

Sag Harbor

Union Free School District

Budget Newsletter

Budget Issue 2017



Reinvesting in Our Schools

2017-18 Proposed Budget Under Tax Cap Limit

The Board of Education and administration of the Sag Harbor School District are pleased to present the proposed 2017-18 budget, which focuses on reinvesting in our facilities and maintaining our educational excellence while remaining under the state-mandated tax cap.

The proposed budget, which carries a tax levy increase of 3.49 percent, maintains all existing programming while providing funding to enhance students' educational experiences.

Specifically, the proposed \$39.9 million budget includes an investment in technology in the form of Chromebook carts at the Middle/High School building. With this investment, every classroom will have its own set of Chromebooks.

"With a goal to ensure students are college and career ready, it is important to continue to invest in technologies that will prepare every student," said Superintendent of Schools Katy Graves.

The proposed budget carries a 2.92 percent increase over the 2016-2017 budget and provides for support for special education programming that places an emphasis on keeping students within the district. Through the budget, funding is made available to strengthen the Elementary School special education program by preparing new special education classrooms and hiring support staff.

Additionally, the prestigious and rapidly-growing International Baccalaureate program, as well as green initiatives and STEAM-related clubs and activities, will continue to be supported and invested in through the budget.

The spending plan also continues the reinvestment in the district's facilities. The funding is budgeted toward replacing older equipment, including the padding in the Middle School gymnasium, and investment in a long-term maintenance plan developed by the district.



"We believe it is necessary to reinvest in our school facilities to ensure that our Sag Harbor Schools remain a safe and a quality educational institution," said Superintendent Graves.

The proposed budget plan also asks voters to consider two separate propositions, which you can learn about on pages 2 and 5.

For additional information on the proposed 2017-2018 budget and the additional propositions, please read the contents of this newsletter and visit our website at www.sagharborschools.org. Remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Pierson High School gymnasium.

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Pierson High School Gym

Projected Tax Levy Increase

3.49%

PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES 2017-2018

	Voter-Approved 2016-17 Budget	Proposed 2017-18 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT				
Board of Education/District Clerk/Annual Meeting	\$66,059.00	\$99,224.00	\$33,165.00	50.21%
Chief School Administrator	\$308,957.00	\$315,098.00	\$6,141.00	1.99%
Business/Finance/Legal/Auditing/Insurance	\$1,056,555.89	\$1,166,932.12	\$110,376.23	10.45%
BOCES Services - Administrative Charges	\$132,355.00	\$134,618.00	\$2,263.00	1.71%
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS				
Teaching/Co-Curricular/Educational Support	\$15,394,625.28	\$15,700,806.12	\$306,180.84	1.99%
Special Education and Related Services	\$4,621,969.85	\$4,820,270.66	\$198,300.81	4.29%
Occupational Education	\$195,651.00	\$159,912.00	(\$35,739.00)	-18.27%
Technology/Instructional Media	\$1,114,894.49	\$1,113,652.84	(\$1,241.65)	-0.11%
Athletics	\$767,175.71	\$776,607.05	9,431.34	1.23%
Pupil Transportation	\$956,739.76	\$1,351,481.35	\$394,741.59	41.26%
Transfer to Special Aid/Lunch Fund	\$55,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$20,000.00	36.36%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
Retirement/Social Security/Compensated Absences	\$4,486,939.60	\$4,241,177.21	(\$245,762.39)	-5.48%
Workers' Compensation/Unemployment/Disability	\$206,030.00	\$138,811.00	(\$67,219.00)	-32.63%
Health and Dental Insurance/125 Plan Admin.	\$4,783,697.01	\$5,276,252.74	\$492,555.73	10.30%
CAPITAL BUDGET				
Debt Services	\$2,116,458.00	\$2,175,518.76	\$59,060.76	2.79%
Operations and Maintenance	\$2,167,881.05	\$2,321,748.15	\$153,867.10	7.10%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$343,000.00	\$40,000.00	(\$303,000.00)	-88.34%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$38,773,988.64	\$39,907,110.00	\$1,133,121.36	2.92%

Proposition 2: Establishing a Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund

On May 16th, voters are being asked to consider a proposition that would allow the district to establish a reserve fund – the Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund – that would permit the district to purchase new or replacement busses for its fleet, when needed.

The fund would allow the district to set aside year-end budget surplus and revenue generated from shared transportation service contracts currently in place with neighboring school districts for the purchase or replacement of busses in the future.

The establishment of this fund will ensure that the transportation needs of the district are met without having to increase taxes.

If approved, the Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund would have a cap of \$2 million and will be funded initially by a previous Bus Fleet Replacement Reserve Fund that will be closed out. That fund, which was established by voters in 2010, currently has \$400,000 available for transfer. No additional funds are required from taxpayers.



