

The Horizon

Budget Enhances Programs, *Remains Within Tax Levy Cap*



The Port Jefferson School District Board of Education, in conjunction with the administration, is proud to announce its proposed 2016-17 budget. The financial plan not only stays within the confines of the district's allowable tax levy cap of 0.47 percent, but also maintains all current programs and services, while providing for educational enhancements.

“Despite the limits of the tax cap, sound fiscal management has allowed us to ensure that all of our educational offerings remain intact and that our programs are strengthened,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Bossert.

The \$41,400,492 budget, which carries a 2.35 percent decrease under last year's budget, will specifically support several districtwide initiatives, among which is the advancement of Google Classroom. Through the year-old technology program, teachers have found that students are collaborating more and are increasingly motivated and invested in their studies.

As part of the district's commitment to ensuring that our students are educated in clean and safe school buildings, investments in our infrastructure are included in the proposed budget.

The budget also provides for several curricular enhancements, including the addition of new Advanced Placement courses at the high school. The district will offer an AP Computer Science course, which will help ready our students for college and careers, and will add instructional time to the Common Core algebra class at the high school. The additional time will help to ensure that students are prepared for higher-level math courses.

At the middle school, we are continuing a positive movement to ready students for their futures by providing them with an opportunity to explore Naviance. This computer-based program matches students' strengths and interests with postsecondary goals and has proven beneficial for them.

At the elementary school, the proposed budget provides funding to enhance the integrated co-teaching special education program. To ensure that all students are receiving the best possible education, co-teaching time will be increased to limit the time special education students are pulled out of class for special services. This initiative will result in increased instructional consistency for all students and co-planning opportunities for teaching teams.

The district will hold a budget hearing on Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School auditorium. Community members can also visit the district's website at www.portjeffschools.org to review the budget in detail.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School cafeteria.



Please
Remember to
VOTE

The Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School cafeteria. Please see page 4 for information regarding voter qualifications.

The district is pleased to report that the 2016-17 budget includes New York State Gap Elimination Adjustment funds that had been previously cut from the state's budget.

The GEA was first enacted by New York State in the 2010-2011 school year as a way to help reduce the state's budget deficit. Each year since, Port Jefferson has lost thousands of dollars in state aid based on a state formula.

Port Jefferson will receive a net restoration of \$240,000 in aid. The funds will enable the district to add curricular enhancements, including integrated special education at the elementary school.

The integrated program will increase the amount of time inclusion teachers spend co-teaching. It will also provide students with differentiation in all subject areas throughout the school day.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: *What A Year It's Been!*

ACADEMICS

- 23 students were named AP Scholars, seven earned the recognition of AP Scholar with Honor, 25 were named AP Scholars with Distinction, five were ranked as National AP Scholars and one was recognized with an AP International Diploma.
- Senior Jessie Gray was recognized with a Suffolk County High School Principals Association Principals Leadership Scholarship.
- The HS Science Olympiad team earned the chance to compete at the state competition in Syracuse.
- Ten MS students qualified to compete at the regional National History Bee contest.
- Senior Eric Kilgore was named a finalist in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- MS student Aaron Held qualified for the state geography bee.
- Eighth-grader Lucas Rohman was named one of Johns Hopkins University's Brightest Young Students in the World.
- Senior Rachel Collins earned the title of Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

ARTS

- As part of a new music initiative at the ES, students are learning to play the keyboard in a lab setting.
- More than 30 student-musicians were selected to perform in the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association All-County Festival.
- Junior Chloe Dugourd earned a Golden Key as part of the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for the Northeast Region.
- Ninth-grader Annalisa Welinder performed a violin solo with the Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Six string students showcased their musical talents at the Long Island String Festival Association's Suffolk Secondary Festival.
- Sophomore Trey Pisano and eighth-grader Samuel Floio were selected to participate in the prestigious SCMEA All-County Instrumental Jazz Ensemble.
- Six MS musicians were selected to perform in the Long Island String Festival Association's Festival.
- Siblings Gani Ates and Sinan Ates performed in the 35th annual Howard Hovey Day of Tuba and Euphonium.

- Senior Parris Garant performed with the All-County Choir as part of SCMEA's All-County Music Festival.

ATHLETICS

- Senior Matteo DeVincenzo won the New York State Championship wrestling title.
- The girls varsity soccer team won the Class C State Championship.
- Junior Jillian Colucci was named an All-American soccer player by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.
- Four HS varsity hockey players were recognized at the Suffolk County Field Hockey Coaches Association dinner.
- HS student-athletes Elisabeth Gwydir and Matteo DeVincenzo were honored by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as Suffolk Zone Student Leaders.
- Three varsity girls tennis team athletes competed at the Suffolk County tennis individual championships.
- Justin Julich took first place overall in the Peter Pan Division at the Disney Cross-Country Classic.
- Freshman Shane DeVincenzo recorded his first hole-in-one during a game at Port Jefferson Country Club.

