

Subj: **"*CLEARGOV*": FISCAL TRANSPARENCY JOINT PROJECT WITH THE TOWN**

Background

One of our District Goals is: *By December 2018, implement a new communication tool that provides the community with key information regarding school district finances and programming*.

At the same time the new Town Manager, Mr. Mizikar, is interested in the same goal for municipal finances. He has made a grant application to the State of Massachusetts Community Compact Grant Program to receive funding to purchase the Cleargov product and platform for both the Town and School Department. He is confident we will receive funding and be able to move towards our goal as a joint venture, presenting our collective information in a contemporary and easily accessible manner.

The Project

The basic premise of the Cleargov platform is that they take publicly available state data from the Department of Revenue, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the federal Census Bureau and organize the data into easily understood info-graphics. This is called their *Insights* product. Some data is available to general public for all communities but the purchase of the membership essentially unlocks a "drill down" feature for greater detail.

Cleargov has also just recently released a budgeting platform, *Cleargov Budgets,* that when loaded with a municipalities and/or School Departments' prospective budget, it too will produce info-graphics and have line item detail access by the community.

Cost

The total cost for implementation, training, and set-up for both Insights and Budgets for the School Department and Town is $30,400 for one year, again to be grant funded in the inaugural year.

Implementation Schedule

The following implementation schedule has been devised by Cleargov to help us get trained on the product and achieve the required milestones.

December	set up early users
January- February	discuss data onboarding process
	training on benchmarking apps for early users
March-April	data onboarding process, completion and approval
April-May	set up additional users
	on-site training on ClearGov page and back-office apps for all users
	launch the page in time for Town Meeting in May
June-July	implement promotions
August	training on forecasting app
September	on-site training on Budget Builder app for primary users
October	start budget planning
November	early November - on-site training on Budget Builder app for department heads

Future Planning

At the outset, the *Insights* platform will afford community members easy access to frequently asked financial questions with a click of the mouse. Further, they will be able to drill deeper and get greater detail or School Department comparisons if they wish. In the future we will explore the features and feasibility of using this platform for budget presentation and access to the community as well and will work along with the Town Manager's Office on this project.