Sag Harbor School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$38,773,989	\$39,907,110	\$38,683,341
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$1,133,121	(\$90,648)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.92%	-0.23%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$35,065,000	\$36,288,769	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$35,065,000	\$36,288,769	\$35,065,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,952,191	\$2,014,574	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$33,187,686	\$34,405,914	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$33,112,809	\$34,274,195	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60 percent Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$74,877	\$131,719	
Administrative Component	\$3,270,146.32	\$3,353,302.00	\$3,238,525.74
Program Component	\$30,796,215.03	\$31,751,097.00	\$30,989,448.35
Capital Component	\$4,707,627.29	\$4,802,711.00	\$4,455,366.91

* The Sag Harbor UFSD will have to reduce the proposed budget by \$1,223,769 in expenditures for equipment, capital projects and administrative costs if a contingency budget is adopted. Facility usage by the public will be limited in accordance with the law.

** The proposed budget provides funding for transportation services that cannot be covered by the Sag Harbor UFSD transportation bus fleet. The 2017/2018 school year will be the first year of a five year contract extension with the District's current transportation contractor. Please visit www.sagharborschools.org for additional information on the proposed budget.

A separate proposition will appear on the ballot that would allow the district to establish a reserve fund – the Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund – that would permit the purchase of new or replacement buses in its fleet, in the future. The fund would streamline the current legal mechanism for the purchase or replacement of buses and ensure that the transportation needs of the district are met in a timely manner. If approved, the Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund would have a cap of \$2 million and will be funded by year-end budgetary surplus and a previous Bus Fleet Replacement Reserve Fund that will be closed out. That fund, which was established by voters in 2010, currently has \$400,000 available for transfer. No additional funds are required from taxpayers.

Another separate proposition will appear on the ballot which will allow the district to spend \$1.2 million from its existing Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of windows at the Sag Harbor Elementary School and Pierson Middle/High School. The district currently holds permits from the New York State Education Department for the project and requires the funds necessary for the completion of the work before the permit expires in January 2018. The approval of the proposition will not result in additional taxes for residents, as the fund, which was approved by the community in 2011, was established and has been funded with the purpose of repairing and maintaining the district's facilities. To spend the funds, the district, by law, is required to obtain taxpayer approval.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$264

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Sag Harbor Union Free School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Pierson High School Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The Sag Harbor Experience

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- To promote Pet Adoption Month, members of the Pierson YARD helped to socialize pets at the Southampton Animal Shelter.
- Sag Harbor Elementary School and Pierson Middle School students collected food for those in need throughout the holiday season.
- The Sag Harbor Elementary School held its annual Mitten Line holiday drive, providing winter clothing, toys and art supplies for area children in need.
- In honor of Veterans Day, the Sag Harbor Elementary School hosted its annual Veterans Day Breakfast and Veterans celebration for the veterans of the Chelberg & Battle VFW Post 388.
- Members of Pierson High School's new Interact Club held a successful shoe drive for the Southampton Animal Shelter. The shoes were all sent to Africa as part of the shelter's Shoes for Shelters Shoe Drive.
- Elementary students, as an excellent connection to our Around the World theme, collected coins during a "Pennies for Power" campaign to purchase solar powered lanterns that were donated to help bring light to a hospital in Africa.
- The National Honor Society and Middle School Student Council conducted a "Battle for Change" with East Hampton High School to bring awareness to the dangers of driving while under the influence. The "change" that was collected will provide scholarships at both school districts and support the LUAP Foundation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Pierson High School students advanced their scientific knowledge through Brookhaven National Laboratory's STEM-Prep Summer Institute.

- Six members of the Pierson High School Class of 2017 are on track to earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma at the conclusion of the school year.
- Currently, 19 juniors (31 percent of the Class of 2018) are working toward their IB Diplomas.
- A member of the Class of 2017 is a commended National Merit Scholar.
- Two Pierson High School seniors were recognized as student Zone Leaders by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.
- The Pierson High School varsity soccer team was awarded the Sportsmanship Award by the Suffolk County Soccer Officials Association.

LIFELONG LEARNING

- Pierson Middle-High School students learned to make healthy choices and pledged to be kind to each other during the school's annual Red Ribbon Week.
- Sag Harbor Elementary School students learned tai chi as part of a hands-on experience about different cultures.
- Sag Harbor Elementary School students showcased their scientific thinking skills during the annual science fair.
- Sag Harbor Elementary School students and their families showcased over 25 countries, including their foods and arts, as part of the annual Multicultural Festival.
- "Read Around the World" provided all classes an opportunity to select global destinations they wished to visit and accumulate travel miles through reading. With each page read equating to a mile, our voracious readers traveled from Sag Harbor to all points on the globe. This school wide activity expanded our students' knowledge of world geography and reinforced the idea that reading can take you anywhere.



