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May 2016

**VOLUME 52 NUMBER** 



In Jericho High School's class of 2015, 99.7% of all seniors earned Regents diplomas and 90.3% received Regents Diplomas Awarded with Distinction. Also, 94% of our graduates completed at least one Advanced Placement course. Jericho's percentages in these categories are among the highest in New York State.

## BOE Adopts Budget With 0% Tax Levy Increase

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2016-2017 school district budget at an open meeting on March 17, 2016. The \$121,024,051 budget represents a decrease in expenditures and a 0% tax levy increase.

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 at these workshops.

If the budget is not approved with a simple majority, the district can resubmit the original budget or a revised budget in June.

#### On the Ballot

Also on the ballot in May is Proposition #2. Voters will be asked to authorize the District to spend an amount not to exceed \$16,306,125. Funds will come from an existing Capital Reserve and fund balance. It will not have any additional impact on the taxpayers. In fact, next year's budget will be slightly lower, and the school tax levy will remain flat (0%). Projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan are explained in this newsletter.

#### Maintaining Programs

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

Also kept in consideration is the district's plan to continue technology replacement and expand technological initiatives districtwide. Included in the budget are plans to add over 300 Chromebooks and 270 iPads and replace over 255 desktops and 35 laptop computers; replace projectors, smartboards and printers as needed; and increase network speed, reliability, and storage.

Also listed in the budget is the addition of a full time science teacher at the elementary level, enabling each building to have a full time science teacher.

#### **Board of Education Seats**

There is one open seat on the Board of Education this year. Current Board Vice President, Joseph Lorintz, submitted a successful petition and will be on the ballot in May. He will be running unopposed.

#### **Additional Information**

Copies of the presentations that were presented during the budget workshops are available at www.jerichoschools.org. Questions related to the budget can be e-mailed to Victor Manuel at vmanuel@jerichoschools.org or by calling 516-203-3600 ext. 3214.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 6 AM - 9 PM Middle/High School Gym Jericho School News May 2016

# ON THE BALLOT: PROPOSITION #2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The District is embarking on the first phase of a District-wide Capital Improvement Plan. On May 17, 2016 voters will be asked to authorize the District to spend an amount not to exceed \$16,306,125. Funds will come from an existing Capital Reserve and fund balance, and will not have any additional impact on the taxpayers. In fact, next year's budget will be slightly lower, and the tax levy will remain flat (0%). The following district-wide improvements are included in the Capital Improvement Plan as necessary:

- Masonry renovations
- ADA compliance upgrades
- PA and clock system upgrades
- Fire alarm and smoke/heat detection upgrades
- Security and security mantrap upgrades
- Water distribution system upgrades
- Door replacement
- Asbestos abatement
- Ceiling/lighting upgrades
- Interior wall renovations
- Air handling and ventilation equipment upgrades
- Sidewalk and pavement renovations

Other projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan:

- Generator upgrades at Jackson, Seaman, and Cantiague Elementary Schools, as well as the transportation facility
- Roof replacement (including skylights) at Seaman and Williams Elementary Schools and the transportation facility
- Swimming pool renovations at Jericho High/Middle School
- Renovation of the Little Theatre at Jericho High/Middle School
- Renovation of science labs at Jericho High/Middle School
- Auditorium upgrades at Cantiague Elementary School
- Air handling and classroom ventilation upgrades at Jericho High/Middle School
- Boiler replacement at Williams Elementary School
- Installation of pre-fabricated metal commercial building at the transportation facility
- Construction of work/storage building at the maintenance facility

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Funds are allocated in the proposed budget (\$900,000) to begin/continue district-wide projects such as: concrete/asphalt repairs/replacement, playground equipment replacement, fencing repairs/replacement, building management system upgrades.

# WHAT IS A FUND BALANCE & WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

An operating surplus occurs when revenues exceed expenditures. The fund balance represents money that a district accumulates through operating surpluses to protect against unexpected expenses or revenue shortfalls that could cause an operating deficit. Most of these balances are in restricted reserves to protect against certain future liabilities and pay for capital expenses.

Managing fund balances is one of the most difficult tasks of the budgeting process, since budgets are only estimates of expenditures and anticipated revenues.

Fund balances are important because they assure the public that the budget plan will tolerate a certain amount of unexpected adversity, without forcing a crisis. They also help to provide for unanticipated expenses, emergencies, and options for long term planning (eg. Capital Reserve).

