

# BETHPAGE

www.bethpagecommunity.com

BUDGET EDITION 2017

## Union Free School District

### NEWSLETTER

### THE TREND CONTINUES:

## SECOND NEGATIVE TAX LEVY IN A ROW

Due to the district's diligent planning and fiscal responsibility, the proposed 2017-18 school budget includes all existing programs and extracurricular activities while carrying a projected tax levy DECREASE for residents.

In fact, we have actually added to our offerings, including the return of seventh-grade sports, the addition of AP Capstone at the high school and the hiring of teaching assistants for the new STEM labs. This budget also includes a small increase in transportation for students, as we have altered the point from which we measure for those eligible for transportation and added an early bus pickup for elementary and middle school students.

The district would like to invite all residents to attend the budget hearing on May 2 to ask questions about the proposed budget.

Detailed budget information can be found on the district's website.



# -0.11%

Tax Levy Decrease

#### FOUR YEAR HISTORY OF TAX LEVY

2014-15	.....	0.78%
2015-16	.....	0.00%
2016-17	.....	-0.17%
2017-18	.....	-0.11%

#### PROPOSITION #2:

#### FIREFIIGHTERS & VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE EXEMPTION

The Board of Education is seeking public input on whether to provide a 10% tax exemption to eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. This exemption would also provide a lifetime exemption of 10% to those with 20-years or more of service, which could be extended to an eligible un-remarried spouse of a deceased lifetime member. The exemption, if approved by voters, would take affect in the 2018-19 school year.

Public input is being sought, as providing a tax break to the volunteers would form a redistribution of the tax burden to other Bethpage School District taxpayers who are not receiving the exemption.

#### PROPOSITION #3:

#### VETERANS EXEMPTION

The Board of Education is seeking public input on whether to provide the Alternative Veterans Exemption and Cold War Veterans Exemption to eligible community members. The exemption varies in percentages based upon status of the eligible person, and may in some cases be carried over to the person's family. If approved by voters, it would take affect in the 2018-19 school year.

Again, a public input is being sought, as providing a tax break to the veterans would form a redistribution of the tax burden to other Bethpage School District taxpayers who are not receiving the exemption.

# BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 16  
7 AM - 9 PM • Bethpage HS Gym



# MESSAGE

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Residents,

This has been another terrific year for the Bethpage School District. As you may have already read, recently 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! In addition, Newsweek magazine ranked Bethpage HS as #305 in the nation. This year we have made it a point to hear from students at our monthly Board meetings about their school projects and our audiences have been impressed with the depth of the programs that are allowing our students to excel.

As you read on the first page of this newsletter, we are accomplishing all these academic achievements while DECREASING the tax levy for the second year in a row. That means we are running the district with less tax dollars than we did last year or the year before! And the year before that we had a zero percent increase. So over the past three years, the tax levy has gone DOWN an accumulated 0.28%. That really is quite remarkable.

These reductions are historic. At the same time, the Board of Education has insisted on enhancements to our academic and extracurricular offerings. This budget restores 7th grade athletic teams that were eliminated several years ago due to budget issues. The budget also will change the transportation measuring points for our elementary schools. We will now measure to the front door of our schools rather than to the various openings to our property lines which was burdensome for some students. In anticipation of our STEM labs for elementary schools, the budget contains funding for a science teaching assistant for Central Blvd., Kramer Lane and Charles Campagne Schools. At Bethpage High School, a new Advanced Placement course called Capstone that engages students in intense research will be introduced.

While we are doing very well academically, we are equally proud of our programs designed to promote the well-being of all children. Our 21st Century Scholars' Program is unique in its offerings for students to step out of their comfort zone and try new things. Our Bully Prevention Program has been singled out as exemplary. Our Robotics Program recently won the coveted and prestigious Chairman's Award for the spirit of assisting other teams and serving as a model program. Our Kickline team came back from national competition with performance awards, but equally important with a National Sportsmanship Award. So far this year, every varsity team has been designated a Scholar Athlete team, meaning as a team they have a 90 average or better on their report cards.

