

BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

Bethpage Union Free School District

Bethpage, NY 11714

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VOTING INFORMATION

Budget Vote Tuesday, May 20, 2014

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 20, 2014 vote, you must register by Thursday, May 15, 2014.

Budget Hearing:

The district will conduct an official budget hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 beginning at 8 p.m. at Bethpage High School (Little Theater).

Budget Vote:

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 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 below). 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.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

BETHPAGE

www.bethpagecommunity.com

BUDGET EDITION 2014

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER

LOWEST PROPOSED TAX LEVY INCREASE IN MORE THAN 25 YEARS

All Program Is Preserved:

- Current class size policy
- Google Chromebooks
- Elementary summer school (enrichment and remedial programs)
- Full-day kindergarten
- TGIF program for JFK and BHS
- 21st Century Scholars Program for all schools
- All clubs and extracurriculars for all schools
- Saturday Academic Intervention Service classes for all three elementary schools
- K-12 inclusion program
- Student transportation mileage policy
- Artist-in-residence programs for JFK and BHS (fine arts, Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera)
- Curriculum aligned with Common Core Learning Standards
- Districtwide anti-bully programs
- Staff development efforts in differentiated instruction, technology and anti-bullying
- Technology upgrades for all schools
- District summer school for special needs students
- Current transportation mileage
- Community use of facilities
- Programs for senior citizens

Bethpage School District, having received the highest score possible on this year's comptroller's stress test, is presenting a proposed 2014-15 school budget of \$80,364,954, which carries a 0.78% tax levy increase. Although this number reflects the lowest tax levy increase for Bethpage residents in more than 25 years, this budget preserves all existing programs, athletics and extracurricular activities. Due to the district's diligent planning and fiscal responsibility, the proposed budget also includes expansion of the Google Chromebooks initiative to include fourth-, fifth- and ninth-graders, a health initiative for grade nine, career development for students in IEP CDOS, and additional resources for Common Core implementation.

This year's May 20 vote will include a second proposition for permission to expend funds from the district's capital reserve fund. Established by voters as a savings account, the Board is seeking

Proposed Tax Levy Increase:
0.78%

Budget-to-Budget Increase:
2.32%

- **Lowest tax levy increase for Bethpage residents in more than 25 years.**
- **One of the lowest proposed tax levies in Nassau County.**

approval to utilize \$1,950,000 from the fund to complete necessary repairs and upgrades to facilities. A complete description of Proposition #2 and the specific work it will include is listed on page 2 of this newsletter. It is important to note, that passage of this proposition does not increase the tax rate.

As the budget vote approaches, the district would like to invite all residents to attend the budget hearing and any future Board meetings, as these provide an opportunity for taxpayers to ask questions about the proposed budget. You can also find budget information on the district's website at www.bethpagecommunity.com. See you at the polls on Tuesday, May 20.

BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 20 • 7 AM – 9 PM • BETHPAGE HS GYM



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Residents,

This is a very good year for the Bethpage taxpayer. In a year where we have had enormous academic success, we also have one of the lowest tax increases in Nassau County and one of the lowest increases in the entire history of the Bethpage School District. This is great news for all!

The Board of Education has adopted a budget that contains a tax levy increase of 0.78 percent. That's less than 1 percent.

The accolades achieved by our schools this year came from many sources. The State Education Department awarded its highest ranking, High Performance School, to Bethpage High School. The high school was also ranked by Newsweek as the 353rd Best High School in America (out of 26,000). I had the pleasure of going to Washington, D.C. with Kramer Lane Principal Kerri McCarthy and first-grade teacher Ms. Siegel to accept the prestigious federal Blue Ribbon Award for Kramer Lane Elementary School, which was one of only 286 schools in the nation to be recognized. What a historic moment for Bethpage! JFK Middle School was featured in dozens of local media outlets for its JFK Remembrance Day this past November. The news reports highlighted the research the students did on the presidency of John F. Kennedy using their new Chromebooks. The bully prevention programs at Charles Campagne and Central Boulevard elementary

schools were highlighted by all and praised by the PTA. As always, students in all five schools outperformed students across the state on all Regents and assessments – just as we have come to expect.

Given all this success, the Board of Education has directed us to continue all these programs and others such as 21st Century Scholars, expanding our Chromebook deployment, Robotics, our drama and fine arts programs, Bully Prevention Week, Fit and Fun, Argonauts and Science Research, as well as our rich offering of clubs and athletics in all the schools. This year we are doing so with one of the lowest tax increases in the long history of the Bethpage School District. Through careful fiscal management, the district was able to craft a budget that reflects these student-centric priorities and balances them with the needs of all taxpayers. The proposed budget preserves the academic, athletic and extracurricular programs for students that are critical to a 21st-century education, including elementary summer school, full-day kindergarten and maintenance of our class size policy.