ALTRUISM

- The Student Organization raised more than \$600 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through its Dodge to Cure Diabetes event.
- ES students raised \$4,900 for the American Heart Association through their school's annual Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart event.
- The National Honor Society collected bags of food at Stop and Shop for a December food drive.
- HS Environmental Club members "adopted" two chimpanzees through a fundraising project.
- MS students collected more than 500 personal care and food items for Port Jefferson's Welcome INN.
- Juniors JiWon Woo and Emma Schoepflin raised more than \$500 for the American Diabetes Association.
- Senior Nick Fedler earned the President's Volunteer Service Award for logging more than 202 volunteer service hours.

- The MS Student Council raised \$1,672 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through a Pennies for Patients fundraiser.
- HS Student Organization members collected holiday gifts for 58 local families.
- The Varsity Club raised \$1,000 for cancer research through a "pink" volleyball tournament and a "No Shave November" fundraiser.
- Students districtwide raised \$6,486 for the Fortunato Breast Health Center at Mather Hospital.
- MS students collected more than 1,300 nonperishable goods to donate to local families in need.
- Leo Club members collected 50 boxes of food and \$250 in cash and gift cards for Island Harvest.
- Fifth-graders made more than 200 breast cancer awareness keychains for the Fortunato Breast Health Center at Mather Hospital.
- National Junior Honor Society and Interact Club members volunteered their time to clean up Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck.
- Six MS students teamed up to raise \$225 for the American Childhood Cancer Organization.
- HS varsity football players held a blood drive.

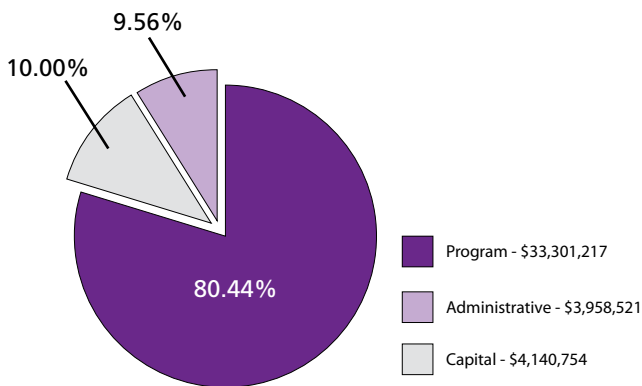
DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE

- For the tenth consecutive year, the district was named a "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation
- A creative persuasive writing unit designed by eighth-grade English teacher Kaylene Everitt was featured in the New York Times.
- The district was named one of the best districts for teacher support in New York State by Teacher.org.
- ES Principal Thomas Meehan was named a Person of the Year by the Port Times Record.
- The district hosted a college admissions panel that focused on topics such as the college essay, application submissions, the college visit and college entrance exams.
- The HS guidance department developed a planning guide for students in grades 9-12.
- For the third year in a row, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association presented the high school with a Scholar/Athlete Team School of Distinction Award.
- The HS was once again named a Reward School by the New York State Education Department.
- The HS was named a 2015 Top American High School by Newsweek.

