

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER

INNOVATIONS CONTINUE & SECURITY ENHANCED

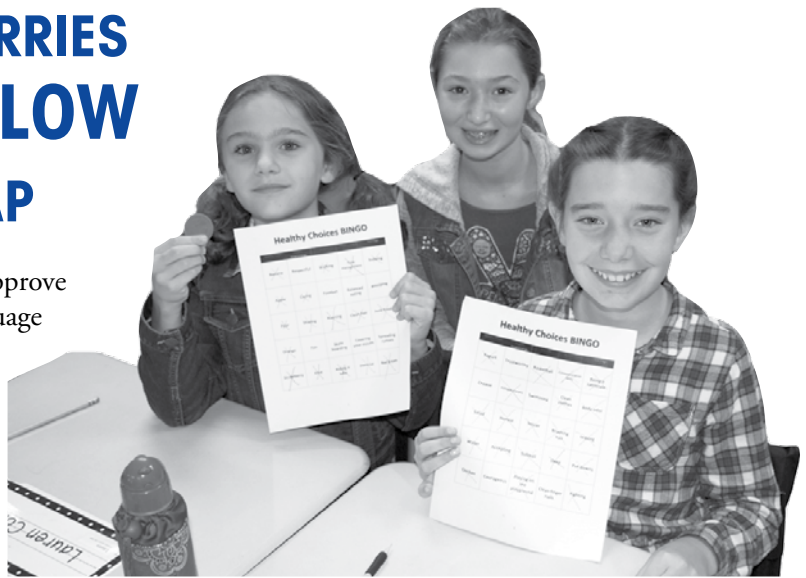
PROPOSED BUDGET CARRIES TAX LEVY INCREASE BELOW ALLOWABLE TAX CAP

The Bethpage Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget for 2018-19 that is 1.99% above last year's budget. That is less than the rate of inflation. The budget includes significant security enhancements, most notably the addition of a second Westech security guard at all three elementary schools and at JFK Middle School. The Board was mindful of the concerns raised by residents about deductions in the new federal tax law. The allowable tax levy cap for Bethpage under state guidelines is 3.95%, but the Board insisted it be brought in at a lower rate. The final tax levy will rise by 2.9%, as per the Board's directive.

There are also lots of instructional initiatives taking place. In early June we plan to cut the ribbon on the new STEM labs at each of our elementary schools. In the next

month the Board will approve a new English language arts series for all our K-5 classrooms for students to use starting in September (the current one is 10 years old). Two new courses are being added at Bethpage High School (AP Capstone Research and Financial Literacy). Over the summer, the high school baseball field will be completely renovated.

The Board of Education was grateful for all the input provided by residents regarding security after the tragedy in Parkland, Florida. We realize we need to do more in this area. A second proposition will be put before the voters asking permission to spend \$2.95 million from the existing capital reserve fund for security enhancements at all our schools. The capital



reserve fund is a special account that has funds already in it for building improvements. Spending money from it does not raise taxes; the money is simply withdrawn from this account. Under this plan, each school would get a secured vestibule at the main entrance, all new hardened classroom doors that contain bullet-resistant glass and automatic locking devices triggered by panic alarms, visitor management software and additional security cameras and technology infrastructure. In addition, the JFK parking lot

would get light poles installed to illuminate what is currently a dark and potentially dangerous situation, and Bethpage High School would get air conditioning in the student cafeterias (much like the elementary and middle schools received two years ago).

The Bethpage Board of Education has a reputation for providing innovative programs to students in the most cost-effective manner possible. The budget and the capital reserve proposition reflect those priorities.



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Residents,

As many of you are aware, Bethpage Schools have received multiple honors over the past few months. That is the result of a community that has worked together over the long course of time to always do what is best for children in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Newsday recently published the list of Reward Schools on Long Island and Bethpage High School was listed among them. These distinguished schools all have one thing in common – a very demanding academic program. In addition, we continue to be ranked by Newsweek as one of the best high schools in America. Niche.com lists the Bethpage School District among the finest in New York State. As a barometer of all of that, this year we had our first Regeneron Science Finalist with senior Smiti Shah becoming the first student in the school’s history to receive the most prestigious academic award in the country. The community has much to be proud of in our academic program.