We are all fortunate to live and work in a community that prioritizes education and children. I am delighted that this budget is able to provide such a rich learning environment with a historically low tax increase.

Sincerely,

Terrence Clark
Superintendent of Schools

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSITION #2

A capital reserve fund is essentially a savings account school districts establish for capital work. The current fund was established in May 2008 following a supportive public vote on its creation. Since the account was created by the public, use of the monies from the account need to be approved by the public. Proposition #2 seeks approval for the Board to expend \$1,950,000 for the following projects:

- HVAC in all five buildings.
- New public address system for JFK.
- Fix drainage issue at BHS.
- Replacement of the mechanical wall in the BHS gym with a curtain.
- Resurfacing the track.
- Upgrades to the technology network.

- Mechanized window openers at schools that do not have them and window tinting, where needed.
- HVAC in wrestling room at BHS.
- Renovations to the BHS senior courtyard.

Approval of this proposition will address our priority capital improvement needs districtwide, which are items that need to be addressed in order to maintain our taxpayers' investment in the buildings and keep our facilities up to the highest safety standards.

This proposition is NOT for permission to borrow funds. It is for permission to expend funds the district has already saved for the purpose of capital improvement work.

Cost Savings and Efficiencies

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS...

The district continuously seeks alternative revenue sources. Grants and scholarships provide a great opportunity to make enhancements that would otherwise create a fiscal challenge. To date, the district has received millions in grant monies. A few recent ones include:

- \$4,000 from the Bethpage Educational Foundation for the districtwide fitness initiative.
- \$75,000 from Senator Kemp Hannon and Assemblyman Charles Lavine for the purchase of Chromebooks.
- \$2,500 from NYSIR to support Athletes Helping Athletes.
- \$7,500 from Legislator Rose Walker for security cameras at the football stadium.
- \$3,300 from BBAI for a new batting cage.

LEGAL SAVINGS...

The district has combined legal services, resulting in savings of \$70,000 per year.

ENERGY EFFICIENCIES...

Energy Service Company (ESCO) Project:

The district anticipates the completion of the second ESCO Program projects this summer, which include solar heating panels to assist in heating the pool water and photovoltaic panels for electricity consumption. This will result in further heating and electrical bill reductions and will harness the energy of the sun. Students will also benefit by learning about solar energy.

Fuel Oil to Gas Conversion:

The recent conversion from fuel oil to gas at BHS provided significant savings during this past winter. The district looks forward to continued savings once all of the projects are completed.

Conversion from Xerox to Lexmark Printers:

This year to date, the district has seen a \$140,000 savings as a result of switching to Lexmark printing systems. This system is completely electronic and puts quotas on the amount each teacher can print, resulting in both paper reduction and ink savings for the district.



Fiscal Fitness

The Bethpage School District prides itself on its fiscal prudence. The state comptroller gave us his highest score on the recent stress test. Credit agencies like Moody's continue to endorse our practices and our Aa2 rating. There are tangible savings that result from these positive ratings. Much like a homeowner looking to refinance and take advantage of low interest rates, the district had bid out existing bonds from past capital projects to try to get a lower interest rate and save money – and the results were dramatic. We went from an average rate of 4 percent to 1.4 percent, saving us more than \$100,000 per year. This has helped us achieve the proposed tax levy, which is the lowest in 25 years. The district finds itself in a stronger fiscal position than many New York school districts.

Frequently *Asked* Questions

Q. What is the proposed budget increase, and is the proposed budget within the new New York State tax levy cap legislation?

A. The proposed budget, with a budget-to-budget increase of 2.32%, is within the district's tax levy cap.

Q. What does the proposed budget support?

A. The proposed budget will maintain the instructional programs for all schools. It also supports the Common Core, PARCC, TGIF, 21st Century Scholars, clubs and extracurricular activities, Robotics, the K-12 inclusion program, artist-in-residence programs,

security enhancements and full-day kindergarten. The district's class size policy remains unchanged.

Q. What are the implications of a contingency budget?

A. A contingency budget would approximate a reduction of nearly \$2.5 million or negative 3.09% from the proposed budget. The district would be required to eliminate certain expenses by law. Likely reductions would be made in the following areas: instructional and non-instructional staff and programs, athletics, co-curricular activities, after-school programs, the continuing education program, capital work funded

from the operating budget, community use of facilities, and any additional expenditure reductions as deemed necessary by the Board of Education to comply with legal requirements.