During the spring season, I had the privilege of attending the County Art Exhibition where I was able to see K-12 works of art by Bethpage students on display at Farmingdale College. I thoroughly enjoyed the recent productions of "Shrek" at the Middle School and "Once Upon a Mattress" at the High School. I cannot wait to see High School Musical as performed by our district Elementary Drama Club. The season is also full of wonderful concerts by talented Bethpage musicians and performers.

One of the biggest events will be taking place on May 20 when Bethpage hosts the Long Island Special Olympics at Bethpage High School. After seeing how we successfully handled the Battle at Bethpage games over the past several years as well as seeing our Challenger Basketball team play before a huge home crowd, Special Olympics asked us to host this great event. We are thrilled and appreciate how many volunteers came forth to assist us. It is going to be a great day for the athletes and for our entire community.

We live and work in a very special place. It really is extraordinary that all this is happening as the tax levy has gone down yet again!

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 20.

### LONG ISLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2017



Saturday May 20, 2017 • Bethpage High School

#### 600 ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Track and Field
- Weightlifting
- Aquatics
- Tennis

#### FEATURING:

- Opening Ceremony
- Mike Brannigan, 1500-Meter Rio Paralympic Gold Medalist to Carry Torch
- Olympic Village of Vendors
- Marching Band

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## A High-Value School District

### Class of 2017 ACCEPTANCES

Amherst College  
 Bloomsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Brandeis University  
 Bryant University  
 City College of New York CUNY  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Colgate University  
 College of Mount Saint Vincent  
 Cornell University  
 Duke University  
 East Stroudsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Fordham University  
 Gettysburg College  
 Hartwick College  
 Hawaii Pacific University  
 High Point University  
 Hofstra University  
 Ithaca College  
 James Madison University  
 Johnson & Wales University  
 Loyola University Maryland  
 Manhattan College  
 Marist College  
 Marshall University  
 Marymount Manhattan College  
 Mercy College  
 Miami University, Oxford  
 Michigan State University  
 Misericordia University  
 Monmouth University  
 Mount Saint Mary College  
 New York Institute of Technology  
 Northeastern University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Providence College  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Roger Williams University  
 St. John's University  
 Stevens Institute of Technology  
 Stony Brook University  
 SUNY College at Cortland  
 SUNY College at Oneonta  
 SUNY Fredonia  
 SUNY Maritime College  
 The University of Alabama  
 The University of Scranton  
 The University of Tampa  
 Tulane University  
 United States Naval Academy  
 University at Buffalo The State University of New York  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Kentucky  
 University of Mary Washington  
 University of Maryland, College Park  
 University of South Carolina  
 Univ. of Toronto Undergraduate  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology  
 Villanova University  
 Virginia Tech  
 Wesleyan University  
 West Virginia University  
 Yale University

### 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 2015-16 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

- 100% - Graduation Rate
- 99% - Regents Diploma Rate
- 99% - Living Environment (Science)
- 98% - U.S. History
- 97% - English
- 96% - Integrated Algebra I

### STUDENTS MEETING/EXCEEDING STANDARDS ON STATE ASSESSMENTS

- Grades 3-8 consistently scoring in the top 15 of Nassau County in ELA and math.

### ACADEMICS

- Five students earned National AP Scholar Awards, 52 earned AP Scholar with Distinction Awards, 28 earned AP Scholar with Honor Awards and 66 earned AP Scholar Awards for their performance on the May 2016 AP exams.
- Four Commended Students in the 2016 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 3-11.
- The PPS ACE Program provides students with life skills and work experience.
- Improving SAT and ACT scores.

- Districtwide bullying prevention programs are popular with our students.
- Continued increase in AP and college course participation.

### THE ARTS

- 55 All-County musicians, four All-State musicians and one All-National musician.
- Eight Long Island String Festival Association participants.
- Twenty-seven Bethpage students were represented in the Art Supervisors Association All-County Exhibit, with one Senior Scholarship Winner.