However, as many of you have heard me say from time to time, the measure of a school should not just be how we performed on academic benchmarks. We have a robust program of offerings that enrich the lives of our students and enhance our community. Our Drama Department has put on terrific performances (I was honored to have a small part in the JFK production of “Annie!”) and we are excited for the Elementary School Drama production of “Madagascar” in a few weeks. I visited the Nassau County Art Supervisors Exhibition, where dozens of Bethpage students had artwork on display at Farmingdale State College. We love this time of year when we are able to attend musical concerts at all of our schools, and we have a large number of students performing at NYSSMA. A sure sign of spring is seeing the athletes reappear on the softball, baseball and lacrosse fields as well as the track. Our students have won a number of athletic awards this year and several have been noted for their sportsmanship. We will once again be hosting the Long Island Special Olympics this year as a result of our entire community turning out last year for what was a very rewarding day for the athletes and the volunteers.

As everyone knows, we have been able to do this with very low tax levies over the past three years (zero or less than zero). Because of a reduction in assessment awarded by Nassau County to Altice (Cablevision), our levy this

year is a bit larger than in years past. The Board of Education directed Administration to keep the levy as low as possible, but to preserve the quality of our educational programs. The budget will increase 1.99% for next year, less than the national rate of inflation. Under the relatively new rules governing property taxes, Bethpage had a tax levy cap of 3.95%. The Board of Education reviewed that and thought it was too high and brought it to 2.9%.

We appreciate the support provided to the school district by so many residents and civic organizations. This budget is quite lean, but will continue to permit our school district to be ranked among the best districts in the nation.

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Sincerely,

Terrence Clark
Superintendent of Schools



BETHPAGE IS THE PLACE TO BE

In addition to hosting many notable events this year, including a Google EDU event and the Battle at Bethpage Men’s NCAA lacrosse game, Bethpage will be hosting the Special Olympics on May 19.

LONG ISLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2018



Saturday May 19, 2018 • Bethpage High School

500 ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN
THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Track and Field
- Weightlifting
- Aquatics
- Tennis

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER:

<https://goo.gl/UL2eWM>



Security Improvements A PRIORITY

The district appreciated all the input provided to Superintendent Terrence Clark following the events in Parkland, Florida. Residents called or emailed Mr. Clark with ways to enhance security in our schools. A team of administrators researched every proposal submitted and reviewed them with the Board of Education at a public session in March.

Certain security measures were immediately implemented. Visitors to all the buildings already see that protocols for entering the buildings have been tightened up. Visitors (including parents) now have to buzz the intercom, announce their intention for the visit before being granted permission to enter and must leave any drop-off items (lunch, homework, instrument or athletic equipment) with the Security Guard at the front door. An additional Security Guard has been added to Bethpage High School. Students at the middle school and high school now have ID badges to assist us in identifying those who should not be in the building. We are waiting on security audits being completed by the Nassau County Police Department (who have been very helpful in this entire process).

The 2018-19 proposed budget contains funds to add a second Westech Security Guard in each elementary school and in our middle school. We plan to introduce a Visitor Management System that will require visitors to the buildings to have their licenses scanned for clearance to enter.

On May 15 voters will decide if we move forward with additional security measures contained in Proposition Two. The proposition asks for authorization to spend \$2.95 million from the Capital Reserve Fund to install vestibules (secure double doors/mantraps) at the entrance to each school, to replace every classroom door in the district with a hardened door with ballistic glass that will automatically lock when a building-wide panic button is pushed, to add additional cameras and technology infrastructure and to install much needed lighting in the middle school parking lot. HVAC would be installed in the Bethpage High School cafeterias.

All of these ideas and recommendations for improved security came from residents. Each was thoroughly vetted and discussed at our public session. Fortunately with good planning, the district has a reserve fund set up for school building improvements, so all of these enhancements can be done without raising funds through additional taxes. The Board of Education believes nothing is more important than the safety of our students and staff. Thanks to everyone who provided input.

