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Postal Customer

# Budget Questions & Answers

**What are the main costs driving the increase in the budget?** The main cost drivers are collective bargaining agreements and an increase to instructional staffing costs. Other impacts include improvements to the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School, including a green roof and elevator.

**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. This year's increase is 5.13 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](http://www.portjeffschools.org) to review budget presentations and details.

**On May 19, what do I have the opportunity to vote on?** On the May 19 ballot, eligible voters will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed annual budget for 2015-16. Residents will also have the chance to elect three members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2018. Additionally, a proposition for the establishment of a capital reserve fund will appear on the ballot.

**Why is a capital reserve fund needed? Will it raise my taxes?** The creation of a \$10-million capital fund will allow the district to fund districtwide repairs and renovations without an additional increase to the tax levy. It also eliminates the need to propose a bond and provides the district with the ability to address needs more quickly and receive state aid.

## Budget Hearing

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 12 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 19 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 2015-2016 in the sum of \$42,397,368 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 UFSD be authorized to establish, pursuant to Education Law section 3651, a Capital Reserve Fund effective May 21, 2015 to be known as the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades Capital Reserve" for the purpose of funding capital improvements to the Port Jefferson School District, including but not limited to, roof replacement, classroom renovations, site work, door and hardware replacement, ADA upgrades, ceiling replacement, floor replacement, HVAC upgrades, electrical upgrades, fire alarm system replacement, refurbishment/replacement of rooftop exhaust fans, emergency generator replacement and electric upgrades/additions. The ultimate amount of the 2015 Renovations and Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund shall be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000), including interest thereon; the probable term shall be seven (7) years; the funds are to be transferred from unreserved undesignated fund balance remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed \$1,500,000 from the 2014-2015 budget and thereafter in an annual amount of not more than \$1,500,000 for each remaining year of the probable term.

## Board of Education Candidates:

Effective July 1, 2015, there are three vacancies (each for three year terms) on the Board of Education. One petition was submitted for Board candidacy – Vincent Ruggiero. The following will appear on the May 19 ballot:

Vincent Ruggiero      Vacancy      Vacancy

The two vacancies will be filled by "write-in" candidates. Specific instructions on how to vote for a candidate whose name does not appear on the ballot (write-in) is as follows: Inside the lever voting booth, above each candidate, is an area designated for "write-in". Lift the corresponding slide and write the name of your candidate on the exposed paper. A pen will be supplied. Do not raise the slide unless you intend to cast a write-in vote. These instructions will be posted in the voting booth.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathleen Brennan, President

James Laffey, Vice President

Ellen Boehm

Adam DeWitt

Mark Doyle

Robert Ramus

Vincent Ruggiero

Dr. Kenneth R. Bossert  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Janice Baisley  
*District Clerk*



PORT  
JEFFERSON  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

# The Horizon

## PRESERVING PROGRAMS AND ENHANCING EXCELLENCE

### *Proposed Budget Within Tax Levy Cap*



Following months of collaborative budget development meetings, the Board of Education and administration are pleased to present to the community the 2015-16 budget, which falls within the district's allowable tax levy cap of 1.62 percent and enhances existing educational offerings.

"All of our educational offerings will remain intact in each of our schools and the curriculum will be strengthened through several new services," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Bossert.

At the high school, the budget will allow the district to offer a new Introduction to Computer Science class to any high school student who has successfully completed Algebra I. The class is geared toward improving problem-solving, mathematical reasoning

and critical thinking skills as students prepare for college. The budget will also allow the district to expand its technology initiatives K-12, provide English language learners with additional support as per new Part 154 Regulations, and maintain optimal class size, guaranteeing students receive maximum instructional time.

Aside from enhancing instruction, the budget includes funds that will continue to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students. The proposed budget includes the replacement of the high school's 40-year-old elevator with a new ADA-compliant elevator at a cost of \$1.25 million. The project will be funded in part using past capital bond savings as well as \$150,000 that had previously been set aside for it.

In addition to the budget, the district is asking the community to vote on a second proposition to create a capital reserve fund (see page 2 for more information). Funds in this reserve will primarily be used for roof replacements at all buildings.

The district will hold a budget hearing on May 12 at 7 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School auditorium, during which the administration will present the proposed budget. Community members can also visit the district's website at [www.portjeffschools.org](http://www.portjeffschools.org) to review budget presentations and details.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 19. 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 Trustee Election will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 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.

# Capital Fund Referendum

To remain proactive in preserving the district's learning environments, in addition to the proposed 2015-16 budget, the district is seeking voter approval to establish a capital reserve fund, with no additional increase to the tax levy.