### ATHLETICS

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



# PROPOSED 2017-18 SCHOOL BUDGET

Category	Approved Budget 2016-17	Proposed Budget 2017-18	\$ Difference	% Change
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>				
Board of Education	\$95,556	\$96,465	\$909	0.95%
Central Administration	\$414,112	\$363,311	(\$50,801)	-12.27%
Finance	\$949,352	\$919,781	(\$29,571)	-3.11%
Human Resources	\$864,111	\$898,186	\$34,075	3.94%
Central Services	\$5,982,100	\$ 5,701,007	(\$281,093)	-4.70%
Special Items	\$887,037	\$886,040	(\$997)	-0.11%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$9,192,268</b>	<b>\$8,864,790</b>	<b>(\$327,478)</b>	<b>-3.56%</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>				
Instructional Administration	\$4,763,741	\$4,882,857	\$119,116	2.50%
Teaching - Regular School	\$28,349,112	\$28,796,202	\$447,090	1.58%
Special Apportionment Programs	\$9,679,250	\$10,345,598	\$666,348	6.88%
Teaching - Special Schools/Adult Ed	\$35,771	\$34,663	(\$1,108)	-3.10%
Instructional Media	\$1,791,488	\$1,853,521	\$62,033	3.46%
Pupil Services	\$4,045,160	\$4,215,695	\$170,535	4.22%
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$48,664,522</b>	<b>\$50,128,536</b>	<b>\$1,464,014</b>	<b>3.01%</b>
<b>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>				
District Transportation Services	\$355,608	\$362,966	\$7,358	2.07%
District Garage	\$1,989	\$1,989	\$0	0.00%
Contract Transportation Services	\$3,268,183	\$3,139,614	(\$128,569)	-3.93%
<b>TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$3,625,780</b>	<b>\$3,504,569</b>	<b>(\$121,211)</b>	<b>-3.34%</b>
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>				
Civic Activities	\$12,571	\$11,855	(\$716)	-5.70%
Census	\$24,883	\$0	(\$24,883)	100.00%
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>\$37,454</b>	<b>\$11,855</b>	<b>(\$25,599)</b>	<b>-68.35%</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>				
State Retirement - ERS	\$1,121,821	\$1,131,323	\$9,502	0.85%
Teachers' Retirement - TRS	\$4,664,854	\$4,043,481	(\$621,373)	-13.32%
Social Security	\$3,517,718	\$3,509,403	(\$8,315)	-0.24%
Workers' Compensation	\$404,087	\$397,672	(\$6,415)	-1.59%
Unemployment Services	\$1,960	\$2,253	\$293	14.95%
Unemployment Insurance Reimbursement	\$26,000	\$16,380	(\$9,620)	-37.00%
Disability Insurance	\$55,931	\$53,849	(\$2,082)	-3.72%
Hospital, Medical, Dental Insurance	\$7,773,113	\$8,580,853	\$807,740	10.39%
Teacher Benefit Trust Fund	\$370,250	\$372,897	\$2,647	0.71%
Other	\$2,220	\$118,220	\$116,000	5225.23%
<b>SUBTOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$17,937,954</b>	<b>\$18,226,331</b>	<b>\$288,377</b>	<b>1.61%</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED - DEBT SERVICE</b>				
New Bond Construction (Principal & Interest)	\$2,078,625	\$2,083,175	\$4,550	0.22%
Full-Day Kdgn (EXCEL) (Principal & Interest)	\$162,482	\$163,254	\$772	0.48%
Tax Anticipation Notes (Interest)	\$60,000	\$75,417	\$15,417	25.70%
<b>SUBTOTAL DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>\$2,301,107</b>	<b>\$2,321,846</b>	<b>\$20,739</b>	<b>0.90%</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED - OTHER DEBT (SPECIFY)</b>				
ESCO #1, #2 & #3 (Principal)	\$40,144	\$0	(\$40,144)	
ESCO #1, #2, & #3 (Interest)	\$22,050	\$0	(\$22,050)	
<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER DEBT (SPECIFY)</b>	<b>\$62,194</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$62,194)</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED - INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>				
Transfer to Special Aid & Cafeteria Funds	\$130,304	\$181,500	\$51,196	39.29%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$200,000	\$330,000	\$130,000	65.00%
<b>SUBTOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$330,304</b>	<b>\$511,500</b>	<b>\$181,196</b>	<b>54.86%</b>
<b>TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>\$20,631,559</b>	<b>\$21,059,677</b>	<b>\$428,118</b>	<b>2.08%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$82,151,583</b>	<b>\$83,569,427</b>	<b>\$1,417,844</b>	<b>1.7259%</b>