Q. Where can I find additional budget information, and where do I vote?

A. Additional information about the proposed budget can be found on the district's website www.bethpagecommunity.com. Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.



Security Is a Priority

The Bethpage School District considers student and staff security to be our highest priority. It is our responsibility to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children. This budget builds on the work done this year using past capital reserve project funding. We have installed door access devices at all buildings and limited the entrances, and are in the process of installing additional cameras for each building. We also have new, enhanced communication devices and a new means of instantly notifying the police of emergencies. The budget builds on the technical infrastructure for security and maintains all security personnel, including the Westech guards in each building and our own security force that paroles after school and on weekends. We will continue to be vigilant in our concern for safety.



Community Partners

The district is grateful for the community partnerships it has forged. Groups like the PTA, PAL, Dads' Club, BBAI, Discovery, Bethpage Association of Music, Kiwanis, Lions, Bethpage Athletic Camps, Bethpage Senior Citizens and Bethpage Educational Foundation all work with us to enrich the lives of our students, and their work is critical to our success. For example, BBAI recently donated a batting cage to Bethpage High School. Moms and Dads for Music raised funds to offset the cost of trips for our students. 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 of our schools. The Bethpage Senior Citizens have a special bond with our cheerleaders and love the reciprocation shown at the annual Senior Citizen Prom. The PTA helped organize our annual Parent Academy. Bethpage Athletic Camps paid for our Astronomy Night. Dads' Club sponsors the annual National Honor Society night and the annual Athletic Dinner. We are 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 as important, they have completed a program that seeks to expand the boundaries of learning beyond the classroom. At a time when too many educators across the nation are focused on assessments, the 21st Century Scholars' Program provides unique learning opportunities for the students of Bethpage.

This year students, participated in various literature circles, made visits to colleges, attended workshops at the United Nations, heard about careers from ESPN announcers, toured Citi Field, attended the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic and various Broadway shows, and participated in many hours of community service ranging from beach cleanups to our annual Senior Citizen Prom. The goal of the program is to prepare students for the world beyond the classroom, and the district is fortunate that it will continue into the next school year.

Class of 2014

WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

Adelphi University
Arizona State University
Barrett, The Honors College
Baruch College of the CUNY
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Buffalo State College
Case Western Reserve Univ.
Drexel University
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
Iona College
Ithaca College
Le Moyne College
Lehigh University
LIU Post
Loyola University
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.
Mississippi State University
Molloy College
Mount Saint Mary College
NY Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Norwich University
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Rutgers
Sacred Heart University
Salisbury University
Seton Hall University
Siena College
St. John's University
St. Joseph's College
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY at Albany
SUNY at New Paltz
Stony Brook University
SUNY College at Brockport
SUNY College at Cortland
SUNY College at Oneonta
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Oswego
The University of Arizona
The University of Scranton
The University of Tampa
University of Massachusetts
University of Virginia
Villanova University
Worcester Polytechnic

Your Tax Dollars at Work

A High-Value School District

STUDENTS MEETING/EXCEEDING STANDARDS ON HIGH SCHOOL REGENTS EXAMINATIONS:

- 99% - Graduation Rate
- 96% - Regents Diploma Rate
- 99% - Living Environment (Science)
- 97% - U.S. History
- 93% - English
- 99% - Integrated Algebra (Formerly Math A)

STUDENTS MEETING/EXCEEDING STANDARDS ON STATE ASSESSMENTS:

- Third-grade students were #6 in Nassau County on the ELA assessment.
- Grades 3-8 scored consistently in the top one-third of Nassau County overall on every state exam.

ACADEMICS

- 36 current students at Bethpage High School earned AP Scholar Awards for their performance on the May 2013 AP exams.
- Three Commended Students in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Bethpage High School had one National Merit Semifinalist and one National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar this year.
- BHS was named a High Performing School by the State Education Department.
- Google Chromebooks have been issued to all students in grades six through eight.
- The PPS ACE Program provides students with life skills and work experience.

- 21st Century Program implemented districtwide.
- Districtwide Bully Prevention Programs.
- Continued increase in AP and college course participation.

THE ARTS

- 39 All-County musicians
- 10 Long Island String Festival Association participants
- Over 200 students performed NYSSMA solos and performed at the All-State Music Festival.
- One Award of Excellence winner was named at the Art League of Long Island's annual exhibit of AP work.
- 27 Bethpage students were represented in the Art Supervisors Association All-County Exhibit with one Senior Scholarship Winner.

