



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The two candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a three-year term, expiring June 30, 2020.

- Donna Kapinos
- Amy Doody

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PROPOSITION NO. 1 2017-2018 Budget

Voters will vote on the proposed 2017-18 general fund expenditure budget of \$42,840,728.

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PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend \$422,825 from the District's Vehicle Purchase Reserve Fund to fund the net purchase price of the following vehicles, after application of expected trade-in allowances: three 66-passenger school buses to be used in the transportation program, one pickup truck and one snowblower for use in the buildings and grounds department?

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PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to sell the real property and all improvements thereon, having the tax parcel no. 104.22-1-18.2, commonly known as Dawson Field, located at 19 Columbia Avenue, Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster, Erie County, New York for no less than its fair market value?

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Budget Hearing May 9

The budget public hearing will be held May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The regular board meeting will follow the hearing.

Message from the Superintendent

The Depew Union Free School District continues its commitment to providing the School-Community with the necessary information to make an informed decision on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Once again, the proposed budget balances the needs of both the taxpayers of the Depew School-Community and our children through the maintenance of a quality educational program and at the same time, demonstrates current and future fiscal responsibility.



The proposed 2017-2018 school budget includes an increase in spending of 0.83% from last year's school budget, for a total budget of \$42,840,728, resulting in a 1.09% tax levy increase, which is within the mandated tax levy cap.

This fiscal plan continues to uphold the goals of the Board of Education and maintains the current elementary class sizes on the average of 20 to 24; continues to support the 2011 redeployment plan, which directly addresses our achievement and graduation rate goals; continues the implementation of the regular instructional program; maintains current transportation services; maintains current student support programs, specifically providing literacy support, mandated Academic Intervention Services and counseling services. Furthermore, it maintains the current interscholastic athletic and current co-curricular programs; the availability of the facilities for community use and appropriates well-planned reserves to address potential future reductions in Federal and State Aid, while still considering the District's fiscal future. Finally, our plan addresses several key needs and offers more opportunities for our students that will ultimately support and enhance their educational experience. Some of those areas are as follows: Boys' Varsity Lacrosse; Access to Technology, including supplying 13 of our buses with Wi-Fi; A full-time Athletic Trainer; Implementing a District Equipment Replacement Plan, including new Cafeteria Tables, a Pole Vault System and Wrestling Mats and a new Bus Routing System.

If the budget vote is unsuccessful on May 16, the Board of Education may choose to adopt a revised budget, which would then go to the voters for a second vote. If, however, the budget is defeated a second time, the District would be forced to implement a contingency budget, which would force a reduction of \$188,559 and thus require decreases in a number of areas. It would also require the elimination of some classroom equipment and the facility use by the public without full reimbursement of expenses.

From the information provided to you throughout our process, which can be accessed on our website at www.depewschools.org, we hope you can make an informed decision on May 16.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Budget Vote & Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 • Noon - 9 p.m.

Cayuga Heights Elementary School
1780 Como Park Blvd. • Depew, NY 14043

Expenditure Highlights

Programs preserved: The presented budget continues the implementation of the regular instructional program and current elementary class sizes. We were also able to preserve the District's 2011 redeployment plan which maintains current student support programs, specifically providing literacy support, mandated Academic Intervention Services and counseling services. The plan addresses several key needs and offers more opportunities for our students that will ultimately support and enhance their educational experience. Some of those areas are as follows: Boys' Varsity Lacrosse; Access to Technology, including supplying 13 of our buses with Wi-Fi; A full-time Athletic Trainer; Implementing a District Equipment Replacement Plan, including new Cafeteria Tables, a Pole Vault System and Wrestling Mats and a new Bus Routing System.

Budget Reductions: The only budget reduction that occurred was the elimination of a new central copier/printer. Instead we were able to secure a slightly used one at no additional cost.