Community Partners

The district is grateful for the community partnerships we have forged. Groups like PTA, PAL, Dads' Club, BBAI, Discovery, Bethpage Music Association, Kiwanis, Lions, Bethpage Athletic Camps, the Bethpage Senior Citizens and the Bethpage Educational Foundation all work with us to enrich the lives of our students. Their work is critical to our success. Our PTAs are dedicated to providing programs that concentrate on the whole child. The Dads' Club sponsors the annual National Honor Society night and the annual Athletic Dinner. Discovery provides a safe zone for students whose working parents need child care. The Bethpage Educational Foundation has provided innovative mini-grants for teachers, subsidized costly field trips and purchased cultural programs for all our schools. The Lion's Club donates dictionaries to every third-grader in the district and Kiwanis works with the Student Civic Association/Key Club on various community service projects. PAL works with us to engage students in athletics. BBAI helps to defray the costs of keeping up our ball fields. Bethpage Music Association constantly raises funds for student scholarships. The Bethpage Senior Citizens continually share their joy at the annual Senior Citizen Prom. Bethpage Athletic Camps donated funds to the Special Olympics. We are all fortunate to live in a community where civic organizations take such an active role in the schools and where everyone works together to better the education of our youngest residents.

21st Century Program Thrives

The 21st Century Scholars' Program is running in all five schools for students in grades 4-12. Each year, those seniors who have completed the program receive a scholarship from the Bethpage Educational Foundation. Equally important, they have completed a program that seeks to expand the boundaries of learning beyond the classroom. This year's participants have attended the Metropolitan Opera and various Broadway shows; completed the Hour of Code; completed workshops learning foreign languages and chess; learned to kayak; developed solutions to real-world problems through a workshop called Think Tank; participated in numerous book clubs and activities in collaboration with the Bethpage Public Library; engaged in new STEM workshops such as 3-D printing, Minecraft, Lego activities and "Going Green"; assisted in the community in numerous service activities; and went on many field trips, including college visits, the NY Hall of Science, Fire Island, FIRST Robotics competition, and the Vanderbilt Museum.

ACCEPTANCES Class of 2018

Adelphi University
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Albright College
American University
Baruch College of the CUNY
Binghamton University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Brooklyn College of the CUNY
Castleton University
Duke University
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Emerson College
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fordham University
George Mason University
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
Iona College
Ithaca College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Lehigh University
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Long Island University, Post
Loyola University Chicago
Maine College of Art
Marist College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount Manhattan College
Mercy College
Michigan State University
Misericordia University
Molloy College
Monmouth University
Monroe College
Mount Saint Mary College
Muhlenberg College
Nazareth College
New York Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Quinnipiac University
Rhode Island College
Rhode Island School of Design
Roger Williams University
Sacred Heart University
Salve Regina University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Southern Connecticut State University
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
State University of New York at Albany
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stony Brook University
SUNY College at Brockport/Cortland/
Geneseo/Old Westbury/Oneonta/
Potsdam/Oswego/Plattsburgh
Syracuse University
The College of Saint Rose
The George Washington University
The University of Iowa
The University of North Carolina
The University of Scranton
The University of Tampa
University at Buffalo
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Louisville
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Rhode Island
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
University of Vermont
Villanova University
West Virginia University
Western Connecticut State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

A High-Value School District

Our Academic Reputation...

Our district provides a quality education in academics, the arts, athletics, character education and community service.

- *Niche.com* rated Bethpage as one of the best school districts in New York State with outstanding rankings for our elementary, middle and high schools.
- Bethpage High School was designated a Reward School for the 2016-17 academic year for its high student performance on state assessments and overall academic progress.
- At No. 305 on the list, Bethpage High School has been ranked by *Newsweek* magazine as one of the top high schools in the nation.

