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York County School Division Superintendent Presents FY26 Proposed Budget

Dr. Victor Shandor, division superintendent, presented his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) to Superintendent's Proposed Budget to the School Board on Monday, February 10. The proposed \$201.8 million budget aligns with YCSD's four strategic priorities—Future Ready Graduates, Highly Effective Talent, Supportive Culture, and Collective Commitment—by prioritizing compensation, necessary staffing, and programmatic investments such as Summer Academy and translation services.

"In YCSD, our guiding question is always, 'What's best for students?'" said Dr. Shandor. "This budget reflects our commitment to ensuring every student has access to high-quality teachers, engaging learning experiences, and safe, well-maintained environments that support their success."

Among the key highlights of the proposed budget:

- **Investment in Highly Effective Talent:** Over 80% of the operating budget is allocated to compensation. The budget includes a proposed **4% salary increase** for all licensed and non-licensed staff, ensuring the division remains competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality educators and employees.
- **Staffing Investments** – The addition of **20 school-based positions** to meet state and federal requirements, ensuring that students receive the necessary support for their academic and social development.
- **Supporting Students and Schools** – Funding for **textbooks, adaptive physical education resources, and increased support for Summer Academy**, with additional investments to ensure middle school counseling directors have adequate time to assist students with course selection and master scheduling.

However, the budget also highlights a significant funding challenge. Despite a statewide surplus of \$4.7 billion, the Governor's proposed budget only allocates \$286 million to K-12 education, resulting in a lower-than-average funding increase for YCSD compared to prior years.

"As a school division, we understand our role in shaping the future of York County," Dr. Shandor stated. "Our schools are a key reason why families choose to live and stay in this community. Continued investment in our students, staff, and schools is not just a budget decision—it's a commitment to the long-term success of York County."

The community will have another opportunity to provide input on the FY26 Operating Budget during a public hearing at the School Board's Monthly Meeting, on Monday, February 24. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., at York Hall, 301 Main Street, Yorktown, Virginia. Comments and feedback can also be shared through Let's Talk!—Ask YCSD.

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