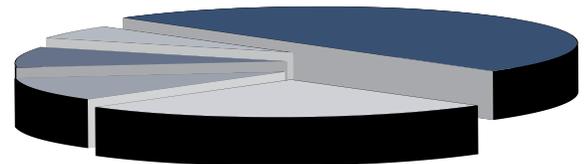
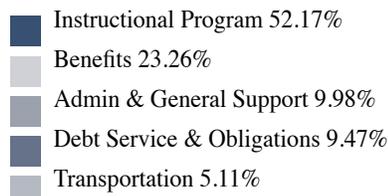
Capital Outlay Program

In order to address issues outlined in the recent Building Conditions Survey, in a responsible and sustained manner over a period of time, the District continues to utilize the benefit of its \$100,000 Capital Outlay Projects, which began with the 2016-2017 budget year. A \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project is an opportunity to institute Capital improvement projects that cost no more than \$100,000 and is preferably covered under one trade (i.e. Architectural, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing or Civil). A district must show this expenditure in its annual budget plan and will then receive aid in the following aid year. A district may receive aid for a maximum of one such project in an aid year. As the district completes these projects on an annual basis, the aid begins to cover 80% of each project. For instance, the District could conduct \$1 million in work for the cost of \$280,000, due to our aid ratio. Capital Outlay work being anticipated within the 2017-2018 Budget Plan will include, but not necessarily be limited to upgrades to bathroom finishes and plumbing fixtures at the High School to comply with Federal and State regulations.

Budget Revenues and Expenditures

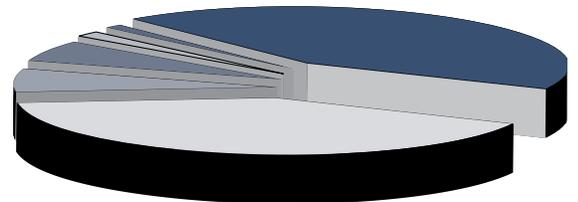
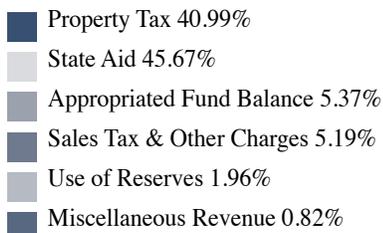
Budgeted Expenditures

Category	Current 2016-17	Proposed 2017-18	Dollar Change
Administration & General Support	\$4,238,884	\$4,276,296	\$37,412
Instructional	21,488,230	\$22,350,259	\$862,029
Transportation	\$2,124,422	\$2,189,371	\$64,949
Benefits	\$10,552,689	\$9,966,047	-\$586,642
Debt Service	\$4,082,604	\$4,058,755	-\$23,849
Total General Fund Budget	\$42,486,829	\$42,840,728	\$353,899
Vehicle Reserve Purchases	\$266,554	\$422,825	\$156,271
Total General Fund Budget with Vehicles	\$42,753,383	\$43,263,553	\$510,170



Budgeted Revenues

Category	Current 2016-17	Proposed 2017-18	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$18,995,337	\$19,567,060	\$571,723
Sales Tax & Other Charges	\$2,372,541	\$2,223,539	-\$149,002
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$0
Use of Reserves	\$1,104,679	\$838,340	-\$266,339
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$343,912	\$352,870	\$8,958
Tax Levy	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919	\$188,559
Total General Fund Budget	\$42,486,829	\$42,840,728	\$353,899



Revenue Highlights

- Overall, our budget-to-budget net increase in state aid, including building aid, is \$571,723. Most of the additional funding in state aid came from the increase in Foundation Aid.
- 2017-18 will be the sixth year of the state imposed tax cap. The district has maintained its budget at or below the tax cap limit for all six years.
- The use of reserves has decreased by \$266,339. The district plans on using the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve, ERS Reserve, Worker's Compensation Reserve, Capital Reserve for Vehicles and the Repair Reserve. The use of these reserves are for specific expenses directly related to the individual purpose of the reserve.