The public's authorization will allow the district to create a 2015 renovations and upgrades capital reserve for the purpose of funding capital improvements to the district's buildings, including roof, ceiling and floor replacement, ADA and electrical upgrades, site work, and emergency

generator and fire alarm replacement.

The reason for establishing this not-to-exceed \$10 million reserve fund is to provide a means, separate from the annual budget, to fund repairs and renovations throughout the district, reducing the amount needed in a bond proposal. Additionally, it allows the district to address needs more quickly and receive state aid on the approved projects.

To fund the reserve, the district proposes to use surpluses not to exceed \$1.5 million each year. This includes any interest accrued on the monies over the

seven-year term of the capital reserve fund.

"The money placed into the fund will mainly be used to begin a roof replacement plan," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Sean Leister. "It is important that our roofs are replaced in phases to assure our infrastructure is protected and that all future replacements will not all have to be funded in a single budget year."

The referendum will appear on the budget ballot as a separate item for approval. Voting will take place on May 19 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School cafeteria.

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

### ACADEMICS

- Senior Natalia Zaliznyack was named a 2015 National Merit Semifinalist.
- Twenty-six students were named AP Scholars, 20 earned the title of AP Scholar with Distinction, 11 were named AP Scholars with Honor, seven were ranked as National AP Scholars and one student was recognized with an AP International Diploma.
- Senior Paul Capobianco was elected by his peers as a student Board of Education representative.
- Ten high school students were recognized for research projects they worked on at Brookhaven National Lab and Stony Brook University.
- MS students Mayu Takeuchi and Peggy Yin were named Long Island Scholars of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY Old Westbury.
- Five ES students advanced in the National History Bee competition.

### ARTS

- Four MS musicians entertained attendees at the New York School Bus Contractors Association's 60th annual convention.
- The HS chamber ensemble performed at the Welcome Inn's 25th anniversary celebration.
- Four seniors were selected to participate in the New York State Council of Administrators for Music Education All-County Music Festival.
- Two MS tuba players performed at the 34th annual Howard Hovey Tuba Day.
- ES select choir and HS studio art students showed off their talents at the Go Green Festival.
- Senior Danielle Goldstein represented the district in the All-State Music Festival at the NYSSMA Winter Conference.

- Sophomore Arunima Roy was named an ambassador for the Roots and Shoots National Youth Council.
- MS student Mayu Takeuchi earned a perfect score on the 2014 American Mathematics Contest AMC 8.
- ES student William Wo participated in the Hofstra Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee.

### ATHLETICS

- Senior James Burke won the Tunnel to Towers Run as well as the 108th Millrose Games.
- Cross-country runners placed in the Disney Cross-Country Classic.
- Girls varsity tennis team athlete Rachel Collins placed third in Division III.
- HS seniors Caroline Biondo and Paul Capobianco were named 2014-15 Suffolk Zone Award winners.
- Four HS varsity field hockey players were named All-Division players.
- The varsity girls basketball team clinched the Suffolk League VIII Championship.
- Junior Matteo DeVincenzo secured the 113-pound wrestling title at the Eastern States Wrestling Classic.

### ALTRUISM

- HS baseball and volleyball players offered time and friendship to the athletes of the Miracle League of Long Island.
- MS Student Council members raised money for the Wounded Warrior Project.
- Girls varsity tennis players helped raise \$840 for breast cancer awareness at the Play for Pink Tournament.
- MS Student Council members collected 1,471 items and \$100, which were donated to a local food pantry.



- Forty members of the HS Interact Club and MS National Junior Honor Society helped to ready Camp Paquatuck for the winter.
- ES students collected nonperishable food items for local families in need for Thanksgiving.
- Sophomore Jiwon Woo and Emma Schoepflin raised \$400 for juvenile diabetes awareness.
- Leo Club members collected 35 boxes of food and \$200 for Island Harvest's Students Feeding Students Challenge.
- Senior varsity volleyball players Emily Rubenbauer and Ally Dombroski raised \$1,000 for breast cancer research through a volleyball tournament.
- Members of the HS Student Organization, Leo Club and Interact Club raised \$1,000 for breast cancer research.
- The 10th annual MS talent show raised \$1,200 for the nonprofit Friends of Karen.

### DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE

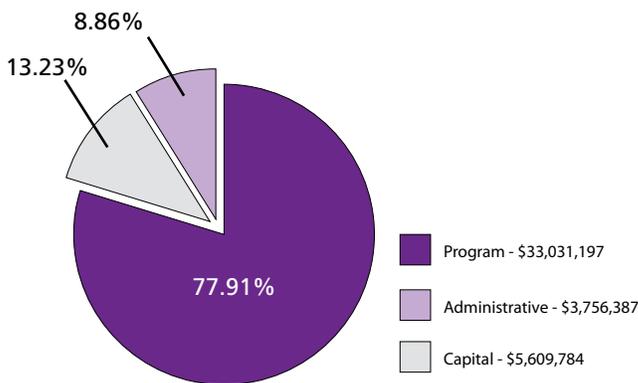
The 2015-16 proposed budget supports a district that in the past year:

- Was named a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for the ninth consecutive year for outstanding commitment to music education.
- Had its high school ranked by Newsweek as one of America's top high schools in 2014.

# A DETAILED LOOK AT THE PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT GROUP	2014-2015 ADOPTED BUDGET	2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET	ACCOUNT GROUP	2014-2015 ADOPTED BUDGET	2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET
<b>General Support</b>			<b>Health Services</b>	\$241,668	\$249,011
Board of Education	\$26,318	\$28,508	Psychology Services	\$183,030	\$180,466
District Clerk	\$10,000	\$10,000	Drug Free School Counsel	\$48,832	\$48,677
District Meeting	\$4,150	\$4,150	Social Work SRVC - Reg School	\$49,082	\$48,927
Chief School Administrator	\$338,951	\$356,810	Co-curricular Activities	\$273,160	\$304,835
Business Administrator	\$389,430	\$428,694	Interscholastic Athletics	\$785,228	\$850,440
Auditing	\$87,584	\$88,342	<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>\$20,389,152</b>	<b>\$21,091,498</b>
Treasurer	\$80,154	\$76,499	<b>Transportation</b>		
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$11,832	\$11,832	District Operated Transportation	\$82,001	\$85,349
Legal Fees	\$96,230	\$116,630	Contracted Transportation	\$1,692,480	\$2,060,848
Personnel	\$92,887	\$94,739	Transportation BOCES	\$402,337	\$94,645
Legal Ads	\$10,200	\$10,200	<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$2,176,818</b>	<b>\$2,240,842</b>
Public Information and Service	\$51,659	\$55,226	<b>Employee Benefits</b>		
Operation of Plant	\$1,714,428	\$1,768,409	Employee Retirement System	\$670,000	\$605,000
Maintenance of Plant	\$914,263	\$984,412	Teachers' Retirement System	\$2,610,000	\$2,216,000
Central Printing and Mailing	\$68,561	\$7,000	Social Security	\$1,500,000	\$1,684,000
Data Processing – District	\$53,888	\$74,561	Workers' Compensation	\$110,000	\$110,000
Data Processing – BOCES	\$151,764	\$153,614	Life Insurance	\$125,000	\$120,400
Unallocated Insurance	\$246,996	\$254,013	Unemployment	\$230,000	\$230,000
School Association Dues	\$300	\$0	Health Insurance	\$6,196,789	\$6,549,026
Judgments & Claims	\$15,000	\$15,000	<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$11,441,789</b>	<b>\$11,514,426</b>
Assessments on School Property	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b>Debt Service/Transfers</b>		
Administrative Charges – BOCES	\$151,340	\$150,000	Serial Bond Payments	\$1,358,154	\$1,301,963
<b>Total General Support</b>	<b>\$4,520,935</b>	<b>\$4,693,639</b>	Tax Anticipatory Note Payments	\$240,000	\$240,000
<b>Instruction</b>			Transfer to Special Aid/Debt Service	\$0	\$15,000
Curriculum Development/Supervision	\$460,590	\$563,868	Transfer to Capital	\$200,000	\$1,300,000
Supervision Regular School	\$1,150,281	\$1,266,701	<b>Total Debt Service/Transfers</b>	<b>\$1,798,154</b>	<b>\$2,856,963</b>
Regular School	\$10,731,329	\$10,970,076	<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$40,326,848</b>	<b>\$42,397,368</b>
Elementary Gifted & Talented	\$48,738	\$48,547	<b>Total Non-Tax Levy Revenues</b>	<b>\$6,234,785</b>	<b>\$7,752,941</b>
Special Education	\$4,634,667	\$4,718,170	<b>Tax Levy Revenues Required</b>	<b>\$34,092,063</b>	<b>\$34,644,427</b>
Occupational Education	\$203,571	\$207,642	<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>		<b>1.62%</b>
Summer Instruction	\$12,000	\$12,000			
Library	\$277,834	\$275,361			
Computer-Assisted Instruction	\$755,075	\$811,603			
Guidance	\$534,067	\$535,174			

## Budget Components



## Budget by Category

