



# Longwood Life

community unity...be a part of the pride!

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

MAY 2020

## BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.26, the 2020-21 Budget Vote and Board Election will be conducted by an absentee ballot process.

There will be no voting at polls.

Ballots due by:

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

**2020-21 Proposed Budget:  
\$255,600,000**

Budget Increase: 0.04%

Tax Levy Increase: 3.33%

Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act requires school districts in Suffolk County to provide all election information in both English and Spanish. In accordance with this act, print materials produced by Longwood Schools pertaining to the 2020-21 School District Election and Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.

### A Message from Your Board of Education and Superintendent

Dear Longwood School Community,

On Thursday, May 7, the Board of Education adopted a 2020-21 budget to be presented to the community by absentee ballot. This year, the vote will take place exclusively by absentee ballot, which will be mailed to voters with a postage-paid return envelope. The absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on June 9, 2020.

The \$255,600,000 proposed budget seeks a 3.33% tax levy increase, and a 0.04% budget increase, the second-lowest budget to budget increase in the history of Longwood. Once again, the proposed budget remains within the tax cap.

This budget demonstrates our enduring support of innovative learning opportunities for our students to enhance their academic experience, as well as a rigorous curriculum that prepares our students to be college and career ready.

We are living in unprecedented times; yet, we remain a more united, stronger district than ever before. During this school closure, we will continue to provide meals, childcare services for essential workers, and distance learning for our students. Almost overnight, our dedicated staff came together to provide distance learning for all while focusing on care, connection, and continuity of academics. We are learning to be more flexible and responsive, and through this situation, we are innovating the way we teach and learn.

We are proud of the 20 years of community support for our budget, and we ask you to review the information contained in this newsletter. More details can be found on our website at [www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us). While voting looks different this year, now more than ever, your vote – every vote – counts!

As always, we extend our sincere thanks to you for your ongoing support of our students and our schools. Stay strong; we will get through this together.

Frank Muraca  
Board of Education President

Dr. Michael R. Loneran  
Superintendent of Schools

## Longwood

Central School District



### Board of Education

Frank Muraca, President  
Paul Infranco, Vice President  
Daniel Tomaszewski  
Penelope J. Blizzard-McGrath, Esq.  
Victoria Molloy  
William Massian  
Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Michael R. Loneran

## Current Resident

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 2  
Middle Island  
New York 11953

\*\*\*\*MANWSS\*\*

# 2020-21 Proposed Budget

## Projected Expenses

Budget 2019-20    Budget 2020-21

### Administrative (Instructional Support)

**Board of Education** \$ 207,903 \$ 212,545  
Includes District Clerk/Secretary, memberships, conferences, district meetings and supplies.

**Central Administration** 2,811,007 2,994,187  
Includes the Office of Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent for District Operations, auditor, treasurer, legal services, clerical staff, contracted services and supplies, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and personnel office.

**Central Services** 3,634,957 3,789,086  
Includes Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel & Community Services, public information, clerical staff, contracted services, records management, printing, mailing, supplies, equipment, AV technicians and BOCES services.

**Special Items** 2,461,318 2,777,097  
Includes insurance and BOCES administrative costs.

**Building Administration & Curriculum Development** 11,310,983 11,481,186  
Includes Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Learning, directors, coordinators, principals, asst. principals, clerical staff, retirement, memberships, in-service education, educational conferences, equipment and supplies.

**Benefits** 6,645,508 6,750,421  
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability and worker's compensation; and unemployment insurance.

**Subtotal** \$ 27,071,676 \$ 28,004,522

### Program (Instruction and Service)

**Legal** \$ 189,000 \$ 256,500

**Teaching** 66,328,344 67,289,983

Includes elementary and secondary teachers, staff assistants, substitute teachers, home tutoring, clerical staff, contracted services, textbooks, testing materials, equipment, supplies, BOCES services, memberships & conferences.

