



Jericho

Budget Bulletin

Spring 2021

BOE Adopts Budget That's Below Tax Levy Limit

Jericho's Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2021-2022 school district budget at an open meeting on March 26, 2021. The \$127,997,101 budget represents a 1.95% tax levy increase, which is below the New York State Tax Cap.

Since January, the school district hosted a series of public workshops to review the financial status of the school district and create a budget for the coming year. The Board of Education and district administration requested input from members of the school community.

Voting on the budget will be on Tuesday, May 18. If the budget is not approved by residents with a simple majority, the district can resubmit the original budget or a revised budget in June.

On the Ballot

The District is continuing its District-wide Capital Improvement Plan, and voters will be asked to vote on an additional proposition that would authorize the Board to spend \$12,900,000 from the capital reserve funds and fund balance for various projects. These projects include upgrades to air conditioning, ceiling, lighting, flooring, electric, as well as athletic field

reconstruction including installation of a synthetic turf field and stadium lighting. Additionally, plans for reconstruction of the technology and science classrooms at the middle and high school are included. Please see page 5 for details on the proposition.

Maintaining Programs

While preparing the budget, many strategies were considered, including keeping a multi-year, long-term perspective on the district's financial plans. All instructional programs will continue for next year, and there will also be enhancements to some of these programs.

When adopting the budget, the Board also took class size into consideration. At the elementary schools, the pre-Covid class size maximums were 25 students in K-3 and 27 students in grades 4-5 with an average class size of approximately 22 across the three elementary schools. Next year, class sizes at the elementary level will be reduced to a maximum of 23 in all K-5 classes, which will bring the average class size at the elementary level down to approximately 19 across the three elementary schools.

Technology

Included in the budget are

plans to expand the technology initiative throughout the district. This is part of the district's five-year technology plan. We have greatly expanded the software in use in Jericho as a response to the Covid pandemic and the need for students and teachers to be able to work more flexibly. We've increased district Internet speed, capacity, and stability by utilizing three ISPs and increasing our speeds. Additionally, the district's one-to-one program is now in full swing, with every student being assigned a device. Most students are using a Jericho-provided device every day.

Board of Education Seats

There are two seats open on the Board of Education this year. Four candidates are running for these seats. Listed in ballot order, the candidates are Thomas S. Taubes, Christopher M. Foresto, Samuel Perlman, and Jennifer Vartanov. Current Board members, Bill Ferro and Dab Lee, are not seeking reelection. There is a virtual Meet the Candidates Night, sponsored by the PTA and moderated by the League of Women Voters, scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Information on how to attend will be posted on the District website at www.jerichoschools.org.

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Jericho's Budget History & Nassau County

Over the last five years, Jericho's annual average budget increase was 0.79%. Jericho School District's tax levy has had an average increase of 0.18% between 2015/16 and 2019/20 as compared to the average increase on Long Island of 1.76% during that same period. Additionally, the district only controls the total tax levy. The County controls the assessments, adjusted base proportion, and the tax rate. In other words, the school district controls the tax levy, and the County controls each individual's tax bill calculation.

How Do I vote?

This year, the annual budget vote and school board election will take place **in person** on May 18, 2021 from 6 AM to 9 PM in the Sam Springer Gym. Information about absentee ballots is available on the district website under Announcements and also in this newsletter.

Additional Information

Copies of the presentations that were given during the budget workshops are available on the district website.

