



## BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The two candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a three-year term, expiring June 30, 2023.

- Amy Doody
- Nicholas LaMarca

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## PROPOSITION NO. 1 2020-2021 Budget

Voters will vote on the proposed 2020-21 general fund expenditure budget of \$46,282,419.

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## PROPOSITION NO. 2

Voters will determine if the district should expend \$146,844 from the 2016 Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase one 48-passenger bus.

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## Budget Hearing: May 27

The budget public hearing will be held Wednesday, May 27 at 9:00 a.m. via video conferencing through Google Meet.

## Connect with Depew Schools



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[www.facebook.com/depewschools.org](http://www.facebook.com/depewschools.org)



Get the Depew Union Free School District App in the Apple or Google Play stores. Subscribe to notifications and stay up to date on live feed, news, documents, menus, staff directory and more.

## 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, June 9, 2020. 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 2020-2021 school budget includes an increase in spending of 3.62% from last year's school budget, for a total budget of \$46,282,419, resulting in a 1.94% 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 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: an additional Kindergarten Teacher; an additional School Psychologist; two additional Teaching Assistants; increased access to Technology, including supplying one more of our new buses with Wi-Fi; continuing the implementation plan for a District-wide Equipment Replacement Plan, including new classroom furniture.

If the budget vote is unsuccessful on June 9, the Board of Education will be forced to implement a contingency budget, which would force a reduction of \$351,227 and thus require decreases in a number of areas, including our \$100,000 Capital Outlay plan, which will upgrade our High School pool. It would also require the elimination of some classroom equipment and any 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](http://www.depewschools.org), we hope you can make an informed decision on June 9.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.

Superintendent

## Budget Vote & Election

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by Absentee Ballot Only**  
**If you need a ballot contact the district clerk at 686-5104**  
**or [jneischel@depewschools.org](mailto:jneischel@depewschools.org)**

# DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Expenditure Highlights

**Programs preserved:** The presented budget continues our commitment to our 1:1 computing program for all grade levels, which became paramount due to the COVID-19 crisis, and allowed us to quickly switch to a distance learning platform so that we were able to continue delivering quality educational services to our students. Our 2020-21 budget still preserves the District's 2011 redeployment plan that 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.

Our continued goal is to maintain our District equipment replacement plan. In 2020-21 our replacement plan will focus on replacement of aging musical instruments, Middle School student desks and chairs, High School technology work benches, and to create a classroom in the courtyard at Cayuga Heights Elementary.

**Budget Reductions:** Most of our budget reductions were from various salary and benefit reductions due to retirements, BOCES and special education budget areas adjusting to actual rates and counts received, and reducing some technology needs that now can be purchased under funds remaining in our Smart School funding allocation.

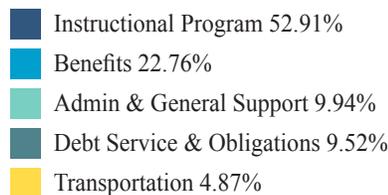
## Capital Outlay

In order to address issues outlined in the recent Buildings Conditions Survey in a responsible and sustainable 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. The 2020-21 Capital Outlay work will include modest upgrades and improvements at the District's High School, such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to; pool interior finishes, accessories and equipment (replacement of starter blocks).

## Budget Revenues and Expenditures

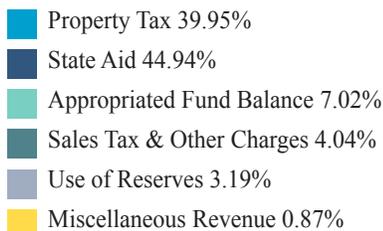
### Budgeted Expenditures

Category	Current 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Dollar Change
Administration & General Support	\$4,437,846	\$4,601,670	\$163,824
Instructional	\$23,780,062	\$24,484,575	\$704,513
Transportation	\$2,252,671	\$2,256,660	\$3,989
Benefits	\$10,195,464	\$10,531,915	\$336,451
Debt Service	\$4,000,309	\$4,407,599	\$407,290
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$44,666,352</b>	<b>\$46,282,419</b>	<b>\$1,616,067</b>
Vehicle Reserve Purchases	\$379,797	\$146,844	-\$232,953
<b>Total General Fund Budget with Vehicles</b>	<b>\$45,046,149</b>	<b>\$46,429,263</b>	<b>\$1,383,114</b>



### Budgeted Revenues

Category	Current 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$20,587,130	\$20,801,121	\$213,991
Sales Tax & Other Charges	\$2,174,006	\$1,871,912	-\$302,094
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,500,000	\$3,250,561	\$750,561
Use of Reserves	\$907,600	\$1,474,935	\$567,335
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$365,559	\$400,606	\$35,047
Tax Levy	\$18,132,057	\$18,483,284	\$351,227
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$44,666,352</b>	<b>\$46,282,419</b>	<b>\$1,616,067</b>



### Revenue Highlights

- Overall, our budget-to-budget revenue increased by \$1,616,067, most of which is allocated funds from reserves, state aid and fund balance.
- The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close our school buildings in March 2020, it is unknown what the true effects may be on our sales tax revenue and state aid-expenditure driven aids. The District has allocated an additional \$750,561 from our fund balance account and an additional \$567,335 from our reserve accounts, in order to ensure our school tax levy does not exceed the state's tax cap limit.

# DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## History of Tax Levy & Budget

### TAX LEVY

School Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 Est.
Tax Levy	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057	\$18,483,284
Dollar Change	\$126,778	\$188,559	\$327,991	\$245,147	\$351,227
Percent Change	0.74%	1.09%	1.87%	1.37%	1.94%

### BUDGET

School Year	2016-17*	2017-18*	2018-19*	2019-20*	2020-21 Est.
Budget	\$42,753,383	\$43,263,553	\$43,968,318	\$45,046,149	\$46,282,419
Dollar Change	\$1,259,257	\$510,170	\$704,765	1,077,831	\$1,616,067
Percent Change	3.03%	1.19%	1.63%	2.45%	3.62%

\* Includes Vehicle Purchases

### TAX RATE (per thousand of assessed valuation)

School Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 Est.
Cheektowaga	\$21.33	\$21.23	\$21.71	\$21.72	\$24.03
	<1.11%>	<0.45%>	2.22%	0.06 %	10.64%
Lancaster	\$22.45	\$23.08	\$22.94	\$23.97	\$19.95
	2.02%	2.80%	<0.61%>	4.49%	<16.77%>

\*Note: the numbers below changed from the time of publication last year.

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

## Estimated Dollar Change In Homeowner's Tax Bill

The tax rate is estimated at \$24.03 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, representing an estimated increase of approximately 10.64% in Cheektowaga and \$19.95 per \$1,000, a decrease of <16.77%> for Lancaster residents.



## Budget Public Hearing

May 27, 2020  
Via Video Conference  
9:00 a.m. - Budget Hearing

## 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



## 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 100% and for Cheektowaga, 83%.

The actual tax rate will not be finalized until August 2020.

Absentee Ballot applications are available by contacting the district clerk at 686-5104 or [jneischel@depewschools.org](mailto:jneischel@depewschools.org).

**Budget Vote & Election**  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020  
By absentee ballot only

## 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.



Our students have been working hard at home academically and creatively. Submit your student's artwork to [jpagano@depewschools.org](mailto:jpagano@depewschools.org) to be featured on the District's social media. Pictured is Avery Sikora, fifth grade.



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**DEPEW SCHOOL RESIDENT**

5201 S. Transit Road  
Depew, New York 14043

**Board of Education**

- David Sheff, President
- John Spencer, Vice President
- Todd Bush, Trustee
- Amy Doody, Trustee
- Donna Kapinos, Trustee
- Patrick Law, Trustee
- Justin P. Young, Trustee

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

[www.depewschools.org](http://www.depewschools.org)

**Depew Union Free School District  
Budget Notice  
Overall Budget Proposal**

	<b>Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year</b>	<b>Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</b>	<b>Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year</b>
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 44,666,352	\$46,282,419	\$45,931,192
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$1,616,067	\$1,264,840
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.62 %	2.83%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$18,132,057	\$18,483,284	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$18,132,057	\$18,483,284	\$18,132,057
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$23,518	\$23,279	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$18,108,539	\$18,460,005	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$18,108,539	\$18,460,005	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,883,063	\$4,115,956	\$4,001,061
Program Component	\$33,717,834	\$34,616,486	\$34,481,669
Capital Component	\$7,065,455	\$7,549,977	\$7,448,462

The proposed 2020-21 budget is at or below the Tax Cap Limit, thereby needing approval of a simple majority of voters (50% +1). If the Depew UFSD had to enact a Contingency Budget, an additional \$351,227 of budget cuts would be needed. The above figures are exclusive of a separate resolution for vehicle purchases.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:  
(Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Vehicle Purchases	\$146,844

<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</b>	
<b>Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup> Cheektowaga/Lancaster</b>	\$606 / \$633

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 will be conducted on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in accordance with Executive Order 202.26 by absentee ballot, for the purpose of voting on the budget proposition for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund, 2016 proposition, and electing two (2) members to serve on the Board of Education. Qualified voters in the District will be mailed an absentee ballot with a postage prepaid return envelope. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the office the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020.

<sup>1</sup>The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. The Governor amended the real property tax law beginning with 2019-20 to reflect:1) Homeowner(s) who receive the STAR exemption given directly on school tax bills, shall not exceed the exemption amount received in the 2018-19 school year;2) Homeowner(s) who receive the STAR credit (via check), the growth in the STAR amount may increase up to 2% each year. Notify your assessor's office if you wish to switch from STAR exemption to STAR credit refund method.