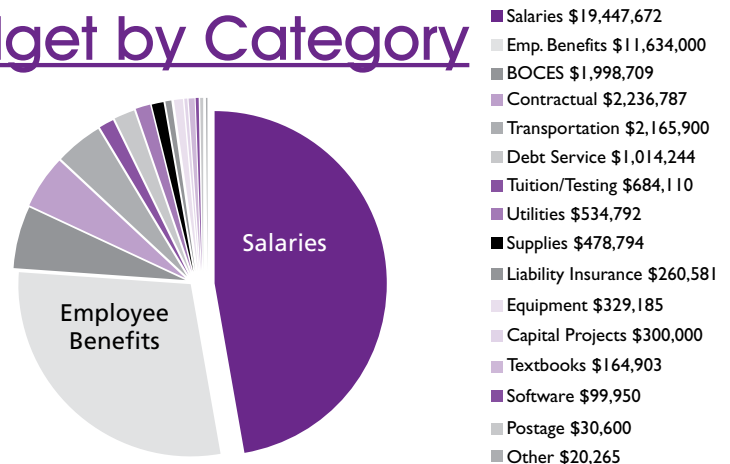
A DETAILED LOOK AT THE PROPOSED BUDGET

| ACCOUNT GROUP | 2015-2016 ADOPTED BUDGET | 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET | ACCOUNT GROUP | 2015-2016 ADOPTED BUDGET | 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| General Support | | | Health Services | \$249,011 | \$256,049 |
| Board of Education | \$28,508 | \$28,975 | Psychology Services | \$180,466 | \$183,344 |
| District Clerk | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | Drug Free School Counsel | \$48,677 | \$50,170 |
| District Meeting | \$4,150 | \$9,150 | Social Work SRVC - Reg School | \$48,927 | \$50,420 |
| Chief School Administrator | \$356,810 | \$388,841 | Co-curricular Activities | \$304,835 | \$293,799 |
| Business Administrator | \$428,694 | \$526,635 | Interscholastic Athletics | \$850,440 | \$845,397 |
| Auditing | \$88,342 | \$88,500 | Total Instruction | \$21,091,498 | \$21,243,079 |
| Treasurer | \$76,499 | \$77,900 | Transportation | | |
| Fiscal Agent Fees | \$11,832 | \$11,500 | District Operated Transportation | \$85,349 | \$76,333 |
| Legal Fees | \$116,630 | \$93,500 | Contracted Transportation | \$2,060,848 | \$2,165,900 |
| Personnel | \$94,739 | \$127,309 | Transportation BOCES | \$94,645 | \$25,000 |
| Legal Ads | \$10,200 | \$10,000 | Total Transportation | \$2,240,842 | \$2,267,233 |
| Public Information and Service | \$55,226 | \$55,726 | Employee Benefits | | |
| Operation of Plant | \$1,768,409 | \$1,824,225 | Employee Retirement System | \$605,000 | \$550,000 |
| Maintenance of Plant | \$984,412 | \$987,285 | Teachers' Retirement System | \$2,216,000 | \$2,100,000 |
| Central Printing and Mailing | \$7,000 | \$40,000 | Social Security | \$1,684,000 | \$1,750,000 |
| Data Processing – District | \$74,561 | \$80,000 | Workers' Compensation | \$110,000 | \$110,000 |
| Data Processing – BOCES | \$153,614 | \$155,809 | Life Insurance | \$120,400 | \$120,000 |
| Unallocated Insurance | \$254,013 | \$261,581 | Unemployment | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| Judgments & Claims | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | Health Insurance | \$6,549,026 | \$6,774,000 |
| Assessments on School Property | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | Total Employee Benefits | \$11,514,426 | \$11,634,000 |
| Administrative Charges – BOCES | \$150,000 | \$145,000 | Debt Service/Transfers | | |
| Total General Support | \$4,693,639 | \$4,941,936 | Serial Bond Payments | \$1,301,963 | \$774,244 |
| Instruction | | | Tax Anticipatory Note Payments | \$240,000 | \$240,000 |
| Curriculum Development/Supervision | \$563,868 | \$566,668 | Transfer to Special Aid/Debt Service | \$15,000 | \$0 |
| Supervision Regular School | \$1,266,701 | \$1,276,427 | Transfer to Capital | \$1,300,000 | \$300,000 |
| Regular School | \$10,970,076 | \$11,057,411 | Total Debt Service/Transfers | \$2,856,963 | \$1,314,244 |
| Elementary Gifted & Talented | \$48,547 | \$48,725 | Total Appropriations | \$42,397,368 | \$41,400,492 |
| Special Education | \$4,718,170 | \$4,757,656 | Total Non-Tax Levy Revenues | \$7,752,941 | \$6,593,278 |
| Occupational Education | \$207,642 | \$208,000 | Tax Levy Revenues Required | \$34,644,427 | \$34,807,214 |
| Summer Instruction | \$12,000 | \$12,000 | Tax Levy Increase | | 0.47% |
| Library | \$275,361 | \$282,016 | | | |
| Computer-Assisted Instruction | \$811,603 | \$799,501 | | | |
| Guidance | \$535,174 | \$555,496 | | | |

Budget Components



Budget by Category



*** ECRWSS ***
Postal Customer

Questions & Answers

What are the main costs driving the budget?

The main cost drivers are collective bargaining agreements and decreases to debt service and capital projects. Other impacts include improvements to curriculum offerings, including our elementary special education program.

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

The tax levy is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to fund its budget after accounting for all other revenue sources, including state aid. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rate for each of the cities, towns or villages that makes up a school district. The tax bill continues to be calculated by using a property's assessed value (as determined by the local town assessor) and the tax rate – or the amount paid in taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value. The rate is the total school tax levy divided by the total assessed value of property in the school district (as determined by the Town of Brookhaven).

What is the budget-to-budget increase?

The budget-to-budget increase is the amount of money this year's budget has increased over last year's budget. In fact, this year's budget results in a decrease of 2.35 percent.

Where can I acquire more information about the District's proposed budget?

Community members can visit the Business Office page of the district website at www.portjeffschools.org to review budget presentations and details. Budget packets are also available at each school building and the public library.

On May 17, what do I have the opportunity to vote on?

On the May 17 ballot, eligible voters will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed annual budget for 2016-17. Residents will also have the chance to elect two members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2016 and expiring on June 30, 2019.



Budget Hearing

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School auditorium, located at 350 Old Post Road.

Voter Eligibility

Port Jefferson residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 17 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident within the Port Jefferson School District for a period of 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the district office, located at 550 Scraggy Hill Road, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. For more information call, 631-791-4221.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Proposition 1:

Shall the annual budget of the Port Jefferson School District for the school year 2016-2017 in the sum of \$41,400,492; as proposed by the Board of Education with the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District, as required by law, be adopted?



Board of Education Candidates:

Elect 2 members of the Board of Education - 3 year terms: July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019

Vote for any 2

Ellen Boehm

Kathleen Brennan

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathleen Brennan, President

Mark Doyle, Vice President

Ellen Boehm

Adam DeWitt

Robert Ramus

Vincent Ruggiero

Tracy Zamek

Dr. Kenneth R. Bossert
Superintendent of Schools

Janice Baisley
District Clerk