Important Document - Please Translate

중요하니 번역요망

重要文件請翻譯

Documento Importante - Traduce Por Favor

**SCHOOL BUDGET
VOTE INFORMATION**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021
6 AM - 9 PM
Middle/High School Gym**

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Security & Network

- Offload critical backup tasks and storage to the cloud using Microsoft Azure
- Shift user file storage to OneDrive to reduce the need for VPNs or Citrix logins
- Continue participation in the Data Privacy and Security Service, Garnett River's Ed law 2-d service, and KnowBe4 user testing
- Increase the number of backups taken using new Exagrid framework
- Introduce two-factor authentication for staff network
- Upgrade network speeds to 2 Gbps through Nassau BOCES' BoTIE and to 1 Gbps from Verizon with additional upgrades planned
- Purchase Microsoft Azure credits to accommodate cloud migration
- Three-year wiring closet replacement project partially funded by Erate (2022-2025 project cycle)
- T-Mobile hotspots purchase for use by district families without Internet access

Instruction & Hardware

- Continue desktop, iPad, and Chromebook refresh cycle
- Smart Board MS/HS refresh (potentially funded by remaining Smart Bond funds) project
- Continue deployment of dual-monitor configurations as needed

Software

- Add or expand instructional programs, including Gizmos, EdPuzzle, Pear Deck, and Google Workspace Enterprise
- Integration of new support software, including Teamviewer and OTIS into our support and training efforts
- Continue shift to cloud-based computing backups, and storage via increased Microsoft Azure commit



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2021-2022

- Wellness Program - NEST Period and WellNest Wednesdays to meet mental & physical health needs of students
- Broad array of Advanced Placement and college credit-bearing course opportunities
- Science/Social Science/Pre-Calculus Research: Four year program that enables students to perform research with experts for the betterment of our world
- BOLT (Building Outstanding Leaders for Tomorrow): Leadership class that challenges students to make a difference in the school and the world
- Project Lead the Way: International pre-engineering program that offers up to 20 college engineering credits
- Business: accounting, entrepreneurship, law, retail management and virtual enterprise classes
- Extensive World Language Program
- New Media Communications: Journalism program that enables students to explore communications in the digital age
- Wide range of elective and extracurricular opportunities
- Co-teaching and small class programs
- The Jericho Academy - Alternative High School

Numerous competitions including some of these examples:

- National History Day, Ethics Bowl, Mock Trial, Model UN, Debate
- NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Writing Awards, Poetry Out Loud, Teen Ink, Walt Whitman Poetry, Hofstra Journalism, Canon Writing Program
- National Spanish/Italian/French/Latin Exams, Italian Poetry, Language Essay Competitions
- Regeneron, Dupont, Toshiba, ExploraVision, National Science Bowl, MIT Think, Brain Bee, LI Science & Engineering Fair, VEX Robotics, Science Olympiad, Eco Challenge





JERICHO ACCOLADES

**NAMED #1 HIGH SCHOOL ON LONG ISLAND IN
TO 2021 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

**JERICHO SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS RANKED THE
SECOND BEST DISTRICT
IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2020 BY NICHE**

100% GRADUATION RATE - CLASS OF 2020

98.8%

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020)**

92%

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE
WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020)**

96.1%

**4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020)**

**52 JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
HONORED IN NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN 2020**

**3 STUDENTS WERE NAMED
REGENERON SCHOLARS IN 2021**

**NAMED BEST COMMUNITY IN AMERICA FOR
MUSIC EDUCATION FOR 22ND YEAR IN A ROW**

**NYS SCHOLAR ATHLETE SCHOOL OF
DISTINCTION FOR 16 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

2021-2022 BUDGET STRATEGIES:

- Covid: Provide accommodations and resources necessary for the safety of students and staff
- Remain committed to being a premier school district and continue to deliver a high-quality, 21st Century education
- Remain devoted to our district mission and goals
- Keep a multi-year perspective on the budget
- Develop long-range plans for our educational programs and goals.
 - Pursue and evaluate new instructional programs
 - Continue technology replacement plans and expand technology initiatives
 - Continue to upgrade and renovate our facilities
- Continue to pursue efficiencies in all areas of the district budget



Continuing to Help Those in Need

The Jericho School District continues to feed students who are enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. Breakfast and lunch are provided for the students Monday through Friday. Also, supplemental food is given to families in need. The district has coordinated numerous food drives, and families have been very generous in this endeavor.

Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 18, 2021 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 18, 2021 on matters affecting the Jericho School District and the Jericho Public Library.

A qualified voter is defined as:

- *A citizen of the United States
- *At least eighteen years of age
- *A resident in the Jericho Union Free School District for thirty days or more preceding the budget vote at which he/she offers to vote.

Persons disqualified from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law are not eligible to vote in school district elections.

New voters may register and vote on the day of the election. They will be asked to provide proof of residency and age.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- *Science Laboratory Program staffed by science specialists (Science, Engineering, Robotics)*
- *Balanced Literacy program*
- *Math in Focus*
- *Band & Orchestra for Grades 4 & 5*
- *Expanded Library/Media program staffed with full-time Media Research Specialist*
- *Student Leaders/Safety Patrol*
- *Instructional Technology – Smartboards and 1:1 Chromebooks or iPads*
- *World Languages*
- *Response to Intervention Program (RtI)*
- *Extensive Co-Teaching Program*
- *SEL/Mindfulness Programs, including Responsive Classroom initiative*
- *Virtual Arts in Education Field Experiences*
- *Exploratory Opportunities: STEAM Day, Genius Hour, Innovation Day, Cardboard Challenge, etc.*

Athletics Highlights

- *The Jericho Athletic Program currently consists of 29 varsity teams, 17 junior varsity teams, and 31 Middle School teams*
- *Participation:*
 - 360 High School students participated on our 16 fall teams
 - 226 High School students participated on our 13 winter teams
 - 740 Middle School students participated on our 31 MS teams
- *A New York State Scholar Athlete High School of Distinction for 16 consecutive years - the most by any school district in New York State.*
- *Girls Badminton, Boys Badminton, Boys Soccer & Girls Volleyball won Conference Championships in 2019.*
- *Girls Golf finished as Nassau County Runner-ups in 2019.*
- *Boys and Girls Badminton, Boys Soccer won the Nassau County Championships in 2020.*
- *Boys Soccer won their 5th New York State Championship last fall and finished as the #10 ranked team in the nation.*
- *In the past 14 years, the Jericho Athletic Program has won:*
 - 21 Nassau County Championships
 - 33 Conference Championships
 - 2 individual athletes earned State Championship honors in their respective sports
 - 19 individual athletes received All-State honors
 - 1 individual named as an All American in boys soccer

Public Budget Hearing & Meet the Candidates Night To be Held Virtually

The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be held via Zoom on May 11, 2021 at 7 PM. All are encouraged to attend

There are two seats open on the Board of Education this year. Four candidates are running for these seats. Listed in ballot order, the candidates are Thomas S. Taubes, Christopher M. Foresto, Samuel Perlman, and Jennifer Vartanov. Bill Ferro and Dab Lee are not seeking re-election. There is a virtual Meet the Candidates Night, sponsored by the PTA and moderated by the League of Women Voters, scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

Information on how to attend this meeting and the Budget Review meeting will be posted on the district website at www.jerichoschools.org.

With an Eye and Ear Toward the Arts: Art & Music Highlights

- *NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award*
- *11 All-State student-musicians & alternates*
- *2 All-Eastern student-musicians*
- *1 All-National student-musician*
- *21 Art Supervisors Association All-County student-artists*
- *National, state, & local art contest winners*
- *Virtual ensembles, chamber music, & art displays*
- *500+ NYS School Music Association adjudication virtual entries*
- *Virtual All-County, P.E.A.K., & LISFA participants*
- *Past participants in the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Competition, Herricks Jazz Festival, & Music In the Parks*
- *Named One of the Best Communities in America for Music Education (20+ consecutive years)*
- *National Art Honor Society & Tri-M National Music Honor Society*
- *Tri-M Music Honor Society MS Virtual Mentoring*
- *Jericho hosted virtual NYSSMA Piano Festival (26th year)*
- *Virtual Cookies & Canvas Night of Painting Fundraiser with PTAs for Jericho families*



