



DEPEW NEWS

www.depewschools.org

Budget 2022

Proposition No. 1 2022-2023 Budget

Voters will vote on the proposed 2022-23 general fund expenditure budget of \$49,741,002.

...

Proposition No. 2

Voters will determine if the district should expend \$596,768 from the Capital Reserve for Vehicles & Equipment, 2016 to purchase three 66-passenger buses, one 29-passenger bus with wheelchair lift and one 30-passenger bus.

...

Board of Education Candidates

The three candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a 3-year term, expiring June 30, 2025.

1A Patrick Law
2A Todd Bush
3A Bartholomew McGloin

...

Budget Hearing: May 10

The budget public hearing will be held Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria and District YouTube Channel.

Connect with Depew Schools



Like us on Facebook and follow on Twitter to stay up to date with district news!

www.facebook.com/depewschools.org
www.twitter.com/depewschools



Get the Depew Union Free School District App in the Apple or Google Play stores. Subscribe to notifications to stay up to date on important information and school news and events.

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 17, 2022. Once again, the proposed budget balances the needs of both the taxpayers of the Depew School-Community and our children by maintaining a quality educational program, and at the same time, demonstrating current and future fiscal responsibility.



The proposed 2022-2023 school budget includes an increase in spending of 5.23% from last year's school budget, for a total budget of \$49,741,002, resulting in a 2.17% 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 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. There are two key additions to this year's budget plan; first is pivoting to a District administered Pre-Kindergarten program, which has been administrated by an outside agency in the past; and secondly is the addition of three Teaching Assistant positions within our Special Education classrooms.

If the budget vote is unsuccessful on May 17th, the Board of Education will be forced to implement a contingency budget, which would force a reduction of \$412,895 and thus require decreases in a number of areas, including our \$100,000 Capital Outlay plan, which will upgrade the interior classroom doors at Cayuga Heights Elementary School. 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, we hope you can make an informed decision on May 17th from noon to 9:00pm in the Depew High School Gymnasium.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Budget Vote & Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Depew High School Gym

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Expenditure Highlights

Programs preserved: The presented budget continues our commitment to the 1:1 device program for all grade levels, which became paramount during the COVID-19 pandemic, and providing additional services to help our students rebound from the emotional setbacks they faced during the past two years. Our 2022-23 budget preserves all of 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.

The District will be hiring teachers for a school-provided Pre-K program in 2022-2023. This will be supported by state funding and the general fund budget.

The District remains committed to maintaining the equipment replacement plan. The 2022-23 plan will focus on replacement of aging musical instruments, High School cafeteria tables, Middle School classroom desks and chairs, and computer upgrades for all three building computer labs.

Budget Reductions: The budget reductions were from various salary and benefit reductions due to retirements, recalculation of benefit costs, and decreases in overall cost for substitute teachers, workers' compensation and unemployment.

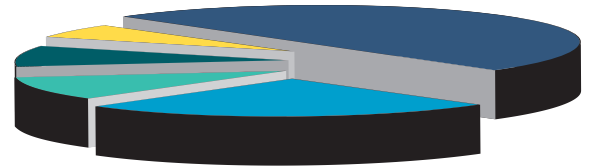
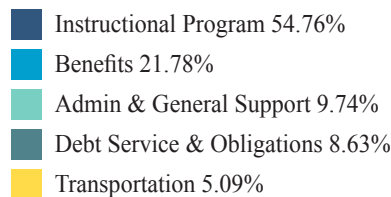
Capital Outlay

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 2022-2023 Capital Outlay work will include the removal and disposal of existing interior doors at Cayuga Heights Elementary and the installation of new, code-compliant doors with new access hardware, thereby improving accessibility and safety.

