

Budget Vote Q&A

By Mary Callahan

A quick Q & A for those who have not followed this process before

The Board of Education normally adopts the budget to be presented to the community about one month before the annual vote. However due to Covid19 the Governor has changed many facets of the voting process this year.

The Vote

- Budget adoption is anticipated at the Board meeting of **May 19th**
- The annual budget "hearing" will be the following **Tuesday, May 26**
- The actual vote will be on **June 9th** by *absentee ballot only and the tabulation will follow the usual Board of Elections process for all absentee ballots.*
- Ballots will be received until 5 p.m. All ballots will be opened and tabulated. The executive order does not allow for in-person voting for school budgets this year.

The Budget Process

- There was budget discussion at two in-person meetings of the Board, one in February and one in March. This is the third "virtual" meeting at which the Board is discussing the budget. Based on our last meeting there were certain questions in the chat:
- Deadline for Retirement Notice -- There is no mention of a deadline in any employment contracts.
- **Terminology:**
 - If an employee leaves for whatever reason, and is not replaced, the position is "attritioned".
 - If the district finds it necessary to eliminate an existing position for financial reasons that is referred to as being "excessed".
- Additional Transportation Costs - The district recently was informed that current contracts may not renew in the fall. We are required by law to bid and need to make appropriate allocations for potential increases.

The Budget Process continued...

- Levy is the amount of the budget cost which is paid for by the taxpayers. It is not the total cost of the budget. The district applies all NYS aid (initially stated to be \$10,700,000) and other sources of revenue which this year amount to approximately \$8,000,000. The balance becomes the tax levy.
- The budget addresses the total dollars needed to provide the proposed program. Option #1 on May 5th included all items in our current program.
- At the request of the Board, additional options are being provided, each with a reduction in overall budgeted amount. Each comes with a proposed reduction in staffing and a commensurate reduction in the tax levy. The Board of Education must ultimately decide which option to propose to the community on June 9th.

2020-21 DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS

#1

All Contractual Codes cut in half

All union employee salaries include “step”

All Central Administrator salaries frozen

Transportation Additional Renewal Costs

Budget Increase: \$3,104,360

Percentage 1.93%

Levy Increase: \$3,820,982

Percentage 2.71%

2020-21 DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS

#2

Includes Option 1 AND	<u>Approximately</u>
Eliminates items in Transfer to Capital	\$266,000
Further reduction of Instructional Materials K-12	70,000

Budget Increase: \$2,780,070

Percentage 1.73%

Levy Increase: \$3,527,248

Percentage 2.50%

2020-21 DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS

#3

	<u>Approximately</u>
Includes all items in Options 1 & 2	
Buildings and Grounds give backs - equipment, OT	\$95,000
Excessing of 7 paraprofessional	280,000
Reduction of 3 ESTEAM staff	234,000
Excessing of 9 Permanent Subs	65,000
Curricular Special Projects	30,000
Budget Increase:	\$2,104,710
Percentage	1.31%
Levy Increase:	\$2,805,813
Percentage	1.99%

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
BUDGET % INC.	1.93%	1.73%	1.31%
LEVY % INC.	2.71%	2.50%	1.99%
TAX CHANGE ON AVERAGE HOME W/ASSESSMENT* OF \$1,006	\$350	\$322	\$255

* Tentative Assessments as provided by Nassau County