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# Inside Our Schools

BAYPORT-BLUE POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## Proposed Budget Below Tax Levy Cap

Programs, Services & Staff All Preserved for 2012-13

The Bayport-Blue Point Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget for the 2012-13 school year that calls for a property tax levy increase of 2.29%, which is below the district's tax levy cap of 2.38%.

However, voters should be aware that a special proposition that has been placed on the ballot will affect the base budget and tax levy.

A transportation proposition to increase mileage limits for private and parochial school students beyond state requirements – which was placed on the ballot by the Board of Education after the requisite number of signatures were garnered from voters – is being offered to voters. This proposition adds \$175,000 to the district's budget, or 0.4% on the tax levy.

Therefore, if the transportation proposition is approved, the tax levy increase would be 2.29%. If it is defeated, the tax levy increase would decrease to 1.89%.

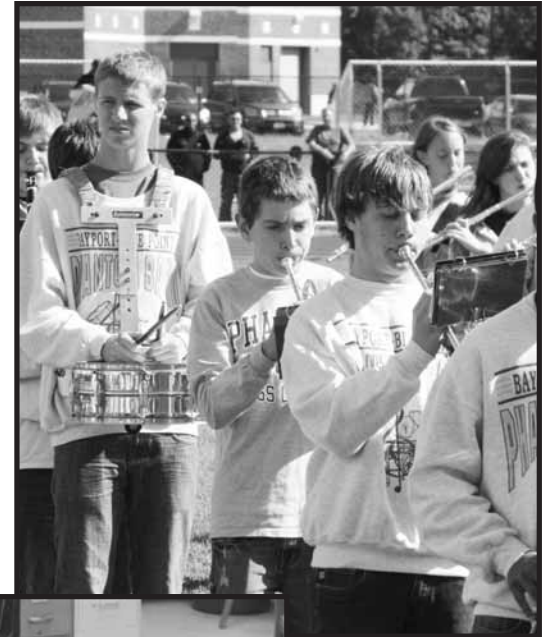
A third proposition to decrease the size of the Board of Education from seven members to five members – which was also the result of a voter petition – is included on the ballot.

"The Board of Education is proud of this budget," said Board President James March. "It's important to give students and families the programs and services they need, and it's also critical to provide relief to taxpayers. In that sense, we think the budget provides a favorable balance."

Documented efficiencies of more than \$1.1 million were made to the developing budget that resulted in the final adopted budget, but current student programs and class size are not negatively impacted. Existing unfilled positions are being eliminated, service contracts have been renegotiated, and other belt-tightening measures continue to be put into place.

"We are fortunate that careful budget management and ongoing community support have positioned us well for next year," said Mr. March. "These are difficult times. We've got to work together to make sure we are getting the best value from the resources our community so generously provides."

A comprehensive question-and-answer article is on page 3 of this newsletter, and voter information is on page 4. Please visit our district website regularly at [www.bbpschools.org](http://www.bbpschools.org) for further developing information.



**Valuable student services and programs are being preserved in the proposed budget.**



**Bayport-Blue Point Schools**  
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## Budget Vote & Trustee Election

**Tuesday, May 15, 2012**

Proposition #1 – The Proposed Budget  
Proposition #2 – Board Membership Reduction  
Proposition #3 – Private School Transportation

*See Inside for Details*

# Efficiencies Drive Down Proposed Spending for Next Year

When the proposed budget was first presented by the district earlier this year, Michael Cipriani, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, indicated that a ‘rollover budget’ – in other words, the same budget as 2011-12 with contractual obligations and state mandates – would result in a spending plan of more than \$65 million, or a 3.5% increase in total spending. But more than \$1.1 million of recommended efficiencies later, the Board has adopted a budget that calls for a spending increase of 1.96%.

“We started with the premise that we should do all we can not to impact student services and programs with any of the

reductions we would be considering,” said Dr. Anthony Annunziato, Superintendent of Schools. “But some measure of spending reduction was absolutely necessary to get under the tax cap. I’m pleased that we achieved our goal.”

How did the district cut more than \$1.1 million and not affect students? Reductions were made in two full-time teaching positions and one custodial position that are currently unfilled. Basic operational belt-tightening – from cost cuts in insurance, legal fees, copy machines and supplies, building supplies and travel expenditures – were achieved. Significant savings were realized due to the continued low interest

rate environment, BOCES special education tuition costs and transportation costs, and other special education services based on student needs. Professional development costs were also scaled back.

“Some of these items were ‘good news’ for the district, and others were the result of planned constriction in costs,” said Mr. Cipriani. “It’s a fortunate place to be for 2012-13, since so many districts are talking about program loss, staff loss, and class size increases.”