**Charter School Tuition** 1,200,000 1,300,000

**Pupil Personnel Services** 58,372,349 59,158,609  
Includes K-12 special education teachers, PCEN teachers, teaching and staff assistants, school counselors, nurses, speech & hearing teachers, psychologists, social workers, testing materials, clerical staff, contractual services, health services for students attending private and parochial schools, textbooks, teaching materials, equipment, memberships, supplies, BOCES services, tuition paid to other districts, drivers' education and attendance services.

**Instructional Support** 3,332,858 3,330,589  
Includes library/media specialists, library services, technology, computer hardware and software, supplies, library books, memberships, conferences and equipment.

**Sports and Activities** 1,992,798 2,114,311  
Includes co-curricular program, club advisors, interscholastic programs, coaches' salaries, officials, medical and security fees, participation fees, equipment, supplies and clerical staff.

**Pupil Transportation** 15,692,674 16,228,285  
Includes clerical, computer services, all bus contracts (including BOCES; private, parochial and special schools; field trips; interscholastic and co-curricular); central registration, materials and supplies.

**Charter School Transportation** 340,000 281,697

**Benefits** 47,223,569 47,407,939  
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

**Interfund Transfers** 450,000 575,000  
The District shared costs for summer special education program.

**Subtotal** \$195,121,592 \$197,942,913

### Capital (Buildings & Grounds)

**Operations/Maintenance** \$ 14,391,947 \$ 14,293,874  
Includes Director of Plant Facilities, custodians, maintenance staff, groundsmen, equipment, security guards, utilities, clerical staff, maintenance of buildings & grounds, vehicles, contracted services, supplies, judgments and claims.

**Capital Project** 450,000 450,000  
Districtwide HVAC and Sitework

**Debt Service** 13,850,957 10,474,206  
Includes principal and interest on school construction bonds, public library construction bonds, interest on Tax Anticipation Notes. Please note that this component of the budget includes payments on lease purchases of copier equipment.

**Benefits** 4,613,828 4,434,485  
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

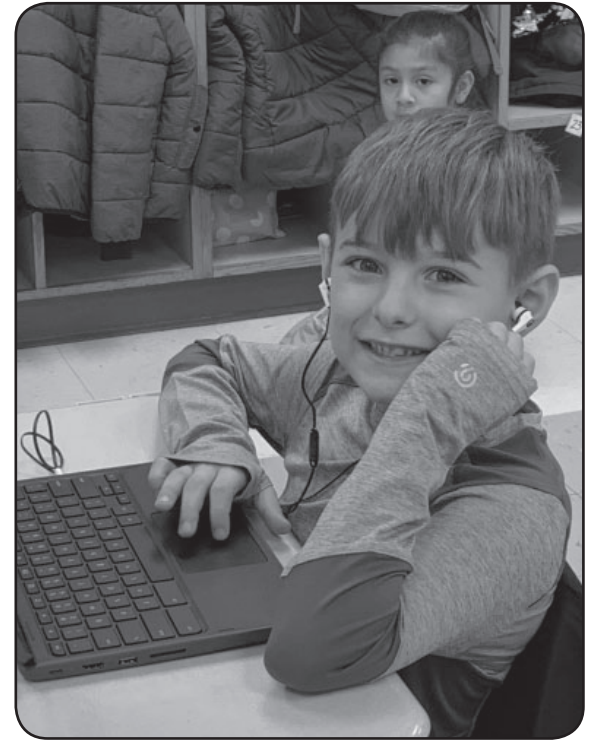
**Subtotal** \$ 33,306,732 \$ 29,652,565

**Total School Budget** \$255,500,000 \$255,600,000

**Percentage of Budget Increase** **0.04%**

# Anticipated Revenue Budget - Where does the money come from?

<u>Category</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>Revenue Percentage</u>
Real Estate Taxes	\$144,896,175	\$149,714,213	58.57
State & BOCES Aid	96,734,670	92,136,880	36.05
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000	2.35
Reserves	1,500,000	1,250,000	0.49
PILOT Payments	1,280,000	1,300,000	0.51
Other Revenue	<u>5,089,155</u>	<u>5,198,907</u>	<u>2.03</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$255,500,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$255,600,000</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>



Percentage of Tax Levy Increase: 3.3%

Estimated Tax Rate per \$100 Assessed Value\*: \$288.36

\*Based upon the assessed value for 2018-19. The assessed value is subject to change for 2020-21.

