

**LIGHT AND NASTRO
FOR BERNARDS CHILDREN
FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

VOTE Column 3 for:



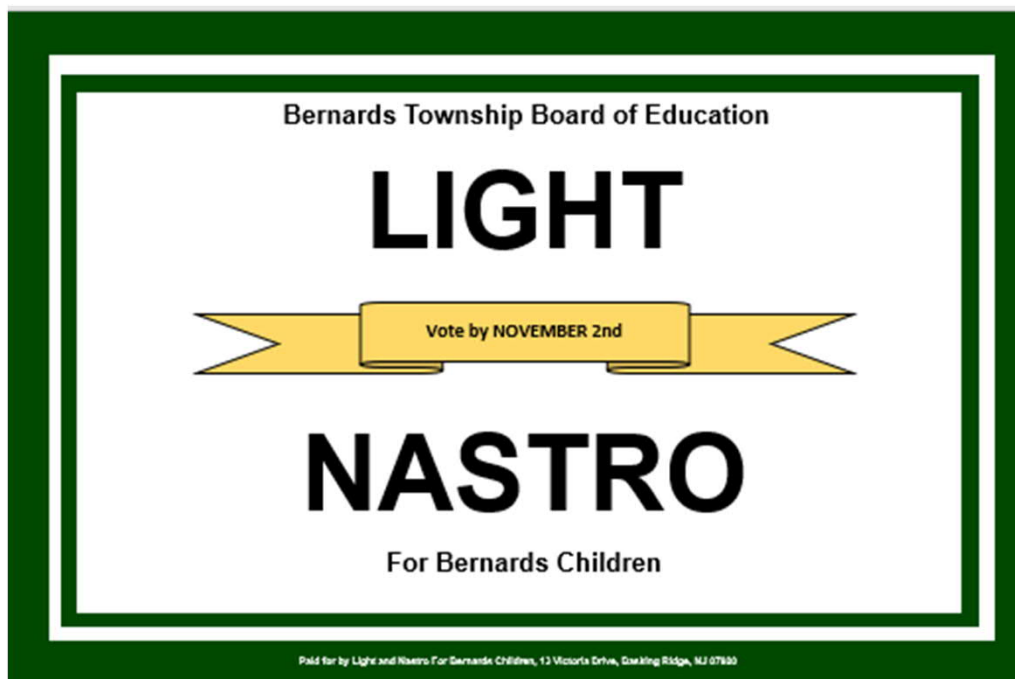
Fiscal Responsibility



Safety for ALL Children



**Broad-based Curriculum that is
Transparent**



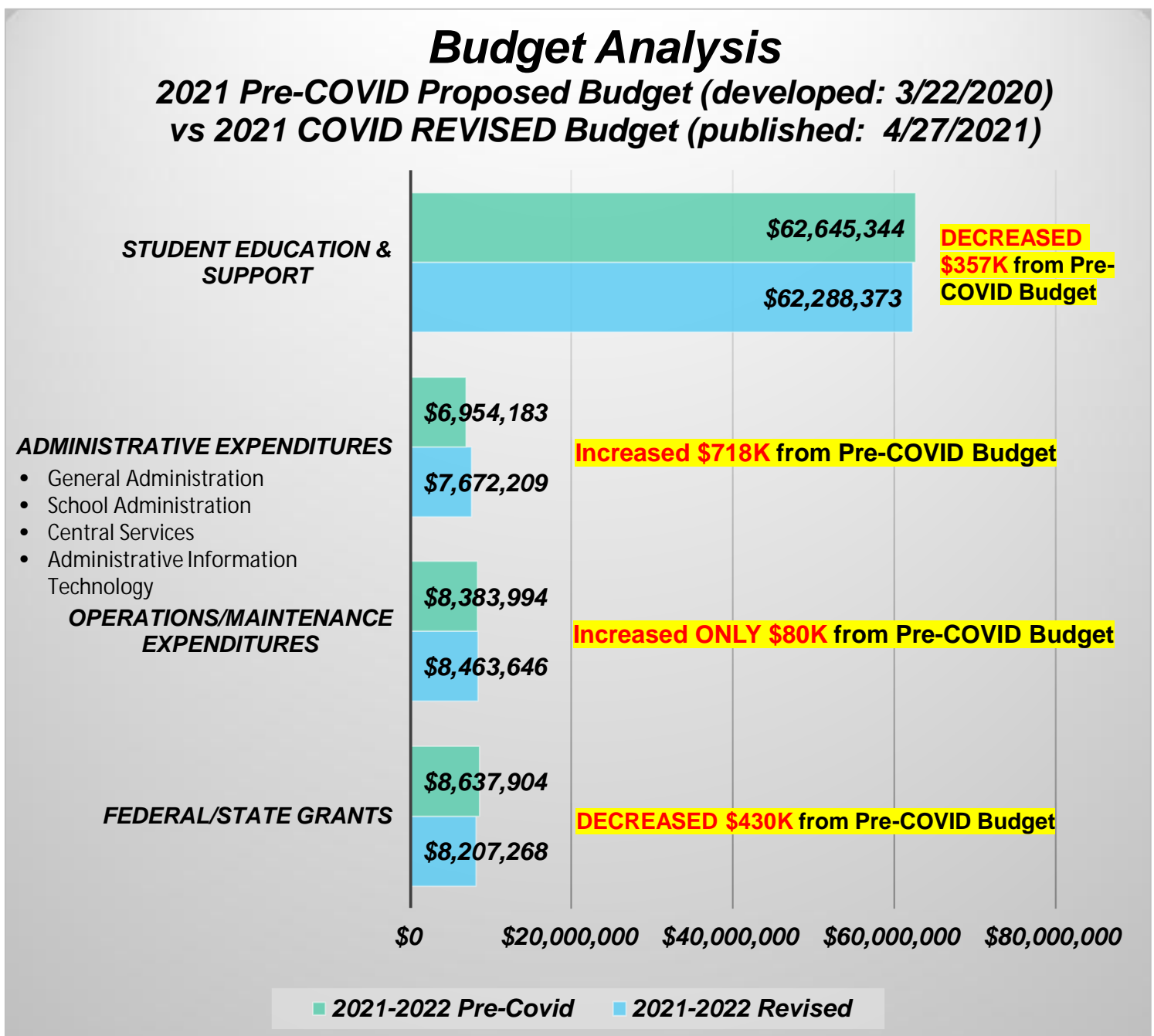
*How have we fared under the incumbents period
of service?*