The district’s budget was also reviewed by the community’s Budget Advisory Committee. Their report is available on the district’s website.

Expenditure Category	Proposed Budget 2012-13	\$ Change from 2011-12	NOTES
Employee Salaries	34,397,549	1,381,151	<b>*Includes the cost of the private/parochial school transportation proposition.</b>  A copy of the full budget is available on the district website: <a href="http://www.bbpschools.org">www.bbpschools.org</a>
Employee Benefits	14,187,806	738,910	
Contractual Expenses*	5,677,116	[94,006]	
BOCES	5,766,177	[265,214]	
Materials and Supplies	762,331	[73,843]	
Equipment	0	[6,632]	
Debt Service	4,072,526	[40,542]	
Interfund Transfers	45,000	[395,000]	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$64,908,505</b>	<b>\$1,244,824</b>	<b>1.96%</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Pilots	405,000	200,000	
Local Revenue	398,000	0	
Risk Retention Transfer	407,000	0	
Bond Fund Transfer	250,000	[150,000]	
State Retirement Transfer	550,000	150,000	
Employee Benefit Transfer	200,000	[50,000]	
State Aid	15,753,223	95,065	
Fund Balance	2,300,000	0	
Tax Levy (Special Transportation Proposition)	175,000	175,000	0.40% ← Proposition – Transportation
Tax Levy	44,470,282	824,759	1.89% ← Tax Levy
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>64,908,505</b>	<b>1,244,824</b>	<b>2.29% TOTAL</b>

## Facts: Private/Parochial Transportation Proposition

Voters will be asked to cast their ballots on a special proposition (ballot item #3) to increase mileage limits for private/parochial school transportation. Here are the facts:

- The district’s current transportation policy for private/parochial students reflects the NYS minimum: families can request transportation to a private/parochial school that is between 2-15 miles from the home. This is paid for by district taxpayers.

- A special petition to increase the mileage limit to 25 miles has been filed, which has triggered the referendum
- The impact of this mileage expansion is projected to add approximately 32 additional parochial/private school riders
- If the referendum is approved, other private/parochial schools within the mileage limit can market to BBP families, which may increase the total number of students who

use these services

- The cost of this transportation is estimated at \$175,000, or a 0.4% increase in the tax levy
- Transportation would be provided through the district’s contract bus company and through Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- The district will receive state transportation aid on the service. In 2011-12, this amount was 48.8% of the total cost.



# Your School Budget at Work:

- Bayport-Blue Point High School boasts 21 AP Scholars, 13 AP Scholars with Honor, and 31 AP Scholars with Distinction
- Five Bayport-Blue Point High School students were recognized as AP National Scholars
- One Bayport-Blue Point senior was named a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student
- 94% of 2011 graduates entered college
- 99% of graduates earned Regents diplomas; 60% of those students earned Regents diplomas with advanced designation with honors
- 52% of Bayport-Blue Point High School students completed one or more college-level courses before graduation
- Over \$1.78 million was offered in college-based scholarships and grants to 2011 graduates
- Students represented the district in a number of competitions, including the DECA New York State Conference, the New York State Science Olympiad, and the local and Long Island Scripps Regional Spelling Bees, as well as the local-level National Geographic Geography Bee and the Brookhaven National Lab Discovery Competition



## Athletics

- Director of Physical Education, Health and Interscholastic Sports, Tim Mullins, was named Section XI Athletic Director of the Year by the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA)
- Bayport-Blue Point High School has 11 New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams from the fall and winter sports seasons, maintaining a grade point average of 90 or above
- Three athletic teams were Suffolk County, Division and League Champions
- Eight student athletes signed letters of intent to play sports at the collegiate level during the 2011-2012 academic year
- Four athletic teams have received recognition as Section XI Outstanding Team Sportsmanship Award recipients.

Additionally, three members of the Bayport-Blue Point coaching staff have been recognized as League VII Coaches of the Year.

- The boys varsity lacrosse team were crowned 2011 Long Island Champions and were state finalists
- Two student athletes were selected to play on the All-State team
- Over 50 student athletes have received post-season honors such as All-County or All-Division for the fall and winter seasons

## Fine Arts and Music:

- 11 students were selected to participate in the Long Island String Festival Association concert
- Two students were selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Music Winter Conference
- 14 students were selected to participate in the New York State Council of Administrators for Music Education and Suffolk County Music Educators Association (NYSCAME/SCMEA) All-County Music Festival
- Tri-M Music Honor Society consists of 115 members
- The artwork of nine James Wilson Young Middle School students was selected for display at the Stony Brook Museum's "Colors of Long Island" student art exhibit
- The artwork of several district students has been displayed in six local businesses throughout the community



# Questions & Answers

**I thought that the tax levy cap was 2%. Why do you say that the district is below the tax levy cap?**

The '2% cap' you have read about is actually a 2% growth factor included in a formula used to determine, on a district-by-district basis, the maximum allowable tax levy increase. Some districts will have a cap that is higher than 2%; some lower. Our tax levy in Bayport-Blue Point is 2.38%. (You can see the actual tax cap calculation on the district's website.) Since our budget produces a tax levy increase of 1.89% (or 2.29% if the proposition for private/parochial school transportation is approved), we are below the cap as determined by the state. This means that only a simply majority of voters (50%+1) is required to approve the budget.