STUDENTS MEETING/EXCEEDING STANDARDS ON HIGH SCHOOL REGENTS EXAMINATIONS

- 99.6% - Graduation Rate
- 98% - Regents Diploma Rate
- 78% of all BHS students who took AP exams received a 3 or better
- 99% Passed CC Algebra Regents
- 98% Passed U.S. History Regents
- 98% Passed Living Environment Regents

STUDENTS MEETING/EXCEEDING STANDARDS ON STATE ASSESSMENTS

- 99% Passed 4th Grade Science Assessment

ACADEMICS

- 130 current and former students earned AP Scholar awards for their performance on the May 2017 AP exams. This includes eight National AP Scholar Awards, 56 AP Scholar with Distinction Awards, and 20 AP Scholar with Honor Awards.
- One Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Bethpage High School had one semifinalist and one finalist named in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- BHS was named a High Performing School by the State Education Department.
- Google Chromebooks have been issued to all students in grades 3-12.
- The PPS ACE Program provides students with life skills and work experience.
- One student honored by the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- Districtwide bullying prevention programs are popular with our students.
- New course additions of Engineering, AP Capstone and Personal Finance.

ATHLETICS:

Veronica Scruggs,
Goalie of the Year



Conference AB Goalkeeper of the Year and earned All-County status for the 2017 season from the Nassau County Girls Soccer Coaches Association

MATHEMATICS:

Aurrel Bhatia, Ruchitha Channapatna, Suchitha Channapatna, Arsh Singh, Samar Singh and Theresa Thulasidas



Competed in local and regional math competitions, including the Long Island Math Fair and MathCon.

SUCCESS in All Areas

VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE:

Marco Cunha, Samantha D'Aponte, Nicole El Chami, Sal Salerno and Geoff Shamah

This team created the virtual pet technology company, PetPair and received the Gold Award for their employee manual and third place for their elevator pitch during a Virtual Enterprise Competition at LIU Post.



GEOGRAPHY:

Patrick Dircks,
JFK - Geography Bee Winner



After winning the class and school bee, he completed an online test and qualified to advance to the state finals.

SCIENCE:

Smiti Shah, a senior at Bethpage High School



Named a Regeneration Science Talent Search 2018 Scholar. The prestigious honor is also a landmark for the school, as she is the first Bethpage student to achieve this recognition since the inception of the school's science research program in 2011.

THE ARTS

- 54 All-County musicians and one All-State musician alternate.
- Nine Long Island String Festival Association participants.
- 27 Bethpage students were represented in the Art Supervisors Association All-County Exhibit.

ATHLETICS

- All 31 teams were designated Scholar-Athlete Teams due to their high academic averages.
- 72 All-Conference, All-Division, All-League and All-Class student-athletes.
- 35 All-County athletes.