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT A CONTINGENCY BUDGET

A negative tax levy cap is a unique and valuable situation for residents: not only may taxpayers see a small decrease in their school taxes next year, but it creates a real anomaly in the event of a defeated budget.

If the community does not pass this proposed budget with 50% plus one of the votes, the Board of Education will be

forced to consider holding a second vote in June, or going to a contingency budget.

In this year with a tax levy cap of -0.11%, a contingency budget will actually allow the district to keep the tax levy at exactly the same number that it was last year. This would translate to a 0% tax levy increase for residents, which is **higher** than the -0.11% that is being proposed.

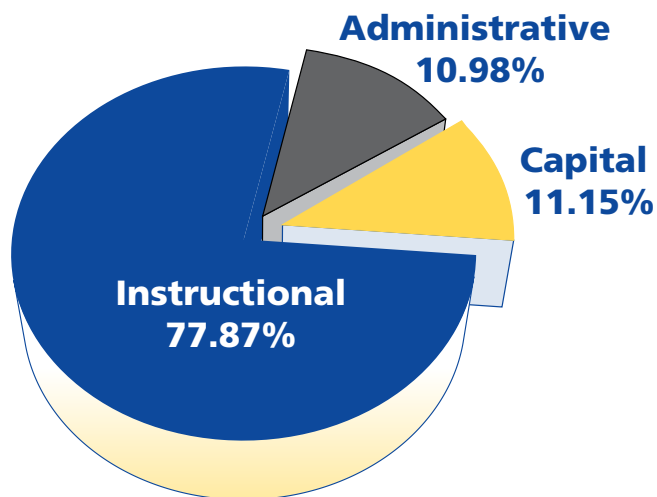
Yes, you are reading that correctly. *A contingency budget could cost the taxpayers more money than the proposed budget.*

A contingency budget would also set certain restrictions on district expenditures and would negatively affect the supplies and equipment we can provide to our students next year.

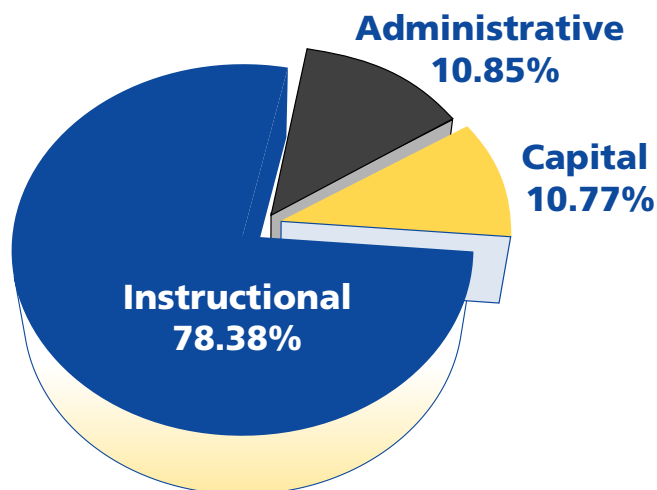


## THREE-PART BUDGET EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS

2016-2017 Approved Budget



2017-2018 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](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com).