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

History of Tax Levy & Budget

TAX LEVY

School Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 Est.
Tax Levy	\$16,588,816	\$16,754,674	\$17,243,582	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919
Dollar Change	\$478,379	\$165,858	\$488,908	\$126,778	\$188,559
Percent Change	2.97%	1.00%	2.92%	0.74%	1.09%

BUDGET

School Year	2013-14*	2014-15*	2015-16*	2016-17*	2017-18 Est.*
Budget	\$38,961,249	\$41,090,512	\$41,494,126	\$42,753,383	\$43,263,553
Dollar Change	\$1,148,336	\$2,129,263	\$403,614	\$1,259,257	\$510,170
Percent Change	3.04%	5.47%	0.98%	3.03%	1.19%

* Includes Vehicle Purchases

TAX RATE (per thousand of assessed valuation)

School Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 Est.*
Cheektowaga	\$34.36 3.12%	\$21.47 <37.51>	\$21.57 0.45%	\$21.33 <1.11%>	\$21.27 <0.26%>
Lancaster	\$21.30 3.12%	\$21.47 0.79%	\$22.01 2.50%	\$22.45 2.02%	\$23.12 2.99%

*These figures do not factor in the decrease in assessment value due to the Veterans' Tax Exemption

Factors that Alter Tax Rates & Why

There are several factors that dictate how an individual's school tax bill is calculated after a school district sets the final tax levy - none of which are within the district's control. (This calculation process did not change under New York's property tax cap law.)

Assessment Totals:

Tax bills continue to be calculated by using a property's assessed value (as determined by the local town assessor) and the tax rate - or the amount paid in taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Equalization Rates:

Tax rates are not solely determined by the tax levy approved by voters; they are often adjusted by the state using equalization rates, designed to equally distribute the tax burden across municipalities within a district. Tax bills can also be affected by STAR or other exemptions, such as the Veterans' Tax Exemption, for which individual taxpayers may qualify. The equalization rate for Lancaster is 92% and for Cheektowaga, 100%.

The actual tax rate will not be finalized until August 2017.

Absentee Ballot applications
are available in the
District Office from 9 a.m.
through 4 p.m.

Budget Vote & Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Noon - 9 p.m.

Cayuga Heights Elementary School
1780 Como Park Blvd., Depew, NY 14043

Estimated Dollar Change In Homeowner's Tax Bill

The tax rate is estimated at \$21.27 per \$1,000 of assess valuation, representing an estimated decrease of approximately

-6 cents in

Cheektowaga and \$23.12 per \$1,000, an increase of 67 cents for Lancaster residents.



Budget Public Hearing

May 9, 2017

Depew High School Cafeteria

6:30 p.m. - Budget Hearing

Regular Board of Education meeting to follow

Voter Qualifications:

- 18 years old
- U.S. resident
- Resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote date



Proposed Budget is Available

Copies of the District's proposed budget are available in each of our schools main offices. For further information or questions, we encourage residents to call Business Administrator Susan Arena at 686-5110 or Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey, Ph.D. at 686-5104.

Dawson Field

Proposition number 3 on the ballot poses the question, "Should the District sell the real property known as Dawson Field for no less than its fair market value?" The reason that this proposition is being considered, is due to the fact that the Depew-School Community recently approved a Capital Project on December 16, 2016 that calls for a new Athletic Complex that includes a Varsity Baseball Turf Field. With a new field on our main campus, the Board of Education has determined that Dawson Field will no longer be needed.



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Depew, New York

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

Barbara Staebell, President
David Sheff, Vice President
Todd Bush, Trustee
Donna Kapinos, Trustee
Patrick Law, Trustee
John Spencer, Trustee
Justin P. Young, Trustee
Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
www.depewschools.org

DEPEW SCHOOL RESIDENT

Depew Union Free School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$42,486,829	\$42,840,728	\$42,652,169
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$353,899	\$165,340
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.83%	0.39%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919	\$17,370,360
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$342,012	\$232,957	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,028,348	\$17,325,962	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$17,028,348	\$17,325,962	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,925,428	\$3,817,138	\$3,803,088
Program Component	\$31,467,779	\$32,001,614	\$31,836,533
Capital Component	\$7,093,622	\$7,021,976	\$7,012,548

The proposed 2017-18 budget is at or below the Tax Cap Limit, thereby needing approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1). If the Depew UFSD had to enact a Contingency Budget, an additional \$188,559 of budget cuts would be needed. The above figures are exclusive of a separate resolution for vehicle purchases.

** Separate propositions that are not listed in the Total Budgeted Amount.

Description	Amount
Vehicle Purchase	\$422,825

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$653 / \$673

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Depew Union Free School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Cayuga Heights Elementary School located at 1780 Como Park Boulevard in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Cayuga Heights Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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