Budget Revenues and Expenditures

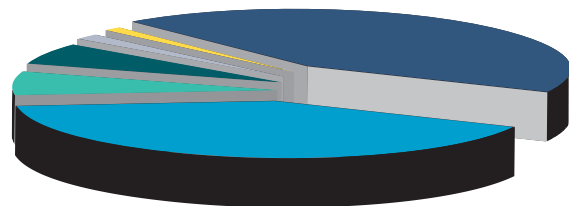
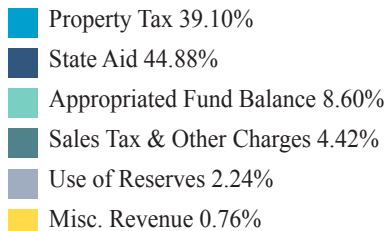
Budgeted Expenditures

Category	Current 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Dollar Change
Administration & General Support	\$4,903,474	\$4,844,992	-\$58,482
Instructional	\$25,507,232	\$27,235,067	\$1,727,835
Transportation	\$2,300,179	\$2,531,275	\$231,096
Benefits	\$10,193,046	\$10,834,725	\$641,679
Debt Service	\$4,363,843	\$4,294,943	-\$68,900
Total General Fund Budget	\$47,267,774	\$49,741,002	\$2,473,228
Vehicle Reserve Purchases	\$674,760	\$596,768	-\$77,992
Total General Fund Budget with Vehicles	\$47,942,534	\$50,337,770	\$2,395,236



Budgeted Revenues

Category	Current 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$21,233,078	\$22,323,556	\$1,090,478
Sales Tax & Other Charges	\$1,897,740	\$2,198,935	\$301,195
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,000,000	\$4,276,552	\$276,552
Use of Reserves	\$713,280	\$1,114,410	\$401,130
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$387,154	\$378,132	-\$9,022
Tax Levy	\$19,036,522	\$19,449,417	\$412,895
Total General Fund Budget	\$47,267,774	\$49,741,002	\$2,473,228



Revenue Highlights

- Overall, our budget-to-budget revenue net increase of \$2,473,228 is mostly generated from increased state foundation aid.
- Other revenue areas are slowly going back up due to the economy rebounding from the past two years that were effected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The District will utilize year-two funding from Federal ESSER and American Rescue Plan Act. The District will continue to use these funds to support the learning losses our students faced throughout the pandemic, to add social and emotional supports, to improve Wi-Fi access for students and to continue to improve school facilities in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

History of Tax Levy & Budget

TAX LEVY

School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 Est.
Tax Levy	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057	\$18,483,284	\$19,036,522	\$19,449,417
Dollar Change	\$327,991	\$245,147	\$351,227	\$553,238	\$412,895
Percent Change	1.87%	1.37%	1.94%	2.99%	2.17%

BUDGET

School Year	2018-19*	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22	2022-23 Est.
Budget	\$43,968,318	\$45,046,149	\$46,429,263	\$47,942,534	\$50,337,770
Dollar Change	\$704,765	1,077,831	\$1,383,114	\$1,513,271	\$2,395,236
Percent Change	1.63%	2.45%	3.07%	3.26%	5.00%

* Includes Vehicle Purchases

TAX RATE (per thousand of assessed valuation)

School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 Est.
Cheektowaga	\$21.71 2.22%	\$21.72 0.06 %	\$21.76 0.18%	\$16.91 <22.29%>	\$16.53 <2.22%>
Lancaster	\$22.94 <0.61%>	\$23.97 4.49%	\$18.06 <24.66%>	\$16.91 <6.37%>	\$19.00 12.40%

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. When the equalization rate falls below 100%, it gives the appearance of a higher tax rate, but in fact the homeowner's property value has gone up but it is not reflected in their assessment value shown on their tax bill. 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 Cheektowaga is 100% and Lancaster is 87%.

The actual tax rate will not be finalized until August 2022.

Estimated Dollar Change In Homeowner's Tax Bill

The tax rate is estimated at \$16.53 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, representing an estimated decrease of approximately <2.22%> in Cheektowaga and \$19.00 per \$1,000, an increase of 12.40% for Lancaster residents.



Budget Public Hearing

May 10, 2022 • 6:30 p.m.

Depew High School Cafeteria & YouTube

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.



Budget Vote & Election
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 • 12:00-9:00 p.m.
High School Gym



Candidates for Board of Education

Depew residents will elect three (3) candidates to fill the three open seats, each for a three-year term of office.