ATHLETICS

- Two News 12-featured Scholar Athletes of the Week.
- Boys Volleyball, Girls Bowling, Wrestling, Gymnastics and Boys Swim teams were all conference champions for the 2013-14 seasons.
- 18 out of 19 teams have been designated as Scholar-Athlete Teams due to their high academic averages.
- The Gymnastics Team was named the #1 Scholar-Athlete Team in New York State for having the highest average.

Our Academic Reputation...

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

- Kramer Lane Elementary School was honored by U.S. Department of Education as a National 2013 Blue Ribbon School Award Winner as an "Exemplary High Performing School."
- Bethpage High School has been designated a Reward School for the 2013-14 academic year for its high student performance on state assessments and overall academic progress.
- At #353 on the list, Newsweek Magazine has ranked Bethpage High School as one of the top in the nation.

Our Facilities...

Our buildings continue to be the envy of neighboring communities.

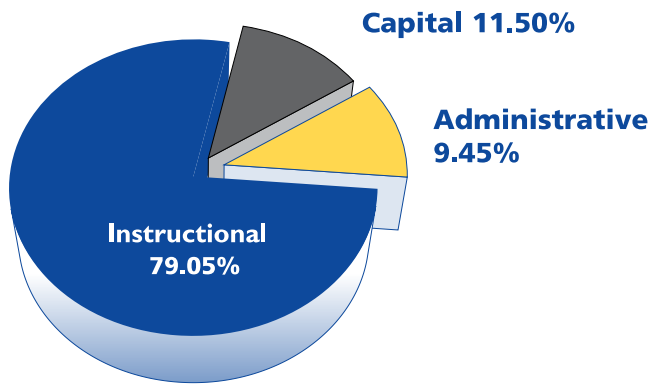
- Thanks to the Town of Oyster Bay, the BHS Athletic Complex was able to host another major NCAA lacrosse game. More than \$30,000 in proceeds went to the Bethpage Educational Foundation, which supports educational programs in our schools.
- Bethpage Baseball continues to donate funds to upgrade our ball fields.
- Our cafeteria program is cost-effective and profitable, allowing us to upgrade dining and kitchen facilities, as well as equipment, at no cost to the taxpayers.
- The proposed budget continues the revitalization of our infrastructure that began 11 years ago.