"ADMINISTRATIVE CAP"	12.360%	12.155%		
BUDGET COMPONENT	2016-17 APPROVED BUDGET	2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$9,022,353	\$9,063,781	\$41,428	0.459%
INSTRUCTIONAL	\$63,973,589	\$65,504,108	\$1,530,519	2.392%
CAPITAL	\$9,155,641	\$9,001,538	(\$154,103)	-1.683%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$82,151,583</b>	<b>\$83,569,427</b>	<b>\$1,417,844</b>	<b>1.7259%</b>



## FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This year's budget is once again good news for the Bethpage taxpayer. The tax levy, the amount of money the school district collects from residents and businesses, is once again DECREASING. This is the second decrease in a row and that was preceded by a zero percent tax levy three years ago. This all reflects well on the long-term planning put in place by the Board of Education.

Over the past several years, the Board has insisted on keeping taxes as low as possible while insisting on providing a rich educational environment. The Board has paid off bonds that have resulted in annualized savings of \$430,000. They reviewed proposals on transportation that have resulted in savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars with no loss of service. The Board invested in energy projects that are now resulting in tremendous decreases in utility bills. We are also assisted by a significant reduction in pension costs this year. As always, we are grateful to our representatives in the New York Senate and Assembly who work hard to fight for a more equitable distribution of state aid to Long Island schools.

The Board has been prudent with regard to fiscal matters and it has been commended by independent agencies. The State Comptroller not only went over our books recently and found nothing noteworthy, but they also listed us as one of the municipalities with "no stress" in our finances. Moody's Rating Agency in February reaffirmed our outstanding Aa2 rating and noted that we have little debt compared to most school districts.

The Board of Education has managed to provide a first-rate educational environment along with fiscal responsibility.

## 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.

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## 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; engaged in new STEM workshops such as 3-D printing, Boating Electrical Systems, 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.



# SUCCESS at All Grade Levels



**KINDERGARTEN:** Gabriella MacDougall,  
Kramer Lane - PTA Reflections Award  
of Merit

*Received award for her  
photo titled "This is Us,"  
which depicted her and  
her sister laying on the  
ground having fun.*



**GRADE 3:** Daniella Palmeri and  
fifth-grader Grace Greco,  
Kramer Lane – Art Exhibition

Had their artwork  
displayed at  
the Long Island  
Museum's Colors  
of Long Island Art  
Exhibition.

**GRADE 5:** Riya Saha,  
Charles Campaigne – MathCon Finalist

*Competed in national math  
competition and placed 16th  
out of all fifth-graders. She  
competed in Chicago for the  
finals in late April.*



**GRADE 5:** Arsh Singh,  
Central Boulevard -  
MathCon Alternate

*Competed in national  
math competition and  
placed 18th out of all  
fifth-graders. Was an  
alternate for states, along  
with Bennardo Jiminez  
from JFK.*



**GRADE 6:** 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.**



**GRADE 10:** Soham Maiti,  
BHS – LISEF

Advanced to the third round  
of the Long Island Science  
and Engineering Fair and  
placed fourth overall in the  
math category.

**GRADE 11:** Emily Liang,  
BHS - Feinstein Institute

Chosen for a  
mentoring internship  
conducting medical  
research on T-cells and  
autoimmune diseases  
this summer with the  
Feinstein Institute.



**GRADE 12:** Michelle Luo,  
BHS – Mathletes All-Star Team

Participating on the Nassau  
County Mathletes All-Star  
Team, she is one of 50  
students countywide selected  
for the team, which will  
attend the state competition.



# 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*  
Kurt Spears, *Trustee*  
Marie Swierkowski, *Trustee*

## Central Administration

Terrence Clark,  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
David Schneider,  
*Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology*  
Caroline Lavelle,  
*Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*  
Joseph A. Marchesiello,  
*Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
Patricia Hantzidiamantis, Ed.D.,  
*Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services*

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Permit No. 37  
Bethpage, NY

# VOTING INFORMATION

**Budget Vote Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

**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 16, 2017 vote, you must register by Thursday, May 11, 2017.

## Budget Hearing:

The district will conduct an official budget hearing on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 beginning at 8 p.m. at Bethpage High School (Little Theater).

## Budget Vote:

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 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](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com).**