Running for a seat on the Board of Education are:

Patrick Law

I have been a member of the Depew School Board for 12 years and I am extraordinarily proud of my time on the board. I am employed as a Branch Chief with United States Customs and Border Protection and have been there 26 years. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from D'Youville College and an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Hilbert College. My wife Margaret and I have 3 children; Jocelyn, Emily and Kyle who are all graduates of Depew. I also have 2 grandchildren, Kara, who attends 6th grade at Cayuga Heights, and Bentley. I also currently coach 7-8 year-olds with West Seneca Youth Soccer. As a current board member, I feel I have strongly contributed to the strong position the District is in today. I am particularly proud of the fact that the district has been able to add to the educational programs for our students, vastly improve the school performance in all areas and completely overhauled the facilities of Depew while keeping a tight, lean budget for the members of community. Thank you for considering my re-election.



Todd Bush

District Board of Education for the past six years. Having an elementary age child at Cayuga Heights, a middle schooler and a high schooler has given me a unique perspective across all grade levels. Every decision I make and continue to make will always be made with all of our children's best interest at heart! If elected again I will continue to put our children first in each and every decision that needs to be made.



Bartholomew McGloin

My name is Bartholomew McGloin and I have been a resident of the Depew School District for 15 years. My wife, Melissa, an alumna, and I have three sons, Mason, Jameson and Kellan.

Mason attends Depew Middle School where he plays football, basketball and baseball, as well as serving as the treasurer of the National Junior Honor Society. Jameson and Kellan attend Cayuga Heights where they are both involved in a variety of activities including band, chorus, Coding Club and Kindness Club.

My time spent on the Shared Decision Making Committee for Cayuga Heights initiated my passion for public education and I feel as though Depew deserves the best. I will continually push for excellence; ask the tough questions, and demand thorough, transparent answers. We must support our teachers and staff as they educate our children.

I do not have all the answers and I will not try to convince you that I do. I am committed to doing my best in building strong relationships and working collaboratively with everyone in our community. We can all work together to continue to grow and build upon the already strong, healthy, and financially viable Depew Union Free School District.

Please note that statements from candidates have been printed as submitted and were not edited in any manner.



Cayuga Coding Club Teaches Problem Solving

Twenty-five students in Grades 3 through 5 participated in a friendly Coding Club competition during the months of February, March, and April. Advised by Ms. Jessica Leary, the Coding Club has been a way for students to learn life skills including problem solving, logical thinking, patience and persistence, creativity and learning from making mistakes since the 2018-19 school year.



Pictured from left, Miles Root, Jameson McGloin, Harper Coyle, Eva Triplet and Jackson Battle.

This year, third-grade students began the competition completing as many coding levels as possible in Code.Org and Scratch during their free time throughout the school day. As they progressed through the different challenges, they earned points for each level they successfully completed, trying to advance to the next round to compete against the fourth graders. The top five students from the third/fourth competition were then eligible to continue to the next group to compete against the fifth graders. This year, the third and fourth graders dominated the competition!

Congratulations to our final top five Coding Club winners. Third grader Miles Root was the Coding Club Champion! The runners up in order were Jameson McGloin, Harper Coyle, Eva Triplet and Jackson Battle. Great job to all Coding Club members for your hard work learning new skills!

Writing Pilot at Cayuga Heights

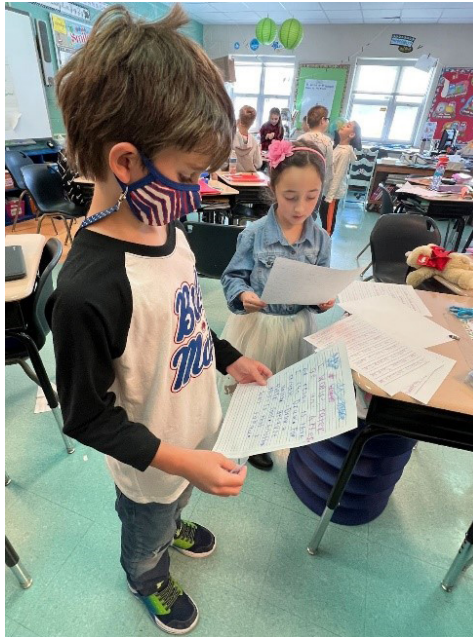
The students in Mrs. Peszko and Mrs. George's third grade class are working to change the world! The classroom was selected to pilot a brand-new Writing Unit of Study with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. The students in class wrote argument pieces about changes that they would like to see in the classroom, the school and causes to change the world around us. They learned about argument writing structure and how to expand their writing and were immersed in the writing processes of idea generation, drafting, revision, and editing. Some of the causes that students took on were inclusive libraries, clean water, climate change, health and wellness, and saving the bees!