It's TIME for meaningful change!

CURRENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Incumbents' Claim #1: “Cost per pupil increased during the pandemic because the Board focused on live instruction and the safety of our students and staff”

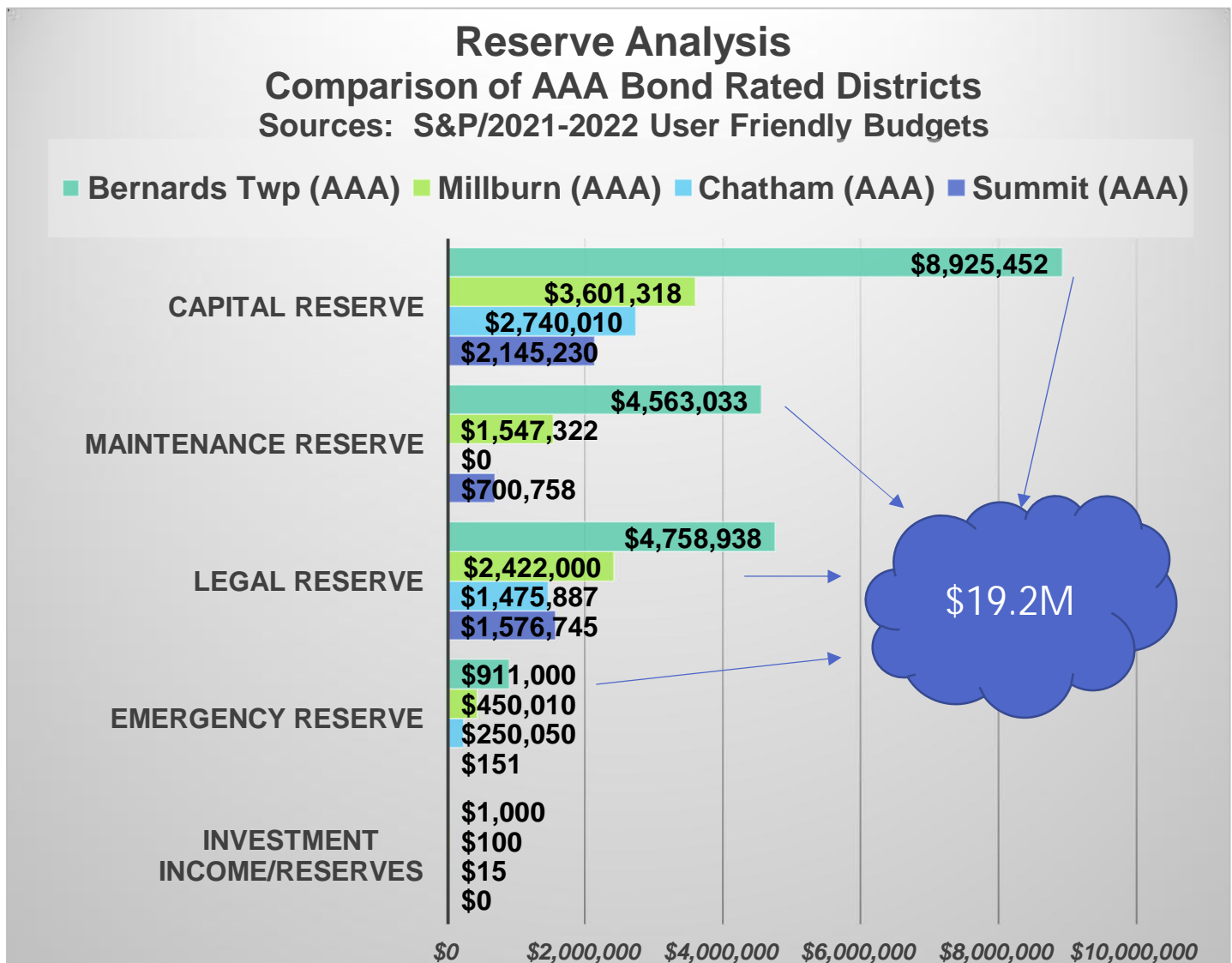
1. Student Education and Support expenditures actually **DECREASED**
2. Administration expenditures actually **INCREASED**
3. Operations/Maintenance Expenditures only increased **SLIGHTLY**



CURRENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Incumbents' Claim #2: *“Our healthy reserves help us with our AAA bond rating and they give us flexibility when it comes to building the annual budget. We are able to manage both capital and maintenance projects without going to the public for referendums to issue new debt.”*

1. Township Schools Reserves total approx. **\$19.2M** earning only **\$1,000 per year** while debt service payments exceed **\$5.1M** per year
2. Had we participated in the approved New Jersey Cash Management Fund 3 years ago, we would have **earned \$1,074,021**
3. If we had invested in simple Government Money Market Funds, we would have **earned \$172,670**
4. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to **REDUCE tax levies** using all available options under N.J. Statute



CURRENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Incumbents' Claim #3: “The decisions we make are supported by law, science and the needs of ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.”

1. The Center for Disease Control (“**CDC**”) and N.J. Executive Order (“**E.O.**”) provide for exceptions and recommends adjusting masking rules for children with **developmental disabilities** (e.g. **Individualized Education Program** (“**IEP**”) and **504** accommodations)
2. The World Health Organization (“**WHO**”) says “The use of masks for children of any age with developmental disorders, disabilities or other specific health conditions **should not be mandatory and be assessed on a case by case basis by the child’s parent**, guardian, educator and/or medical provider. In any case, children with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments with difficulties tolerating a mask should not be required to wear masks.”
3. Based on the guidance discussed above, the current Board has **NOT** provided **EXPEDITED** exceptions for children in the school district with an IEP or 504 and does not allow a parent to make the decision based on the WHO’s recommendation for this population of students.

In a letter to Governor Murphy on June 10, 2021, Nick Markarian requested that masking be made optional as soon as possible. The Board of Education has not been consistent.

In that letter, the Superintendent wrote:

“While we have utilized the various exceptions in EO 175, it would be hugely helpful if we had a simple and uniform message that masks for everyone, in all school related settings, are optional.”

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Nick Markarian
Superintendent

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June 10, 2021

Governor Phil Murphy
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Masking Requirements in Schools

CURRENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

1. Two (2) of the four (4) incumbents were **APPOINTED** and not **ELECTED**. The remaining two (2) were elected in an **UNCONTESTED** election.
2. The current Chair of the Finance Committee **LACKS** a financial background.
3. There are no **Certified Public Accountants** (“**CPA**”) on the BOE.
4. There are no **medically qualified leaders** on the Board to help interpret data from the CDC and State and support the school staff.
5. **ESSENTIAL** services, such as buses, should be a priority.

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SOURCES

Pre-COVID Proposed Budget (May 1, 2020)

- https://p5cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3096886/File/District/Budget

COVID Revised Budget (April 27, 2021)

- https://p5cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3096886/File/District/Budget%20&%20Election/2020-21_User_Friendly_Budget.pdf

Other District Budgets

- https://www.millburn.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=930774&type=d&pREC_ID=1266060
- <https://www.chatham-nj.org/cms/lib/NJ01000518/Centricity/Domain/1763/User%20Friendly%20Budget%2021-2022.pdf>
- https://www.summit.k12.nj.us/uploaded/Business_Office_Files/User_Friendly_Budget_FY22_Final.pdf

S&P Bond Ratings

- <https://www.spglobal.com/ratings/en/>

NJ Cash Management Fund Rate of Return

- <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/doinvest/cm/CMFStatementsFiscal2020.PDF>

NJ Reserves Statute

- <https://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap23a.pdf>

CDC Guidance

- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor_1625662037558

WHO Guidance

- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19>

N.J. Executive Order 251

- <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-251.pdf>

Nick Markarian's Letter

- [https://p5cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3096886/File/District/Return to Instruction/Letter to Governor Murphy June 10 2021.pdf](https://p5cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3096886/File/District/Return_to_Instruction/Letter_to_Governor_Murphy_June_10_2021.pdf)

District COVID Guidance

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I3K269srSqFuKYVmpdYby6yV-HnwcBCbgHHz9HAtnHI/edit>
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c4WkJk9xAxEmxqspvMNmdm_Zv7nSkRIfSUCtTA-3H8c/edit