

PORT
JEFFERSON
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

The Horizon

MAINTAINING PROGRAMS WHILE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Proposed Budget at Tax Cap

The Board of Education and district administration have created a budget that continues to provide an excellent educational program in a physically and emotionally safe and secure environment with sensitivity to the fiscal impact on our residents. The proposal before the voters on May 15 preserves all educational programs, includes plans for a multi-year fiscal strategy and stays within the district's allowable tax levy cap.

“As such, our plan focuses on preserving the district's tradition of educational excellence with an eye toward fiscal sustainability.”

Included in the budget presented and adopted by the Board of Education are also a number of possible expenditure modifications should a deal between the Town and LIPA be finalized and impact the 2018-19 school year. These modifications are based on conversations and communication the District has had with Town officials since the news of a possible agreement was announced. For more information on this, please see page 4.

Proposition 1

The \$43,889,812 proposed budget, which carries a 2.36 percent budget-to-budget increase and a 2.27 percent tax levy increase, includes several modest initiatives and reoccurring cost-saving measures. To strengthen current practices, the budget calls for the addition of two district security guards, and the funding for the middle school office relocation as well as the installation of new security vestibules at the elementary and secondary school campuses. The plan also calls for efficiencies realized through scheduling and enrollment adjustments and operational costs through the completion of the Energy Performance Contract.

“Teaching and learning is the core mission of our organization and we are committed to doing everything we can to preserve, protect, and promote quality education in the Port Jefferson School District,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Casciano.

Proposition 2

In addition to asking taxpayers to vote on the budget proposition, the District is also asking them to consider a second proposition. If approved, Proposition 2 will allow the district to access \$1,056,000 of its Capital Reserve funds for the purpose of partial roof replacement at Earl L. Vandermeulen High School. The approval of the Capital Reserve proposition will not result in additional taxes since the Reserve, which was approved by voters in 2015, is funded through prior-years savings with the purpose of renovating and upgrading learning environments.

The District invites the public to attend a budget hearing on Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School auditorium. Community members can also review the budget in detail on the District's website, www.portjeffschools.org.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 15. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School cafeteria.



**Remember
to Vote
MAY 15**

The Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election will take place on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 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.

Impressive Year to Date



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Staff, students and parents collected toys and other items and worked along with members of the Port Jefferson Library and The United Methodist Church of Port Jefferson to ensure a happy holiday for 18 local children.
- To share best practices and enrich teachers' understanding of new educational strategies, teachers took part in Foundations training workshops conducted by educators from the Da Vinci Education and Research Center.
- A Young Authors Celebration recognized student achievement and personal growth.
- Four students attended the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association PEAK Festival.
- Eight fifth graders and two fourth graders qualified for the regional round of the National History Bee.
- The District had a first, second, and third place finish in the SEAL National Geographic Bee.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Eighth-grader Hugo Onghai was selected for a \$500 Suffolk County Music Educators' Association Joseph R. Herbison Summer Scholarship for study at the Young Artist Program at Stony Brook University.
- Sixth-grade students participated in a mindfulness pilot program designed to cultivate self-esteem, confidence and an awareness of emotional health and well-being.
- The Science Olympiad team finished with a ranking of eighth overall in New York State.
- For the first time, five students participated in the New York Mathematics League and ranked 20th out of 71 schools in the state on the academically oriented competition.
- Two students read their poetry to hundreds of spectators during the opening ceremony of the Port Jefferson Annual Dickens Festival.

- Student groups, including the National Junior Honor Society, and Student Council, continuously organize community service efforts to support individuals locally and nationally. These include raising \$2,766 to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, support the victims of Hurricane Harvey and donating gift cards to local families in need.

HIGH SCHOOL

- 25 High School students were honored by the College Board as AP Scholars: five were named AP Scholars, 10 earned the recognition of AP Scholar with Honor, and 10 were named as an AP Scholar with Distinction.
- Principal Christine Austen was named a Person of the Year by TBR News Media for her leadership and steadfast efforts in improving the academic programs offered at the High School.
- Seniors Connor Kaminska and Luigia Than were named 2017 Suffolk Zone award winners by the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.
- Sophomore Dylan Dugourd has been named a national medalist in the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. His video game design was selected by creative professionals as the most accomplished in the nation and recognized with a silver medal.
- High School seniors Ibuki Iwasaki and Luigia Than were selected as finalists in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Ibuki went on to be named a winner of a National Merit Scholarship worth \$2,500.
- Students Trey Pisano and Annalisa Welinder were selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association All-State Winter Conference. Trey performed on double bass with the All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble and Annalisa played violin with the Symphony Orchestra.
- The boys cross-country team was named Suffolk County Class C champions.
- High School students took part in Sources of Strength, a peer leadership program designed to engage teens through the power of connection, hope, help and strength.
- Students enrolled in the District's Latin classes competed and placed in the Latin Certamen academic contest at Stony Brook University.
- Four students were selected to participate in the New York State Council of

Administrators for Music Education All-County Music Festival.