SCHOOL BUDGET: 2014-15

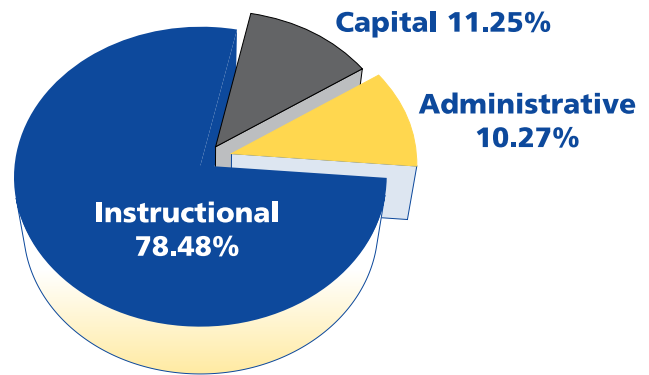
Category	Approved Budget 2013-14	Proposed Budget 2014-15	\$ Difference	% Change
GENERAL SUPPORT				
Board of Education	\$88,435	\$87,503	(\$932)	-1.05%
Central Administration	\$380,446	\$401,920	\$21,474	5.64%
Finance	\$888,930	\$904,818	\$15,888	1.79%
Staff	\$1,105,138	\$934,434	(\$170,704)	-15.45%
Central Services	\$5,459,103	\$5,552,974	\$93,871	1.72%
Special Items	\$833,375	\$852,664	\$19,289	2.31%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$8,755,427	\$8,734,313	(\$21,114)	-0.24%
INSTRUCTION				
Instructional Administration	\$4,000,970	\$4,261,380	\$260,410	6.51%
Teaching - Regular School	\$25,792,120	\$26,742,868	\$950,748	3.69%
Special Apportionment Programs	\$9,038,469	\$9,360,416	\$321,947	3.56%
Teaching - Special Schools/Adult Ed	\$46,425	\$44,215	(\$2,210)	-4.76%
Instructional Media	\$1,629,707	\$1,678,757	\$49,050	3.01%
Pupil Services	\$3,904,295	\$3,835,267	(\$69,028)	-1.77%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$44,411,986	\$45,922,903	\$1,510,917	3.40%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION				
District Transportation Services	\$388,175	\$332,856	(\$55,319)	-14.25%
District Garage	\$8,435	\$6,500	(\$1,935)	-22.94%
Contract Transportation Services	\$3,360,862	\$3,268,135	(\$92,727)	-2.76%
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$3,757,472	\$3,607,491	(\$149,981)	-3.99%
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Civic Activities	\$11,400	\$11,000	(\$400)	-3.51%
Census	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$11,400	\$11,000	(\$400)	-3.51%
UNDISTRIBUTED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
State Retirement-ERS	\$1,599,465	\$1,417,991	(\$181,474)	-11.35%
Teacher Retirement-TRS	\$5,763,018	\$6,436,083	\$673,065	11.68%
Social Security	\$3,285,743	\$3,302,116	\$16,373	0.50%
Workers' Compensation	\$359,292	\$384,083	\$24,791	6.90%
Life Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Unemployment Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0%
Unemployment Insurance Reimbursement	\$51,590	\$35,000	(\$16,590)	-32.16%
Disability Insurance	\$65,559	\$67,396	\$1,837	2.80%
Hospital, Medical, Dental Insurance	\$7,102,352	\$7,063,555	(\$38,797)	-0.55%
Teacher Benefit Trust Fund	\$353,670	\$355,305	\$1,635	0.46%
Other	\$5,000	\$3,000	(\$2,000)	-40.0%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$18,590,689	\$19,069,529	\$478,840	2.58%
DEBT SERVICE				
Existing Debt (Principal & Interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
New Bond Construction (Principal & Interest)	\$2,078,925	\$2,076,025	(\$2,900)	-0.14%
Full-Day Kdgn (EXCEL) (Interest)	\$164,238	\$165,422	\$1,184	0.72%
Tax Anticipation Notes (Interest)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$2,293,163	\$2,291,447	(\$1,716)	-0.07%
INSTALLMENT: LEASE/PURCHASE				
Playgrounds (Principal & Interest)	\$30,400	\$30,401	\$1	0%
TOTAL INSTALLMENT	\$30,400	\$30,401	\$1	0%
OTHER DEBT				
ESCO (Principal)	\$350,612	\$357,309	\$6,697	
ESCO (Interest)	\$75,658	\$68,961	(\$6,697)	
TOTAL OTHER DEBT	\$426,270	\$426,270	\$0	0%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS				
Transfer to Special Aid & Cafeteria Funds	\$125,075	\$131,600	\$6,525	5.22%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0	0%
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$265,075	\$271,600	\$6,525	2.46%
TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED	\$21,605,597	\$22,089,247	\$483,650	2.24%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$78,541,882	\$80,364,954	\$1,823,072	2.321%

THREE-PART BUDGET EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS

2013-2014 Approved Budget



2014-2015 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"	10.678%	11.571%		
BUDGET COMPONENT	2013-14 APPROVED BUDGET	2014-15 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$7,422,752	\$8,252,963	\$830,211	11.185%
INSTRUCTIONAL	\$62,090,399	\$63,073,425	\$983,026	1.583%
CAPITAL	\$9,028,731	\$9,038,566	\$9,835	0.109%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$78,541,882	\$80,364,954	\$1,823,072	2.321%

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT A CONTINGENCY BUDGET

Under new legislation, a school district that adopts a contingency budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount, which would mean a zero percent tax levy increase. Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year budget, is in effect through at least 2016-2017. Therefore, this tax levy restriction remains in effect only as long as regulation and control of residential rents and evictions (i.e., rent control) laws are in place. Chapter 97 leaves the current contingency budget requirements/restrictions in place. Under a contingency budget, expenditures are subject to a contingent budget cap, an administrative cap is in effect, and non-contingent expenses are removed.

Q. What happens if the proposed budget is not approved by voters?

A. 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. The district will not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent necessary to fund items of expenditures excluded from the tax cap. No growth factor, capital, court order/judgments or pension exemptions can be included.

Q. What reductions would be included in a contingency budget?

A. Under a contingency budget, programmatic spending would be greatly restricted. If the Board were to further reduce the current proposed budget, the district's programs would be negatively impacted. Budget cuts of approximately \$2.5 million or negative 3.09% would have to be made to reach the contingency budget cap. Areas that could be affected include, but are not limited to, the following non-contingent appropriations:

- All non-mandated programs
- Interscholastic athletics
- After-school extracurricular activities/clubs
- Student supplies
- Enrichment programs
- Class size
- Staffing
- Summer school
- Computer hardware
- Transportation (i.e., field trips, etc.)
- Continuing education
- Community use of school facilities
- Overtime/certain salary increases