

May 2013

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Jericho Budget Bulletin



In Jericho High School's class of 2012, 99.6% of all seniors earned Regents diplomas and 87% received Regents Diplomas Awarded with Distinction. Also, 88% of our graduates completed at least one Advanced Placement course. Jericho's percentages in these categories are among the highest in New York State.

Jericho's BOE Adopts Budget Within Tax Levy Limit

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2013-2014 school district budget at an open meeting on March 14, 2013. The \$117,878,708 budget represents a 2.98% increase and a tax levy increase not to exceed 3.13%. **The Board did not exceed the New York State Property Tax Levy Limit.**

The Jericho Board of Education worked collaboratively with district administration, PTA members, teachers, parents, site-based teams and the community since the beginning of the school year to present a budget that has the least impact on students and services while still remaining within the tax levy threshold. Realizing existing fiscal challenges, administrators and teachers agreed to freeze salary schedules.

While preparing the budget, many strategies were consid-

ered, including keeping a multi-year perspective. This year, there were no reductions to programs and nothing was removed from the budget that impacts students.

There were many challenges when formulating the budget this year, including increases in the New York State mandated employer contribution rates to the retirement systems and health insurance premiums that total close to \$3 million.

If the budget is not approved with a simple majority, the district may resubmit the original budget or a revised budget to voters in June or adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year. This would require a reduction in programs and services of over \$3 million.

Also on the ballot this year is Proposition #2: Capital Reserve Recommendation, which would provide long-range funding and

guidance for future capital improvement requirements. Approving this proposition would enable the district to establish a capital reserve fund, and enable the district to set aside funds for future construction projects.

Creating this capital reserve fund does not require raising additional taxes. It requires voter authorization to fund a capital reserve and additional voter authorization to expend from a capital reserve.

The maximum amount of the fund will be \$10 million and will not exceed an annual allotment of \$5 million. The probable term is ten years.

Copies of the presentations that were made at the three budget workshops are available at www.jerichoschools.org and questions related to the budget can be emailed to Denise Nash at dnash@jerichoschools.org.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

6 AM - 9 PM

Jericho Middle/High School Gym



BUDGET VOTE

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, qualified Jericho School District residents will be eligible to vote on the proposed 2013-2014 school budget. Voting will take place in the Jericho Middle/High School gymnasium between the hours of 6 AM and 9 PM. In addition, one Board of Education seat and the proposed Jericho Public Library Budget will be on the ballot.

PROPOSED 2013-14 BUDGET

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2013-2014 school district budget at an open meeting on March 14, 2013. The \$117 million budget represents a 2.98% budget increase and a tax levy increase not to exceed 3.13%. The Board did NOT exceed the New York State Property Tax Levy Limit.

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 together to create a budget that provides the highest quality instructional program while being extremely mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers and still remaining within the tax threshold," explains 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!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2013-14

ELEMENTARY

- Band & Orchestra for Grades 4 & 5*
- Library*
- Student Leaders/Safety Patrol*
- Cultural Arts*
- Science Labs*
- World Languages*
- Mandarin Enrichment*
- Co-Teaching Program*
- ELA & Math After-School Support Grades 3-5*
- Expanding Social/Emotional Literacy Components*
- Various Student Enrichment Opportunities*

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Middle School Teaming/Student Team Advisors*
- OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program*
- BRAVE Program/BRAVE Ambassadors*
- Co-teaching Program*
- Diversity Day*
- Wise Start*
- Project History Elective*
- SEEDLINGS Elective*
- Competitive Science Elective*
- Chinese Language*
- Mathletes/Math Olympiad/American Math Competition*
- Mathcounts Long Island Champions*
- Study Island*
- S.A.D.D. Students Against Destructive Decisions*
- V.A.L.U.E. Credit Program-Community Service*
- Mentoring Program*
- Project A.I.M. (HS students mentoring 6th grade students)*
- Participation in Nassau County Anti-bias Consortium*
- Personal Best Initiative*

HIGH SCHOOL

- Broad array of Advanced Placement opportunities*
- Science / Social Science / Pre-Calculus Research: Four year programs that enable students to perform actual research 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 16 college engineering credits*
- Senior Experience: Integrated internship experience that allows students to learn about government and economics in the real world*
- Virtual Enterprise: Virtual business consortium where students build a business from the ground up and sell their wares to other VE businesses across the globe*
- Broad array of elective and extracurricular opportunities*
- Extensive World Language Program*
- Co-Teaching Program*



JERICHO

SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2011-2012 School Year

99.6%

REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

87%

REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE
WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

95%

4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

99%

ENGLISH REGENTS PASS RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

96%

GEOMETRY REGENTS PASS RATE
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

93%

3RD GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS
(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

84%

8TH GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS
(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

97%

4TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS
(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

93%

6TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS
(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET STRATEGIES:

- Remain committed to being a premier school district
- Commit to District's mission and goals
- Keep a multi-year perspective on the budget
- Review all programs to determine effectiveness, feasibility and commitment to their continuation
- Maintain building reconditioning projects
- Continue technology replacement plans
- Continue to pursue efficiencies in all areas of the district

LOSS OF REVENUE:

State Aid has been reduced by over \$1 million since its peak in 2009-2010.

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS:

New High School Course Offerings:*

- Advanced Latin Literature
- Advanced Research/Writing

** IMPLEMENTED WITH EXISTING STAFF
AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO TAXPAYERS.*

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

Districtwide ceiling lighting upgrades to promote energy efficiency

CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES:

- State Aid: At what point does more aid shift from low need districts to higher needs districts?
- Federal Funding: With the national debt crisis, will there be reductions in Federal funding? Current discussions taking place regarding sequestration at the federal level. This could reduce certain federal funding 5% – 9%.
- When will increases in retirement systems contributions and health care insurance premiums plateau?
- Review all programs to determine effectiveness, feasibility and our commitment to their continuation
- Nassau County Tax Certiorari Challenge: On-going litigation to force school districts to pay for tax certiorari challenges the county currently pays. This would be a cost shift for all districts, but particularly for districts like Jericho that have a significant corporate tax base.