- Sophomore Kyra Sommerstad placed first in the 200-meter Individual Medley and the 100-meter backstroke at the Section XI Swimming championships.
- In an ongoing partnership with the Rotary Club of Port Jefferson, the school's Interact Club sorted, labeled, organized and helped wrap hundreds of gifts for area children.
- All varsity fall and winter athletic teams were designated as New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams.

DISTRICTWIDE

- The High School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.
- For its commitment to educational excellence and outstanding student performance, the High School was named a Reward School by the New York State Education Department, an honor that it has achieved consecutively since the 2012-13 academic year.
- The District has been ranked No. 84 in Niche.com's annual list of best elementary, middle and high schools as well as school districts. It also received a ranking at No. 66 of districts with the best teachers in the state.
- Five individuals from the District were honored with Educational Service Awards at the 17th annual SCOPE School District Awards Dinner.
- Eight Port Jefferson teams competed in a 21 team Nassau Suffolk Latin Certamen competition at four difficulty levels. Of the eight PJ teams competing, three won first, two placed second, and one placed third.
- District students and administrators were featured on the Spotlight on Long Island Schools show on LI News Radio, 103.9 FM, a 30-minute question and answer show that highlighted the varied accomplishments of the students.



A DETAILED LOOK AT THE PROPOSED BUDGET

Proposition 1

ACCOUNT GROUP	2017-2018 ADOPTED BUDGET	2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET	ACCOUNT GROUP	2017-2018 ADOPTED BUDGET	2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET
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Account Groups include multiple staff salaries/supplies/equipment/BOCES/vendor contractual obligations.

General Support

BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$29,325	\$29,935
DISTRICT CLERK	\$10,000	\$10,000
DISTRICT MEETING	\$9,150	\$9,150
CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR	\$386,541	\$388,985
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR	\$543,463	\$576,640
AUDITING	\$88,500	\$88,500
TREASURER	\$81,349	\$87,869
FISCAL AGENT FEES	\$11,500	\$11,500
LEGAL FEES	\$94,500	\$94,500
PERSONNEL	\$128,301	\$127,285
LEGAL ADS	\$7,500	\$7,500
PUBLIC INFO AND SERVICE	\$60,344	\$60,153
OPERATION MAINT/PLANT	\$1,609,939	\$1,635,987
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$1,052,758	\$1,130,752
CENTRAL PRINTING AND MAILING	\$40,000	\$40,000
DATA PROCESSING DISTRICT	\$80,000	\$96,000
DATA PROCESSING BOCES	\$157,228	\$159,227
UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$269,362	\$282,401
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION DUES	\$0	\$0
JUDGMENTS AND CLAIMS	\$15,000	\$15,000
ASSESSMENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY	\$3,000	\$3,200
ADMIN CHARGE-BOCES	\$148,625	\$149,911
Total General Support	\$4,826,385	\$5,004,495

Instruction

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	\$535,391	\$566,280
SUPERVISION REGULAR SCHOOL	\$1,376,863	\$1,407,870
REGULAR SCHOOL	\$11,479,717	\$11,643,866
GIFTED AND TALENTED	\$63,963	\$74,505
HANDICAPPED PROGRAM	\$4,847,354	\$4,901,087
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$208,000	\$178,000
SUMMER INSTRUCTION	\$12,000	\$12,000
LIBRARY	\$288,161	\$297,689
COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$849,674	\$840,651
GUIDANCE	\$525,232	\$564,982
HEALTH SERVICES	\$268,192	\$274,582

PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES	\$219,998	\$230,078
DRUG-FREE SCHOOL COUNSEL	\$51,268	\$53,453
SOCIAL WORK SRVC-REG SCHOOL	\$51,518	\$53,703
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$298,731	\$303,702
INTERSCHOLASTIC ACT.	\$856,663	\$873,295
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$21,932,725	\$22,275,743

Transportation

D.O. TRANSPORTATION	\$112,959	\$114,671
CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$2,243,245	\$2,219,195
TRANS. BOCES	\$30,000	\$30,000
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	\$2,386,204	\$2,363,866

Employee Benefits

EMP. RETIREMENT SYSTEM	\$550,000	\$575,000
TEACHERS RETIRE. SYSTEM	\$1,915,000	\$1,950,000
FICA	\$1,750,000	\$1,795,000
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION	\$165,000	\$215,000
LIFE INSURANCE	\$120,000	\$120,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$170,000	\$120,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$6,951,896	\$7,555,845
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$11,621,896	\$12,330,845