Estimated Increase for Average Home (assessed at \$2,438): \$226.25

## Budget Vote

**Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.26, the 2020-2021 Budget Vote and Board Election will be conducted by an absentee ballot process. There will be no voting at polls.**

An absentee ballot with a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to all qualified voters in the school district whose names can be ascertained from the registration rolls utilized for the May 2019 budget vote and election, as well as those residents whose names have been added to the rolls since that time. Absentee ballots shall be received by the Office of the District Clerk, Longwood School District, 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island, NY 11953 no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

The annual budget Public Hearing for the fiscal year 2020-2021 will be held on June 1, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., virtually. The link for the meeting will be found on the district website at [www.longwood.k12.ny.us](http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us).

A qualified voter must be a United States Citizen, be at least 18 years of age, be a resident of the school district for thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election, and not otherwise prohibited from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

Registration to vote may be accomplished remotely through the New York State DMV at the following: <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>).

## Board of Education

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, you will also be asked to vote for two board members for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2023.

1. Christina Brown
2. Paul Infranco
3. Frank Muraca

For information about the budget, visit our website at  
[www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us).



# In spite of challenges, our students continue to excel in academics, the arts, athletics and community leadership:

## Academics

The Class of 2019 earned more than \$18 million in scholarships and was accepted to the nation's top colleges and universities. Students also received more than 160 credits through the Early College Entrance Partnership Program.

The Class of 2019 eligible graduation rates remains consistent at 97%.

The junior high school maintains its position as one of only 30 New York State Elite Schools designated as an Essential Elements School-to-Watch.

The high school Virtual Business Entrepreneur Program placed second among 1,500 students across 100 LI schools.

More than 490 high school students participated in Advanced Placement and credit-bearing college courses in the 2019-20 school year.

The high school is one of only six Long Island schools chosen to participate in the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) program, which prepares students for Computer Science careers. This year, staff will participate in professional development in Computer Science, and high school students have access to Amazon Web Services.

Twenty high school students finished in the top five in an All-Island FBLA competition.

The Junior High School, FIRST Tech Challenge Team, took second-place at the SBPLI Long Island FIRST Robotics Regional Championship.

A high school student was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## Arts

For the twelfth-year, the district has been designated a Best Community for Music Education by NAMM.

Five high school students attended the prestigious NYSSMA Conference.

Student musicians were chosen to participate in the All-State Music Festival with one student selected for the second consecutive year.

Sixty-two students were selected for All-County ensembles in band, chorus, and orchestra.

The music education program was honored by Music for All with the inaugural "Advocacy in Action" Gold Award.



## Athletics

The varsity cheerleaders won the Suffolk County Championship in Small Division I.

The girls' varsity basketball team won the Suffolk County finals and earned the title of League One Champions.

Both the junior varsity and varsity football teams advanced to the semi-finals.

Interscholastic athletics consists of 69 teams, 40 at the high school, and 29 at the junior high school. There are more than 1,800 participants in the 7-12 program each year, and more than 700 athletes continue to maintain honor roll status while participating in sports.

Eighty-two student-athletes received All-League, All-Division, All-County, All-State, and national qualifying honors with 12 participating in early National Letters of Intent signings.

Student-athletes signed letters of commitment to Division I, II, III colleges to continue their athletic careers.

Eighteen varsity teams have qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Team Award by maintaining an academic average of 90 or above.

## Community Leadership

Five Coram Elementary School teachers were selected to present on Technology Integration at the Suffolk Asset Technology Conference.

Ridge Elementary School has been designated a Leader In Me Lighthouse School.

Our School-to-Business Partnerships with local businesses continue to enrich our Pathways to Learning Academies program. This innovative program was recognized at a national superintendent's conference.

The District maintains an outstanding financial credit rating of AA+.

Through our partnership with Brookhaven National Laboratories, K-12 students participate in cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM), research topics, contests, and summer programs.