A stable fund balance is an indicator of good money management and assists in stabilizing taxes during this tax cap era. (eg. the 2016-2017 tax levy increase is 0%). Also, a stable fund balance results in a good credit rating, which leads to lower interest costs for long and short-term borrowing.



Jericho School News May 2016



## JERICHO ACCOLADES

100% GRADUATION RATE - CLASS OF 2015
\* \* \* \* \*

99.7%

REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE (JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015) \* \* \* \*

90.3%

REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION (JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015) \* \* \* \*

98%

4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE (JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015) \* \* \* \*

Newsweek Ranked Jericho High School 1st on Long Island and 27th Nationally \*\*\*\*

JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL HAD 29
NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

\* \* \* \*

6 STUDENTS WERE NAMED INTEL SEMIFINALISTS
& 1 WAS NAMED FINALIST IN 2016

\* \* \* \* \*

Named Best Community in America for Music Education for 17th year in a row \* \* \* \*

NYS SCHOLAR ATHLETE SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION FOR 11 CONSECUTIVE YEARS \* \* \* \*

## **2016-2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BUDGET STRATEGIES:**

- Remain committed to being a premier district and continue to deliver a high quality, 21<sup>st</sup> Century education
- Commitment to our District's mission and goals
- Keep a multi-year perspective on the budget
- Long-range planning for our educational programs and goals
- Maintain and renovate our facilities
- Continue technology replacement plans and expand technological initiatives
- Continue to pursue efficiencies in all areas of the school district

## **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 2016-17:**

- Continue district-wide tablet implementation, adding over 300 Chromebooks and 270 iPads
- Replace over 255 desktops and 35 laptops
- Replace network switches, projectors, Smartboards, and printers as needed
- Increase network speed, reliability, and storage
- Implement a new Learning Management System

### **OTHER BUDGET NOTES:**

- •Adding a third elementary science teacher
- •NYS Mandates Employer Contribution rates to the Employee Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System will decrease for 2016-2017



## Not Going to be in Jericho on May 17 and Want to Vote?

Absentee Ballot Applications are available online at www.jerichoschools.org. Click on the "Vote" logo at the bottom of the page. Applications must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. More information is available online.

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## ELEMENTARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2016-17

- Addition of one elementary science teacher for a total of three
- Band and orchestra for grades 4 & 5
- Library Program
- Cultural Arts
- Science Labs
- World Languages
- Co-teaching Program
- Social/Emotional Literacy Components
- Robotics Program
- Exploratory Opportunities: STEAM Day, Genius Day
- Student Leaders/Safety Patrol

## BUDGET HEARING & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Tuesday evening, May 10, 2016, in the High School Little Theater, at 7:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend.

There is one open seat on the Board of Education this year. Current Board Vice President, Joseph Lorintz, submitted a successful petition and will be on the ballot in May.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Complete copies of the proposed 2016-2017 Jericho School District Budget are available on the district website and in the Central Administration Office at 99 Cedar Swamp Road. Reference copies are available for inspection at all district schools and the Jericho Public Library. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 203-3600, extension 3201, with any questions. For information or questions regarding registration, voting and absentee ballots, please call 203-3600, extension 3214.

Check out the district's website at www.jerichoschools.org for updated information.

#### Athletics Highlights

- The Jericho Athletic Program currently consists of
  - 29 Varsity Teams
  - 14 Junior Varsity Teams
  - 24 Middle School Teams
- Participation:
  - 336 High School students participated on 17 fall teams
  - 251 High School students participated on 13 winter teams
  - 336 High School students participated on 14 spring teams
  - 211 Middle School students participated on 10 fall teams
  - 246 Middle School students participated on 13 winter teams
  - 200 Middle School students participated on 9 spring teams
- A New York State Scholar Athlete School of Distinction for 11 consecutive years
- 8 teams were named Scholar Athlete State Champions in 2014-2015
- Boys Soccer won the New York State Championship in 2011, 2012 & 2013
- Boys Fencing won the Nassau County Championship in 2016
- Boys Track & Field, Boys Volleyball and Soccer were Nassau County Runners up in 2015
- In the past 9 years, the Jericho Athletic Program has won:
  - 14 Nassau County championships
  - 20 Conference championships
  - 2 Individual athletes earned state championship honors in their respective sports
  - 14 individual athletes received All-State honors