Debt Service/Transfers

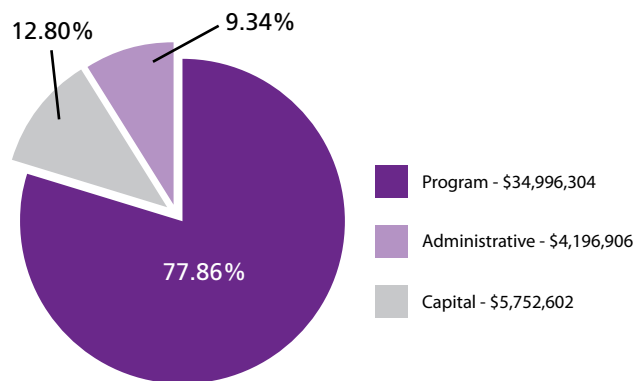
SERIAL BOND	\$743,914	\$713,600
TAN	\$220,000	\$175,536
OTHER DEBT	\$213,727	\$213,727
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	\$935,000	\$812,000
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE/TRANSFERS	\$2,112,641	\$1,914,863

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS

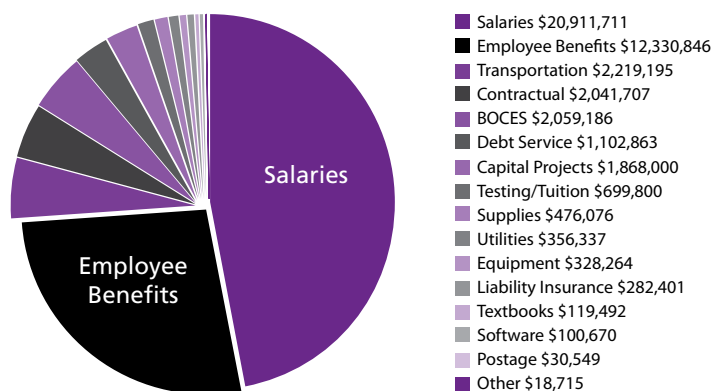
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$42,879,851	\$43,889,812
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Total State Aid	\$3,702,309	\$3,784,970
Total Local Revenue	\$4,006,842	\$4,726,363
Tax Levy Revenues Required	\$35,626,700	\$36,434,479
Capital Reserve (Proposition 2)	\$456,000	\$1,056,000
Tax Levy Increase		2.27%

Budget Components



Budget by Category



Special note: Both pie charts account for Proposition 1 and Proposition 2.

*** ECRWSS ***
Postal Customer

Questions & Answers

How does the proposed budget account for the potential LIPA settlement? In the absence of final settlement details, the District has created a proposed budget that calls for a tax levy increase based upon planned student offerings. If a settlement is reached prior to June 30 – the last date a settlement could impact the 2018-19 school budget – the District is prepared to make \$130,000 in reductions to help mitigate a possible year-one drop in assessed value of the main power plant. This amount is in line with the 50 percent reduction being discussed for phase-in over nine years. These reductions would be realized through a number of expenditure lines, including such things as equipment purchases, extracurricular and athletic offerings based on student interest, organizational dues for the Board of Education and printing of district community mailings (i.e., calendar and newsletter). The identified items were selected to have the least impact on the educational program. Regardless of the settlement, once the maximum tax levy is approved by the voters, the District cannot increase the tax levy. However the District can set a lower tax levy with the Town of Brookhaven based upon the above planned reductions. As this is an evolving matter, the District continues to assess all information and discuss future plans.

What is the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate? The school tax levy is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to fund its educational budget after accounting for all other revenue sources, including state aid. The school tax rate is derived from dividing the necessary school tax levy by the total value of all eligible property assessments within a given jurisdiction. The tax bill continues to be

calculated using a property's assessed value net of exemptions (as determined by the local town assessor) multiplied by the school tax rate - or the amount paid in taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value of a property. Both the assessed value of a property and the associated calculations are determined by the Town of Brookhaven.

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 15, what do I have the opportunity to vote on? On the May 15 ballot, eligible voters will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed annual budget for 2018-19 and a proposition to approve the use of capital reserves to upgrade the roof at the High School. Residents will also be asked to elect three members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2018 and expiring on June 30, 2021.

Will the Capital Reserve proposition for roof replacement increase my taxes? No, when the capital budget was established, the District began the process of funding it through savings. Therefore, approving the proposition will not result in additional taxes toward the replacement of the high school/middle school roof.

Budget Hearing

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School auditorium, located at 350 Old Post Road, Port Jefferson.

Voter Eligibility

Port Jefferson residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 15 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 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 Union Free School District for the school year 2018-2019 in the sum of \$43,889,812; 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?

Proposition 2:

Shall the Board of Education of the Port Jefferson Union Free District be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$1,056,000 from the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund" effective May 21, 2015 for the following purpose(s): roof replacement of sections 4, 5 and 6 at Earl L. Vandermeulen High School including all ancillary and incidental work required to be performed?

Board of Education Candidates:

Elect three members of the Board of Education three-year terms: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Vote for any three (in ballot order)

- Ryan Biedenkapp
- Mia Farina
- Jason Kronberg
- Rene Tidwell
- Tracy Zamek
- Ryan Walker

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathleen Brennan, President

Mark Doyle, Vice President

Ellen Boehm

Adam DeWitt

David Keegan

Vincent Ruggiero

Tracy Zamek

Paul Casciano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Janice Baisley
District Clerk