- The Pierson Middle School CyberPatriot Team became the New York State Champion in this year's Cyber Patriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.
- Through the use of the new Distance Learning Classrooms, Sag Harbor Elementary students will take over thirty 'virtual' field trips to museums and science centers all over our country and the world. The students can be part of a true classroom where they can learn and interact with scientists and teachers without ever leaving Sag Harbor Schools.

ARTS AND MUSIC

- Six Pierson High School aspiring artists and writers had the opportunity to attend the Young Artists and Writers Project retreat at Stony Brook University in Southampton.
- Pierson High School art students showcased fashion designs they created as part of a fashion workshop.
- Artwork by fourth-graders at Sag Harbor Elementary School was on display at the Parrish Art Museum.
- Due to their efforts on the stage and behind the curtain, Sag Harbor students were honored again this year with TEENY awards.
- The Pierson High School art program, in collaboration with the Sag Harbor Historical Society and the John Jermain Memorial Library, are exploring the works of Annie Cooper Boyd to inspire student art that will be showcased as an exhibition titled, "Across Time."

PROPOSED BUDGET REVENUES 2017-2018

	Voter-Approved 2016-17 Budget	Proposed 2017-18 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
SUMMARY OF STATE AID				
Foundation Aid	\$1,188,290	\$1,220,849	\$32,559	2.74%
Building Aid	\$163,312	\$163,313	\$1	0.00%
Transportation Aid	\$43,821	\$44,241	\$420	0.96%
BOCES Aid/Special Services Aid	\$172,123	\$131,159	(\$40,964)	-23.80%
Software/Library/Textbook Aid	\$80,478	\$79,133	(\$1,345)	-1.67%
High Cost Excess Cost/Private Excess Cost Aid	\$39,276	\$42,594	\$3,318	8.45%
High Tax Aid	\$165,430	\$165,430	\$0	0.00%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$140,000	\$150,000	\$10,000	7.14%
Out-of-District Tuition	\$440,000	\$450,000	\$10,000	2.27%
Charges for Services/Facilities Usage	\$249,281	\$250,000	\$719	0.29%
Grants, Interest, Miscellaneous Revenue	\$121,017	\$150,000	\$28,983	23.95%
General Fund Tax Levy	\$35,065,000	\$36,288,769	\$1,223,769	3.49%
Appropriation from ERS Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$405,961	\$271,622	(\$134,339)	-33.09%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$38,773,989	\$39,907,110	\$1,133,121	2.92%

Proposition 3: Window Replacement Using Capital Reserves

If approved, the third proposition on the May 16th ballot will allow the district to spend \$1.2 million from its existing Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of windows at the Sag Harbor Elementary School and Pierson Middle/High School.

The district currently holds building permits from the New York State Education Department for the project. However, the permits require that the funds necessary for the work be expended

before the permit expires in January 2018.

The approval of the proposition will not result in additional taxes for residents as the fund, which was approved by the community in 2011, was established and has been funded with the purpose of repairing and maintaining the district's facilities.

To spend the funds, the district, by law, is required to obtain taxpayer approval.



On the Ballot

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - Budget 2017-18

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sag Harbor Union Free School District, Sag Harbor, New York, be and is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year in the total amount of \$39,907,110.00 and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - Establish a Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund:

Shall the Board of Education of the Sag Harbor Union Free School District, pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, be authorized to establish a reserve fund to be known as the Transportation Fleet Capital Reserve Fund: that the purpose of the reserve fund shall be to finance, in whole or in part, the purchase of busses to replace and/or add to Sag Harbor's fleet of busses; that the reserve shall be in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000; that the probable term of the reserve fund shall be 15 years; and the reserve fund shall be funded by transferring the remaining balance from the School District's Sag Harbor Bus Fleet Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, which as previously established following the approval of a proposition by the voters of the School District on May 18, 2010, and, therefore, the reserve fund shall be funded in any year during the probable term, with such funds to be obtained from end of budget year surplus funds and/or budget appropriations.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 - Expend From Existing Facilities Capital Reserve Fund:

Shall the Board of Education of the Sag Harbor Union Free School District be authorized to undertake certain capital improvements consisting of window replacements at the Sag Harbor Elementary and Pierson Middle/High School at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$1,200,000 and to appropriate and expend such amount from the Facilities Capital Reserve Fund, which was previously established following approval of a proposition by the voters of the School District on May 17, 2011.



Elect Members to the Board of Education

To elect three (3) members of the Board of Education for three (3) year terms commencing July 1, 2017 and expiring on June 30, 2020.

Vote for any three (3) candidates:

Theresa M. Samot Sandi Kruel January Kerr Alex Kriegsman Diana Kolhoff

Sag Harbor Union Free School District

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