The district continues to lead in the fight against vaping and substance abuse through educational programs for students and the community.

# Expanding Student Learning Experiences While Maintaining Our Fiscal Responsibilities

## Students Remain Our First Priority

- Ensure a comprehensive academic program for college and career readiness.
- Support secondary level program “Pathways to Learning Academies” to include additional coursework to complement skill building.
- Broaden the districtwide literacy and math support programs.
- Expand school bus safety programs to include stop-arm camera technology.
- Enrich our partnerships with local SUNY colleges for credit-bearing courses within our Learning Academies, the early college entrance program, and early college high school program.
- Provide education and support for our students and families with comprehensive alcohol and substance abuse programs, as well as the student wellness programs to include education and preventative strategies in combating vaping.
- Enrichment of our Leader in Me Program that continues to strengthen our students self-advocacy and social emotional interpersonal skills.
- Increase mental health programs to include youth mental health first aid and mindfulness practices.

## Program Enhancement Priorities

- Completion of STEAM laboratory for students K-12.
- Continuation of our free breakfast and lunch programs for ALL students.
- Maintain the use of our i-Ready instructional components and diagnostic tools.
- Creation of a state-of-the-art STEAM laboratory for students districtwide.
- Partnership with ESBOCES to reinforce districtwide cyber-security protection.
- Continue to enhance the development of external classroom learning experiences.
- Provide a series of student-run Public Service Announcements addressing at-risk behaviors facing students.
- Support of the Longwood Career Center (LCC) which provides occupational experiences for secondary special education students.
- Expand our federal-state grant application opportunities for additional revenue; to date in excess of \$6,058,758.
- Expand current levels of occupational education opportunities to high school juniors and seniors.
- Continue to support professional development for our staff and administrators to align with the higher learning standards.
- Expansion of Naviance College and Career Readiness for students in grades 7-12.

## Maintaining Our Facilities

- Installation of secured “man-trap” vestibules in all school buildings.
- Implementation of the final phases of our Capital Improvement Project.
- Maintain school building security utilizing advanced technology.
- Enhance our technology infrastructure and hardware with the Smart Bond Act.
- Finalize the future Student Service Center, aligned to complement our Capital Improvement Plan.



## School Board Candidates

The PTA Council submitted the following questions to each school board candidate to provide information and goals of each candidate. The profiles are printed as submitted by the candidates, without editing. Candidates appear in alphabetical order as they will appear on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services. By law, they are required to be qualified voters in the school district where they reside, residents for a minimum of one year, and be able to read and write. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition to the District Clerk.

### 1. Christina Brown



**Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools:**

Michael Class of 2016 (Navy)  
Matthew Class of 2018 (sophomore - the University at Buffalo)  
Angelina currently in 10th grade at LHS.

**Professional or Business Experience:** Began my career in education in 2009 with Longwood 10+ years experience school para-

professional

Teacher Assistant Certification June 2019

Registered Behavior Technician Certification October 2019

Employed at WFSD as a Teacher Assistant. Currently working towards my AA Degree in Teacher Education, and plan to continue in the Human services field.

2 years experience as Families and Schools Together Parent Partner and School Partner completed The Mental Health First Course in 2019

**Longwood School District Community involvement and number of years:**

Longwood PTA Member from 2003 - present.

WMI PTA

President, 2 year term; 2nd VP, 2 year term

Longwood Middle School PTA

President, 2 year term

Longwood Junior High PTSA

Recording/Corresponding Secretary, 2 years each

Longwood High School PTSA

Treasurer/Secretary 2 years each

Longwood BoE District Committees

4 years Legislative Committee and Safety Committees

Shared Decision Team

Superintendent's Commission on 3-8 Assessment Reform

**Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:**

My professional and volunteer experiences have inspired me to be a voice for the children in our community. I am a passionate advocate for education and I believe that I can positively contribute to the work of the Longwood Board of Education.