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

- 5 Jericho musicians selected to perform at NY All-State Conference
- 23 Jericho art students represented at Nassau Art Supervisors Association
- 26 concerts in ten months
- Pit orchestra for musicals
- 600 plus NYSSMA entries
- 83 All-County students
- 30 LISFA Musicians
- Berklee & Herricks Jazz Festivals
- Music in the Parks Festivals
- · Homecoming Parade, football games, pep rallies
- Fundraising concerts
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- · Jericho hosts NYSSMA Piano Festival
- National Art Honor Society

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2016-2017 SCHOOL BUDGET

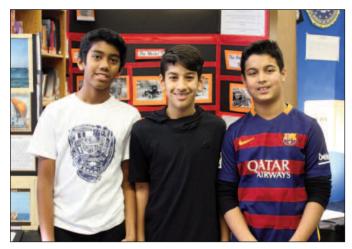
(Proposition #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2015-2016	<b>%</b>	2016-2017	<b>%</b>
Instruction	\$73,137,958	60.35%	\$73,571,872	60.79%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$3,608,245	2.98%	\$3,566,675	2.95%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$900,000	0.74%	\$900,000	0.74%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	\$7,879,787	6.50%	\$7,922,079	6.55%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$6,276,796	5.18%	\$6,055,461	5.00%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$65,000	0.05%	\$72,125	0.06%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$26,903,814	22.20%	\$26,496,883	21.89%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>\$2,413,638</u>	<u>1.99%</u>	<u>\$2,438,956</u>	<u>2.02%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$121,185,238	100%	\$121,024,051	100%

## PROPOSED 2016-17 BUDGET

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2016-2017 Jericho School District Budget at an open meeting on March 17, 2016. The \$121,024,051 budget represents a decrease in expenditures and a 0% tax levy increase.

Since January, the 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 at these workshops. "We have worked collaboratively to create a fiscal plan that continues the highest quality instructional program; expands investment in technology; and is extremely mindful of our taxpayers," explained Jericho Superintendent, Hank Grishman.



Jericho Middle School was re-designated a National School to Watch, one of only 300 Middle Schools in the Nation to earn this designation!

## SECONDARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2016-17

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Class Meetings
- National History Day Projects in Grades 7 & 8
- Expanded Special Education Program
- Middle School Teaming/Student Team Advisors
- OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program
- BRAVE Program/BRAVE Ambassadors
- Co-teaching Program
- Electives Dance, Mock trial, Little Chefs, SEEDLINGS, Competitive Science, Enhancements: Coding, Gadgets, & Gizmos
- Diversity Day
- Wise Start
- Spanish, French, Italian, and Chinese Languages
- Mathletes/Math Olympiad/American Math Competition
- Mathcounts Long Island Champions
- VALUE Credit Program-Community Service
- Mentoring Program
- Project AIM
- Participation in NC Anti-bias Consortium
- Personal Best Initiative

#### HIGH SCHOOL

- Broad array of Advanced Placement 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.
- New Media Communications Journalism program that enables students to explore communications in the digital age.
- Broad array of elective and extracurricular opportunities
- Co-teaching program

## **Budget Bulletin**

**School Budget Vote & Board Election Public Library Budget Vote** & Board Election:

**Tuesday, May 17, 2016** 6 AM - 9 PM Jericho Middle/High School Gym

Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753 (516) 203-3600

#### **Board of Education**

William Ferro, President Joseph H. Lorintz, Vice President Barbara Krieger Daborah Lee Gina Levy

#### **Superintendent of Schools**

Henry L. Grishman

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Denise Nash



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May 2016

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2016-2017 LIBRARY BUDGET (Proposition #3)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2015-2016	2016-2017
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$440,250	\$468,750
Programming	\$85,000	\$87,700
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$9,500	\$30,000
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$65,500	\$85,500
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$685,725	\$689,925
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$3,821,600	\$3,775,000
CAPITAL RESERVE	\$5,000	\$5,000
GASB 45	\$10,000	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,122,575	\$5,141,875
LESS TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$69,200 \$5,053,375	\$74,950 \$5,066,925

Percentage Increase in the Library Tax Levy 0.27%

The proposed levy will be within the allowable threshold as prescribed in Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011

One incumbent candidate running for one open Library Board seat:

Yimei Cui

Copies of the complete Jericho Library Proposed 2016-2017 Budget are available at the Jericho Public Library for inspection.

### **Voting Qualifications**

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 17, 2016 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 17, 2016 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.