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

(PROPOSITION #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2020-2021	%	2021-2022	%
INSTRUCTION	\$76,372,654	60.92%	\$77,769,238	60.76%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$3,665,714	2.92%	\$3,710,980	2.90%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,275,000	1.02%	\$1,275,000	1.00%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	\$8,290,649	6.61%	\$8,651,999	6.76%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$6,133,743	4.89%	\$6,134,290	4.79%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$10,000	0.01%	\$10,000	0.01%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$28,768,231	22.95%	\$29,595,594	23.12%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>\$850,000</u>	<u>0.68%</u>	<u>\$850,000</u>	<u>0.66%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$125,365,991	100%	\$127,997,101	100%

MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2021-2022

- National Schools to Watch Re-Designation
- Balanced Literacy PD (extension of elementary PD)
- National History Day Projects Grades 7 & 8
- Classroom technology applications: EdPuzzle, Google Meet, Zoom, SmartMusic, Peardeck, Nearpod, Flipgrid, Desmos
- One-to-One Technology
- “Nest” Period / Responsive Practices Initiative
- OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program
- Restorative Practices and Restorative Discipline approaches
- BRAVE (Bully Reduction Anti-Violence Education) Program/BRAVE Ambassadors
- JMS Lead Program
- Middle School teaming/Student Team Advisors
- Redesigned classroom spaces
- Growth Mindset Open House for Grade 6 Parents
- Parent Brunch and Learns
- Diversity Day
- Mobile maker space
- Family booktalk
- Mathletes/Math Olympiad/American Math Competition
- Mathcounts Long Island Champions
- V.A.L.U.E. (Volunteer Activities Leave Us Enriched) Credit Program-community service
- Mentoring program with Nassau County Bar Association
- Personal Best initiative
- Instructional Support Team /Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Student-driven EdCamp
- Wellness Day

Jericho Public Library

Jill Ames is running unopposed for one open Library Board seat.

ON THE BALLOT: PROPOSITION #2

SHALL the Board of Education be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$12,900,000 as follows: (1) \$6,677,000 from the capital reserve fund established on May 21, 2019 and (2) \$4,223,000 plus additional interest earned from the capital reserve fund established on May 16, 2017 and (3) \$1,300,000 from fund balance (unexpended funds from Proposition #2 authorized on May 15, 2018), and (4) \$700,000 from fund balance (unexpended funds from Proposition #2 authorized on May 16, 2017) for the purpose of completing capital improvements as follows: District-wide replacement/repairs of asphalt pavement, exterior masonry waterproofing, ceiling/lighting/flooring, air handling and ventilation; District-wide electrical upgrades and replacement; Installation of HVAC units at the Cantiague and Jackson Elementary Schools Gymnasiums; Hot water heater replacement at Jackson Elementary School; Roof replacement at the Jeffrey Ratner Robert Seaman Elementary School; Playground replacement at the Williams Elementary School; Athletic Field reconstruction including installation of a synthetic turf field and stadium lighting, reconstruction of the technology classrooms, and reconstruction of science rooms at the Jericho High/Middle School; all of the above to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus, and incidental costs associated therewith.

Capital Improvements

Included in the proposed budget, funds are allocated (\$1,275,000) to provide partial funding toward the reconstruction of science and technology classrooms at the HS/MS.

Budget Bulletin

Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 203-3600

Board of Education

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Jill Citron, *Vice President*
Divya Balachandar
Daborah Lee
Pam Wasserman-Heath

Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

Newsletter Editor

Denise Nash

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



2015/16 – 2019/20 FIVE YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

- Jericho Annual Average Increases in Budget was 0.79%
- Jericho Annual Average Increases in Actual Expenditures was 1.01%
(excluding capital propositions)
- Jericho Annual Average Increases in Tax Levy was 0.18%
- Long Island Annual Average Increases in Tax Levy was 1.76%