Student engagement and excitement was high during this unit, as they not only tackled argument writing, but also celebrated inclusivity and diversity during the process.

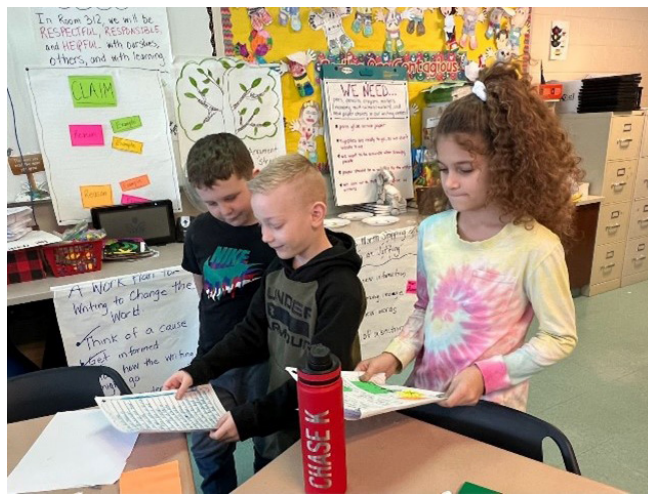
It wasn't uncommon to hear the phrase "Hooray!" when students were asked to get out their writing folders and get ready for Writing Workshop time. Another commonly heard question was "When is writing time?" Students were very excited to see their growth as writers, as were their teachers! It was beautiful to see students include thoughtful leads and strong claims, as well as reasons and evidence supported with mini-stories and facts.

Even more, students studied mentor texts and speeches from other children who are changemakers, like Greta Thunberg and Mari Copeny, and saw that their writing has the power to make change in the world! Little kids can make big change through the power of writing. Our students asked to mail their completed works out to local leaders asking for change!

Mrs. Peszko and Mrs. George worked directly with a staff developer at the project and will carry their learning with them for years to come to help develop engaged and sophisticated writers at Cayuga Heights.



Chase Kumro and Alyssa Pecoraro.



Rylan Smith, Pavlik Hodur, and Jocelyn Andino.

Cayuga Heights Service Project

Throughout the 2021-22 school year, Cayuga Heights has taken on a monthly service project to give back to the community. For the month of April, students drew or colored spring pictures to brighten the days of seniors living at Elderwood Nursing Home. Cayuga Heights is looking forward to continuing the tradition of giving back throughout the school year and beyond.



Kindergarteners Kyle McAdams, Adalyn Purpura and Teagan Obermeier.



Kindergarteners Giovanni Federowicz and Matthew Purpura.

Reading Partners

Students in Ms. Tedesco's class love to pair up and enjoy a good book!



Annual Car & Bike Show

Friday, June 10, 2022, 5-8PM

Depew High School

Live Music from Busted Stuff

Chicken & Rib BBQ

Kidz Zone

Big Ticket Raffle

Theme Tray Auction

50-50 Raffle

Proceeds benefit

DHS DECA and Academy of Finance

Questions: jleary@depewschools.org



DECA State Conference

Depew High School students competed at the DECA State Conference in March. It was an amazing, real-life experience for all! Students prepared and went outside their comfort zone and are stronger, wiser and more confident as a result.



Pictured second from left is Jordan Kanick.

Musical Returns to DHS with Seussical

It has been two years since Depew High School has presented a live musical performance for school, parents and community members. This year's musical, Seussical, brought student theatre back to the stage with a resounding "Yopp!" to the delight of audiences on March 17-19.

The musical featured a number of characters from Dr. Seuss books, including JoJo the Who (Miranda Arena), the Cat in the Hat (Rhegan Zubler) and Horton the Elephant (Mason Scudday). The cast, crew and pit orchestra featured over 60 middle and high school students.