**What happens if voters don't approve the budget?**

It is a proposed budget, which still must be approved by voters. So if this proposed budget is defeated on May 15, the Board can resubmit the same budget or an amended version of it to the voters. Failure to approve a budget means that the district cannot increase the tax levy from the current year. Based on the current proposed budget, this would require a reduction in spending of more than \$1 million. This could have a significant negative impact on student services and programs.

**Why are we being asked to approve spending for the transportation of students who do not attend our schools?**

This special proposition was placed on the ballot based upon a petition presented to the Board of Education. Currently, our district conforms to the State Education Law requiring that we pay for transporting students to parochial and private schools up to a mileage limit of 15 miles from the district. The proposition seeks to expand that mileage limit, which would add expense to the district's budget and raise the tax levy by 0.4% above the 1.89% that the base budget contains.

**Why is this expense already in the proposed budget, and not added if the voters decided to approve it?**

Because that is the way in which the district's legal counsel says the propositions must be organized and worded to be in conformance with the law.

**Why are we being asked to reduce the size of the Board of Education again?**

This special proposition was placed on the ballot based upon a petition presented to the Board of Education.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Budget Vote & Trustee Election

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012  
7 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GYMNASIUM

Please visit the district  
website at  
[www.bbpschools.org](http://www.bbpschools.org) or  
contact the District Clerk at  
472-7860 x8004 for  
additional budget  
information.



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

**James S. March, President**  
**Andrea M. O'Neill,**  
Vice President  
**Jane Burgess**  
**Leonard Camarda**  
**Diane D'Angelo**  
**Katherine J. Heinlein**  
**Molly E. Licalzi**

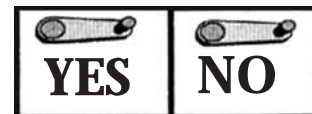
### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Anthony J. Annunziato**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Michael S. Cipriani**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Finance and Operations

**Glen A. Eschbach**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction

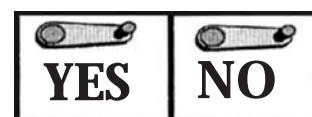
## Proposition 1 - *School District Budget*



Shall the annual budget of the Bayport-Blue Point School District for the fiscal year 2012-2013 in the sum of \$64,908,505 as proposed, be approved and adopted and the Board of Education authorized to raise the requisite portion thereof by taxation on the taxable property of the District?

**What It Means:** this proposition asks voters to authorize the proposed budget, which carries a spending increase of 1.96% and a tax levy increase of 2.29%. It includes the cost of Proposition #3. If that proposition is defeated, the tax levy increase would be reduced to 1.89%.

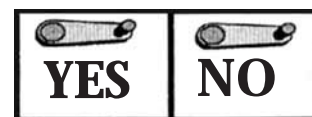
## Proposition 2 - *Board Membership*



Shall the Board of Education be decreased from seven (7) to five (5) members?

**What It Means:** should membership of the Board of Education be reduced from 7 to 5 members? It carries no financial impact.

## Proposition 3 - *Transportation*



Shall the Board of Education be authorized to extend the School District's current policy for transporting resident non-public school students from the current fifteen (15) miles to twenty-five (25) miles, effective at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, in the approximate amount of \$175,000 and levy the necessary tax therefore?

**What It Means:** this proposition asks voters to increase the mileage limit for transportation of private/parochial school students. It carries a spending increase of \$175,000 and a tax levy increase of 0.4%, which is reflected in Proposition #1. Approval of this proposition will not provide additional transportation for students attending Bayport-Blue Point Schools.

## *Board of Education Trustee Election*

School District Trustee Three-Year Term (Three Seats)

Seat 1  
(Andrea O'Neill, incumbent)

Seat 2  
(Jane Burgess, incumbent)

Seat 3  
(Katherine Heinlein, incumbent)

**John Lynch**  
**Michael Miller**

**Jane Burgess**  
**Bill Milligan**

**Rebecca Campbell**  
**Andrea O'Neill**

**PTA Council Meet the Candidates Night • 7:30pm, HS Auditorium, Thursday, May 10.**