**What are your first three priorities for the Longwood School District?**

The students

Establish a Parent Advisory Committee

Reassess the budget

**How would you accomplish these priorities?**

I will accomplish these priorities by being a reasonable voice for the students, putting the politics aside and focus on a partnership with fellow Board members to get the job done. I will work hard to build a strong and communicative relationship with the students, parents, faculty and staff of Longwood.

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### 2. Paul J. Infranco



**Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools:** A son and daughter graduated from LCS.D.

**Education:** MA, Adelphi University

**Professional and Business Experience:** Educator, 41 years

BOE member 6 years, 3 as VP

**Longwood School District community involvement and number of years served:**

Longwood Youth Sports Association (LYSA), Veterans Project at Bartlett Pond, Longwood Alliance, Longwood Booster Club, Longwood Summer Recreation Program, Games for the Physically Challenged, and Veterans Cemetery Project.

**Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:**

My 47 years of experience gives me unique insight to the needs of the community. Experience that will be useful as the educational landscape changes rapidly. Much of my experience has been focused on the school/community relationship, and I have been fortunate to have been a part of the many projects that enhanced our community.

**What Are Your First Three Priorities for the Longwood School District:**

1. To provide the best instruction for our students that we can afford. We need to be able to adapt to provide the best instruction that gives students every opportunity to succeed.
2. Fiscal Responsibility –to provide the best educational program possible. We must be creative and efficient in the managing of our funds.
3. Continue to collaborate with others to create opportunities for our children.

**How would you accomplish these priorities?**

We must continue to provide our staff the appropriate training necessary to carry out their educational responsibilities. To provide a safe and secure environment that affords every student the opportunity to learn. The current board has been fine stewards of our funds. They have cultivated an excellent working relationship with local legislators resulting in additional resources being allocated to our community. The current economic climate will be very challenging, and we face potential quarterly cuts from the state. It will take experience and leadership to navigate through the difficult times ahead. By working with educators, and others, we can create low cost opportunities for our children when it is needed most.

**3. Frank Muraca**



**Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools:**  
 3 Grandchildren, 2 Daughters Longwood Grads, Daughter, Son-in Law, and Grandson Longwood teachers.  
**Education:** AAS Industrial Engineering  
 NCC Industrial Management Courses  
 NTSSBA Level 4 Board Training

**Achievement**

**Professional and Business Experience:**

46 Years Business Management (Northrop Grumman)  
 US Army Veteran

**Longwood School District community involvement and the number of years served:**

44 years as a community member  
 9 years serving on the Board of Education (3 years President, 2 years Vice President)  
 Longwood Committee service; 6 years Budget, 2 years Safety, 2 years Legislative and 5 years on Policy

Member of Coram Civic Association, Davis Town Meeting House, American Legion and the Brookhaven Lions Club

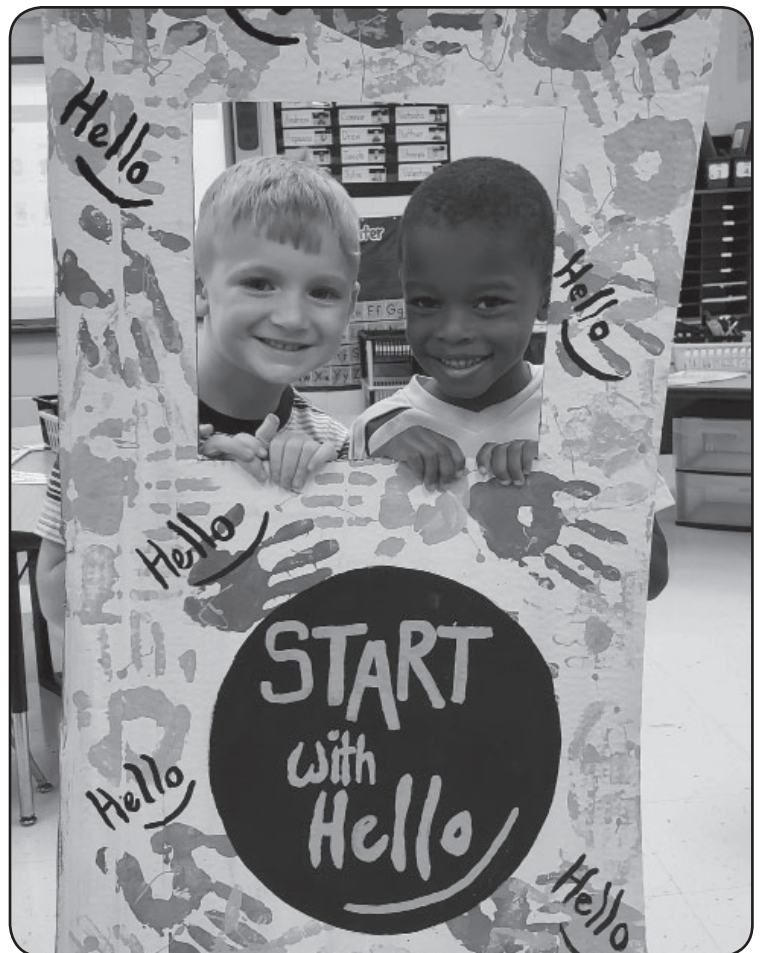
**Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:**