PROPOSED 2018-19 SCHOOL BUDGET

Category	Approved Budget 2017-18	Proposed Budget 2018-19	\$ Difference	% Change
GENERAL SUPPORT				
Board of Education	\$96,465	\$99,561	\$3,096	3.21%
Central Administration	\$363,311	\$332,161	(\$31,150)	-8.57%
Finance	\$919,781	\$977,630	\$57,849	6.29%
Human Resources	\$898,186	\$813,576	(\$84,610)	-9.42%
Central Services	\$5,701,007	\$6,160,082	\$459,075	8.05%
Special Items	\$886,040	\$858,772	(\$27,268)	-3.08%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$8,864,790	\$9,241,782	\$376,992	4.25%
INSTRUCTION				
Instructional Administration	\$4,882,857	\$4,860,343	(\$22,514)	-0.46%
Teaching - Regular School	\$28,796,202	\$28,591,781	(\$204,421)	-0.71%
Special Apportionment Programs	\$10,345,598	\$10,148,521	(\$197,077)	-1.90%
Teaching - Special Schools/Adult Ed	\$34,663	\$36,805	\$2,142	6.18%
Instructional Media	\$1,853,521	\$1,967,108	\$113,587	6.13%
Pupil Services	\$4,215,695	\$4,409,746	\$194,051	4.60%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$50,128,536	\$50,014,304	(\$114,232)	-0.23%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION				
District Transportation Services	\$362,966	\$480,096	\$117,130	32.27%
District Garage	\$1,989	\$6,989	\$5,000	251.38%
Contract Transportation Services	\$3,139,614	\$3,289,717	\$150,103	4.78%
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$3,504,569	\$3,776,802	\$272,233	7.77%
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Civic Activities	\$11,855	\$11,800	(\$55)	-0.46%
Census	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$11,855	\$11,800	(\$55)	-0.46%
UNDISTRIBUTED - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
State Retirement - ERS	\$1,131,323	\$1,120,194	(\$11,129)	-0.98%
Teachers' Retirement - TRS	\$4,043,481	\$4,402,600	\$359,119	8.88%
Social Security	\$3,509,403	\$3,650,808	\$141,405	4.03%
Workers' Compensation	\$397,672	\$395,841	(\$1,831)	-0.46%
Unemployment Services	\$2,253	\$2,515	\$262	11.63%
Unemployment Insurance Reimbursement	\$16,380	\$15,600	(\$780)	-4.76%
Disability Insurance	\$53,849	\$54,555	\$706	1.31%
Hospital, Medical, Dental Insurance	\$8,580,853	\$9,411,150	\$830,297	9.68%
Teacher Benefit Trust Fund	\$372,897	\$396,000	\$23,103	6.20%
Other	\$118,220	\$116,000	(\$2,220)	-1.88%
SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$18,226,331	\$19,565,263	\$1,338,932	7.35%
UNDISTRIBUTED - DEBT SERVICE				
New Bond Construction (Principal & Interest)	\$2,083,175	\$2,080,625	(\$2,550)	-0.12%
Full-Day Kdgn (EXCEL) (Principal & Interest)	\$163,254	\$163,819	\$565	0.35%
Tax Anticipation Notes (Interest)	\$75,417	\$75,417	\$0	0%
SUBTOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$2,321,846	\$2,319,861	(\$1,985)	-0.09%
UNDISTRIBUTED - OTHER DEBT (SPECIFY)				
ESCO #1, #2 & #3 (Principal)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
ESCO #1, #2, & #3 (Interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
SUBTOTAL OTHER DEBT (SPECIFY)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
UNDISTRIBUTED - INTERFUND TRANSFERS				
Transfer to Special Aid & Cafeteria Funds	\$181,500	\$180,045	(\$1,455)	-0.80%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$330,000	\$120,000	(\$210,000)	-63.64%
SUBTOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$511,500	\$300,045	(\$211,455)	-41.34%
TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED	\$21,059,677	\$22,185,169	\$1,125,492	5.34%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$83,569,427	\$85,229,857	\$1,660,430	1.99%

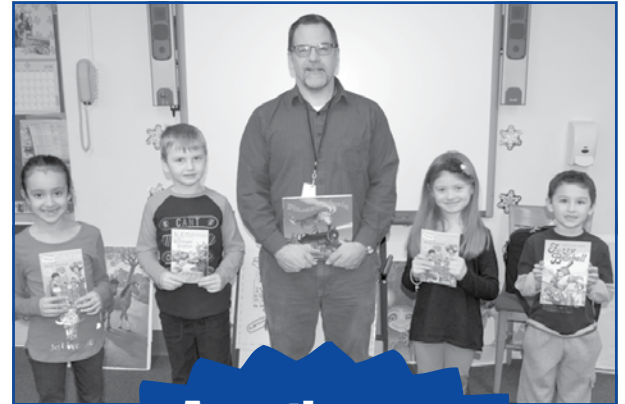
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT A CONTINGENCY BUDGET

If the proposed budget is not approved by the required margin, the district may resubmit the original budget or a revised budget to voters on the third Tuesday in June, OR adopt a contingency budget. If voters do not approve the proposed budget on the second vote, the district must adopt a contingency budget.

If the district is forced to adopt a contingency budget, it cannot increase its current tax levy by any amount, which would mean a zero percent tax levy increase. Approximately \$1,762,944 would need to be cut from the proposed budget.

Possible areas of reduction would include:

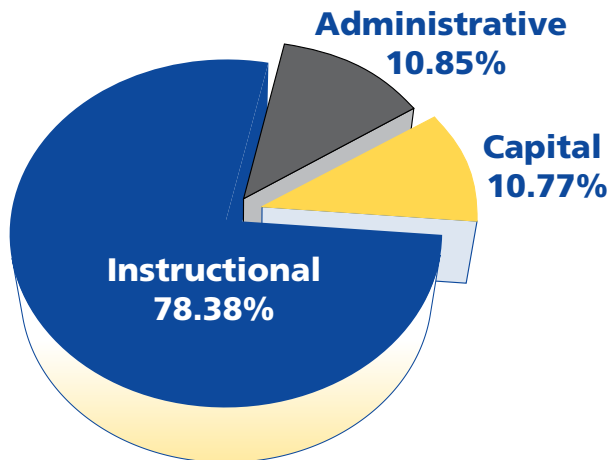
- All non-mandated programs and equipment (including the purchase of a new school bus and summer programs).
- Staffing - which would affect class sizes.
- Interscholastic athletics and extracurricular clubs/activities.
- Student supplies.
- Enrichment programs and continuing education programs.
- Computer hardware.
- Community use of school facilities.