Not Going to be in Jericho on May 21 and Want to Vote?

Absentee Ballots are available online at www.jerichoschools.org. Click on the "Vote" logo at the bottom of the page. Applications must be received by Monday, May 20, and ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21 to the District Clerk. More information is available online.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

The New York State Legislature mandates that school districts offer a wide range of services. There are approximately 78 unfunded mandates in the areas of administration, business, facilities, health, instruction, evaluations, IT, personnel, private schools and transportation that NY State has compelled school districts to provide. Although NY State views these services as important, they do not provide Jericho with the appropriate financial resources to support them. While the intent of these mandates may be positive, they translate into added time, personnel and costs.

BUDGET HEARING & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Tuesday evening, May 14, 2013, 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 member Joseph Lorintz is running unopposed for the seat.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Complete copies of the proposed 2013-2014 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.

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow the Jericho School District on Twitter at [Twitter.com/JerichoUFSD](https://twitter.com/JerichoUFSD) for districtwide information, as well as live election results on May 21.



Athletics Highlights

- 381 High School students participated on our 18 fall teams
- 305 High School students are currently participating on 13 winter teams
- 242 Middle School students participated on our 10 fall teams
- 268 Middle School students are currently participating on 13 winter teams
- A New York State Scholar Athlete School of Distinction for 8 consecutive years.
- 2 fall teams were named Scholar Athlete State Champions in 2012.
- Boys Soccer won the New York State Championship in 2011 and 2012.
- Boys Badminton captured their 4th consecutive Nassau County Championship.
- In the past 6 years, the Jericho Athletic Program has won:
 - 11 Nassau County Championships
 - 19 Conference Championships
 - 2 individual athletes earned State Championship honors in their respective sports
 - 10 individual athletes received All-State honors
- Boys Basketball team was named 2013 Nassau County Champions
- 3 Winter teams were named Scholar Athlete State Champions in 2013

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

- Newsday Scholar Artist Winner
- 8 Jericho musicians selected to perform at New York All-State Conference
- Jericho represented at Nassau Art Supervisors Association
- 26 concerts were held in 10 months
- 400+ NYSSMA entries
- 86 All-County students
- 26 Long Island String Festival Association Musicians
- Participation in the Herricks and Berklee Jazz Festivals
- Ad hoc ensembles perform at nursing homes and senior citizen facilities
- Fundraising concerts are held by the Tri-M Music Honor Society
- “Bring Back the Music” Super Storm Sandy benefit concert nets over \$20,000 for East Rockaway Music Program



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2013-2014 SCHOOL BUDGET

(PROPOSITION #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2012-2013	%	2013-2014	%
INSTRUCTION	\$69,201,049	60.45%	\$69,781,189	59.20%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$3,627,209	3.17%	\$3,549,484	3.01%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,000,000	0.87%	\$900,000	0.76%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	\$7,600,465	6.64%	\$7,677,386	6.51%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$6,105,479	5.33%	\$6,202,778	5.26%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$54,000	0.05%	\$54,000	0.05%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$24,514,036	21.42%	\$27,298,833	23.16%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>\$2,366,226</u>	<u>2.07%</u>	<u>\$2,415,038</u>	<u>2.05%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$114,468,464	100%	\$117,878,708	100%

On the Ballot: Proposition #2: Capital Reserve Recommendation



During the May 21 budget vote, residents will have the opportunity to vote on a Capital Reserve Recommendation. Approving this proposition would allow the district to establish a capital reserve fund, and enable the district to set aside funds for future construction projects.

Creating this capital reserve fund does not require raising additional taxes. It requires voter authorization to fund a capital reserve and additional voter authorization to expend from a capital reserve. A capital reserve fund provides long-range funding and guidance for future capital improvement requirements.

Information on Proposition #2

- Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund, known as the “Facilities Improvement Program - Jericho Public Schools.”
- The maximum amount of the aforesaid Capital Reserve Fund shall be \$10 million not to exceed an annual allotment of \$5 million.
- The probable term is ten years.
- The funds are to be transferred from monies remaining in the general fund and/or from existing reserves as allowed by General Municipal and Education Law.

Budget Bulletin

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

6 AM - 9 PM

Jericho Middle/High School Gym

Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753

(516) 203-3600

Board of Education

Joseph H. Lorintz, *President*

William Ferro, *Vice President*

Shawn Gladstone

Claire M. Hochheiser

Barbara Krieger

Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

Newsletter Editor

Denise Nash



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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2013-2014 LIBRARY BUDGET (PROPOSITION #3)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2012-2013	2013-2014
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$431,200	\$429,000
PROGRAMMING	\$97,600	\$95,600
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$10,000	\$9,500
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$68,000	\$66,000
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$584,700	\$593,950
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$3,613,300	\$3,713,850
CAPITAL RESERVE	\$5,000	\$5,000
GASB 45	\$10,000	\$10,000
MTA TAX	\$8,700	\$8,900
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,828,500	\$4,931,800
LESS TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	\$81,600	\$68,900
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$4,746,900	\$4,862,900

Percentage Increase in the Library Tax Levy 2.44 %

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:

Gloria Jacobson

Copies of the complete Jericho Library Proposed 2013-2014 Budget are available at the Jericho Public Library for inspection.

May 2013

Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 21, 2013 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 21, 2013 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.