Education has never been more challenging then it is today. With the many rules and regulations imposed upon the educational community by the federal and state governments the challenges before us are enormous. Today we are facing a national emergency the likes we have never seen. I believe my Board experience with five in leadership roles have prepared me to help lead our District through this and future crisis. Plain and simple Experience Matters, Leadership Matters.

**What Are Your First Three Priorities for the Longwood School District:**

My top priorities always are providing students with an excellent education, in a safe environment, in facilities that are well maintained and district financial stability. However, today are not normal times my top priorities right now are to get through the current crisis providing students with enhanced learning opportunities, making sure meals are distributed to our children, keeping our staff engaged and paid. My next priority will be preparing for the reopening of our schools including a successful next year September start.

I will accomplish this by being engaged working hard with my fellow Board Members and the Superintendent.





# Budget Vote

## Frequently Asked Questions

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an executive order with changes to the Board of Education Election and Budget Vote for the 2020-21 school year.

Because the dates and deadlines have been revised and the information is so detailed, we are providing this question and answer format for you:

### **When is the Budget Hearing?**

The budget hearing will be held remotely on Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. and will be live-streamed to the public. The link can be found on the district website at [www.longwood.k12.ny.us](http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us).

### **What is the revised date of the Board of Education Election and Budget Vote?**

The election and budget vote initially scheduled for May 19, 2020, will now take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. However, it is best not to think of this vote happening on a single day since we encourage voters to send their completed ballots back as quickly as possible!

### **How can I vote?**

There will be no voting at the polls! The vote will take place exclusively by absentee ballot, which will be mailed to qualified voters in the district with a postage-paid return envelope. The absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk, Lillian Pizzolo, no later than 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

### **Who is considered a qualified voter?**

Qualified voters must be 18 years old or older, a United States citizen and a resident of the Longwood Central School District for 30 days immediately preceding the election. All qualified voters in your household will be mailed an absentee ballot as per the list of qualified voters from the Suffolk County Board of Elections.

### **How can I find out if I am registered to vote?**

To check your registration status, go to <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/>. How do I register to vote if I am not presently on the voting roll? You can register with the Board of Elections by submitting an on-line application for voter registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registrationapplication>.

### **How do the ballots get counted?**

Absentee ballots will be counted by election inspectors at one secured school district location.

### **What happens if the budget fails?**

We are proud to share that our school community has overwhelmingly approved the budget for 18 consecutive years! If the proposed budget is defeated at the polls on June 9, the district would need to reduce \$4,818,038 from the budget, resulting in:

- Increased class size
- Elimination of staff
- Limited opportunities and reduced services for students and staff
- Elimination of new equipment
- Limit use of buildings and grounds by community organizations

### **How many Board of Education trustee seats are on the ballot this year?**

There are two (2) trustee seats up for election this year, each for a three-year term starting July 1, 2020. Candidates run at large, meaning that the two trustees with the highest number of consecutive votes will win the election. Candidates' names will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name.