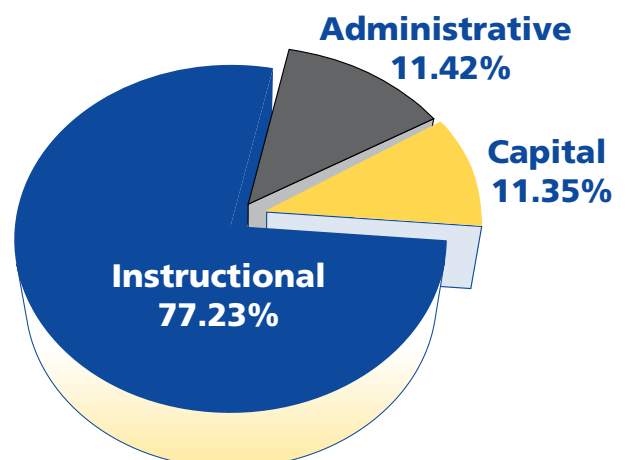
A contingency budget means more than \$1.7 million in cuts.

THREE-PART BUDGET EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS

2017-2018 Approved Budget



2018-2019 Proposed Budget



The State of New York requires all school districts to make available the proposed budget in three component parts: Administrative, Instructional Program, and Capital. Detailed copies of the expenditure budget are available in each school building, at the Bethpage Public Library, and on the web: www.bethpagecommunity.com.

"ADMINISTRATIVE CAP"	12.16%	12.88%		
BUDGET COMPONENT	2017-18 APPROVED BUDGET	2018-19 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$9,063,781	\$9,733,745	\$669,964	7.392%
INSTRUCTIONAL	\$65,504,108	\$65,823,113	\$319,005	0.487%
CAPITAL	\$9,001,538	\$9,672,999	\$671,461	7.459%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$83,569,427	\$85,229,857	\$1,660,430	1.99%

BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

Bethpage Union Free School District

Bethpage, NY 11714

Board of Education

Michael J. Kelly, *President*
Sandra Watson, *Vice President*
Anna Israelton, *Trustee*
John Lonardo, *Trustee*
James A. McGlynn, *Trustee*
Christina Scelta, *Trustee*
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Terrence Clark,
Superintendent of Schools
David Schneider,
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology
Caroline Lavelle,
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Scott Harrington,
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Patricia Hantzidiamantis, Ed.D.,
Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

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Bethpage, NY

VOTING INFORMATION

Budget Vote Tuesday, May 15, 2018

7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Bethpage High School Gymnasium

Qualifications for Voting:

You must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- Eighteen years of age or older.
- A resident of the district for a period of 30 or more days prior to the vote.
- Registered to vote with the school district or the Nassau County Board of Elections (provided that you voted in a school election during the four calendar years prior to the year for which such registration is being prepared).

Budget Vote Registration:

Any person who is not registered to vote in the general election is not eligible to vote in the school district election, but may do so by registering. Continuous voter registration is available during school hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. (only when school is open) at the Administration Building (District Clerk's Office). Note:

For the May 15 vote, you must register by Thursday, May 10.

Budget Hearing:

The district will conduct an official budget hearing on Tuesday, May 1 beginning at 8 p.m. at Bethpage High School (Little Theater).

Budget Vote:

Tuesday, May 15 from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Bethpage High School (Gymnasium). Parking in the rear of the building.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications may be obtained from the District Clerk in the Superintendent's Office at the Administration Building: 10 Cherry Avenue, Bethpage, or on the district's website (see address to right). All absentee ballots must be received in the District Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.



**More comprehensive
budget information is available
on the district website at
www.bethpagecommunity.com.**