**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***What is the difference between the tax levy and the budget-to-budget increase?***

* The tax levy is the amount of money collected from taxpayers (after all other revenue sources such as state aid and tapping reserve balances are applied to the school budget). The more state aid, the lower the tax levy on residents. The budget-to-budget increase is the difference in the total budget from one year to the next. Baldwin’s tax levy increase of 2.38% is below the Long Island average of 2.53%.

***Additional questions? All budget information can be found at***

[***www.baldwinschools.org***](http://www.baldwinschools.org) ***or please feel free to contact:***

Dr. Stephen Draper, Asst. Superintendent for Business at 434-604

***What is Foundation Aid and why is it important?***

* The Foundation Aid formula was enacted by the state legislature in 2007 to create a more equitable formula for state funding, but due to the fiscal crisis and ensuing state budget deficit, the Foundation Aid formula has been frozen since 2009. The loss of Foundation Aid for schools, including Baldwin, is significant because it is the largest category of state aid. For Baldwin, of the $31.1 million in state aid last year, $17.7 million was through Foundation Aid.

***What if the budget does not pass?***

* The Board of Education can choose to put up the same budget for a second vote, or make reductions to the budget for a second vote on June 18, 2019. The board could also choose to go directly to a contingency budget, a 0% increase over last year’s tax levy. A contingency budget would mean a decrease in the proposed budget of $2,217,241.

**Proposition 2 - Transportation Referendum**

This would authorize a modification of the district’s public school transportation eligibility effective at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. K-12 pupils would be eligible for transportation if they reside more than 1½ miles from the school they attend. The cost to the district would not exceed $151,000.

**Proposition 4 – Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund**

This would authorize the creation of a new capital reserve not to exceed $25,000,000. This is similar to opening a savings account; **there is no additional cost to the taxpayers.**

**BALDWIN SCHOOLS**

**PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET AT A GLANCE**

**96%**

Of Baldwin High School Graduates Class of 2018 Received Regents Diplomas

**6**

Students Selected for NYSSMA All-State Festival

**94%**

Of Baldwin High School Class of 2018 Continued on to Colleges and Universities including Columbia, Princeton, Brown, Yale and other fine institutions

**95**

Baldwin Students are AP Scholars Including 20with Honors, 22 with Distinction, and

**2** National



 **24**

President’s Education Award Winners

**2019-20**

**Proposed Tax Levy**

Baldwin UFSD’s tax levy of 2.38% is below the Long Island average of 2.53%.

**18**

Redesigned, inquiry-based, learning spaces

**K-12**

**1,200**

Baldwin Student Placements in the Award-Winning School-to-Career Program

 **BUDGET VOTE, Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

 **Baldwin High School, 7 AM – 10 PM**

**KEY FACTORS AFFECTING THE BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

* Use of district reserves over 8 years = $20.9 million
* Use of fund balance over 8 years = $19.9 million
* The state aid portion of Baldwin’s education has dropped from 28.38% to 24.30% over the last 27 years.
* State aid is projected to increase for next year, but is not guaranteed.
* Utility bills continue to fluctuate.
* Unfunded state mandates = hundreds of thousands of dollars in unreimbursed costs.
* Long Island educates nearly 17% of the state’s students. Yet, only 12% of the state aid is directed to Long Island schools, including Baldwin.

**COST-SAVING AND REVENUE-PRODUCING MEASURES IN BALDWIN**

Baldwin School District has worked hard to find efficiencies within the budget. Some of the initiatives have included:

• Revenue from leasing of properties

* Savings from rerouting of school buses
* Increased in-district programming such as Baldwin High School @ Shubert and special education
* Paperless high school and middle school report cards and progress reports to save on postage and supplies
* Conversion to LED lighting districtwide
* Maximizing BOCES aid
* Elementary free and reduced lunch and breakfast program generates state and federal reimbursement.
* Of the 41 K-12 school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District is below the median in per pupil spending, based on BOCES data from the

2017-18 school year.

* Of the 56 school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District is below the median in central administration expenses per pupil for the 2017-18 school year.

**2019-20 BUDGET SUMMARY**

***Tax Cap 2.54%***

***Tax levy increase 2.38%***

***Budget-to-budget increase 2.33%***

***Expenses***

* Administrative (11.30%) $15,148,465
* Capital (12.95%) $17,368,315
* Program (75.75%) $101,562,220
* Total Budget $134,079,000

***Revenue***

* All State Aid $31,228,525
* Miscellaneous Sources $1,527,669
* Appropriated Reserves $2,495,000
* Appropriated Fund Balance $2,000,000
* Anticipated Property Tax $95,480,806
* PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) $1,347,000
* Total Budget $134,079,000

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2019-20 BUDGET**

**• *Maintains*** integrated **STEAM** (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rts, **M**ath) instruction at elementary level

**• *Adds*** additional college-level courses for college credit at the high school

**• *Continues*** the Pre-Academy enrichment program at the middle school

**• *Adds*** AP Art 2D/ AP Computer Science Principles/ AP Research

**• *Increases*** instructional technology in our classrooms districtwide

**• *Strengthens*** professional development for instructional staff

**• *Maintains*** continuing education as a self-sustaining program

**• *Continues*** full teaming Grades 6 through 9

• ***Expands*** new inquiry-based science curriculum to Grades 4 and 5

**• *Funds*** educational programs, including full-day kindergarten; middle and high school sports; middle and high school musicals; district intramurals; Sportsnite and Intramural Night; fourth grade instrumental music and Suzuki violin; Arts in Education funding (flow-through available to PTA); Saturday Night Alive; and NYSSMA majors