Audiences flocked to all four showings and the meet the cast event. The colorful sets, loveable characters and messages of honesty, loyalty and friendship were a hit! Congratulations to the cast and crew for a great production!



Photos courtesy of the DHS Photography Club



Academy of Finance Conference

Depew High School Academy of Finance students attended the WNY Regional NAF Multi-School Career & College Readiness Conference at Canisius College in March. Sessions included Personal Branding, Becoming Social Media Famous, and Analytics in Sports to name a few!



Skilled Trades Expo

Depew Middle and High Schools offered students and their families a unique opportunity to discover more about skilled trades as they plan for their future. The March 9th event was a success with over 25 exhibitors, live demonstrations and presentations from trades such as welding, electrical, cosmetology, construction and more.

The Skilled Trades Expo was organized by the counseling center, which sought to present other career paths to students in a similar format to a college fair. Trades unions, training centers, companies and military recruiters were in attendance to speak with students and their families.

Exposing students to more opportunities for their future is a priority for the Counseling, College and Career Center and they hope to be able to present the Skilled Trades Expo annually. For more information on scholarships, college and career opportunities, jobs and internships and more, go to the website at <https://www.depewschools.org/o/dhs/page/dhs-counselingcenter>.



DMS Celebrates French Holidays

In February, the DMS Foreign Language Club learned how Québec City makes winter a bit more fun with their two-week winter Carnaval de Québec that takes place at the beginning of the month. After learning about the festival, students created hand puppets of Bonhomme Carnaval (the mascot of Carnaval).

On March 1, with the help of Mrs. Hooven in the DMS Library, Mrs. Harshany's seventh grade French classes celebrated the French tradition of Mardi Gras Masks by creating their own. After learning about why the holiday is celebrated in France, they were able to create a festive, personally designed mask with the use of feathers, sequins, ribbons, string, construction paper, and hot glue.



Leo Hunter, Aidan Strang, Warren Triplet, Ava Jaynes, Haylee Werner, Kendra Cassidy, Ashlyn Guggemos, and Mariah Rzoska.



Athena Ortiz and Olivia Nowak.

DMS Starting Program to Welcome New 6th Graders

In order for incoming sixth graders to feel comfortable and encourage their participation in school activities, Depew Middle School has designed the program, "Where Everyone Belongs" or WEB. Similar to the longstanding Link Crew at Depew High School, WEB is a part of the Boomerang Project, which focuses on peer mentoring.

"Much like the leadership initiatives at Cayuga Heights and DHS, this not only helps to improve the culture of the school, but also gives the eighth graders a definite leadership opportunity," DMS English Teacher Mr. Cena explained. "Students not only have teachers and staff to help with their transition to a new school building, but also eighth grade students who have been a part of the school community for two years. It helps to bridge the gap between the youngest students and the oldest students in our school."

Current seventh grade students can apply now to be a part of the program for the 2022-23 school year. Each eighth grader will be randomly assigned five incoming sixth grade students who they will personally invite to sixth grade orientation in August. The eighth graders will also be helping with ideas for what would have made them more comfortable as they entered sixth grade and putting those ideas into motion.





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 34
Depew, New York

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

David Sheff, President
Todd Bush, Vice President
Amy Doody, Trustee
Nicholas LaMarca, 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

*****ECRWSSSEDDM****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Depew Union Free School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$47,267,774	\$49,741,002	\$49,328,108
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$2,473,228	\$412,895
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.23%	4.36%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$19,036,522	\$19,449,417	
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)	\$19,036,522	\$19,449,417	\$19,036,522
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$165,288	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$18,871,234	\$19,449,417	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$18,871,234	\$19,449,417	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,200,841	\$4,210,848	\$4,048,030
Program Component	\$35,452,276	\$38,018,478	\$37,872,979
Capital Component	\$7,614,657	\$7,511,676	\$7,407,099

The proposed 2022-23 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 \$412,895 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 Bus Purchase	\$ 596,768

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹ Cheektowaga/Lancaster

\$555/\$507

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Depew Union Free School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Depew High School located at 5201 South Transit Road, in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Depew High School Gym, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Please note that COVID-19 school guidelines in effect at the time of the vote will be enforced.

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