



# CommunityLink

Budget 2016

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## Capital Reserve Proposition

Another question on the ballot will be a proposal by the school district to establish a Capital Reserve. This planning for the future is in full compliance with regulations of the New York State Comptroller. The purpose of the Capital Reserve is to finance part of the costs of future capital projects to maintain district buildings. The term length is 10 years, with a maximum balance of \$25 million.

A public vote by the community is required to establish the Reserve and a public vote will be required in the future to spend the funds. While no immediate funding is proposed on the ballot, once approved, the Board of Education could allocate funds from year-end surplus, transfer funds from other reserves, or include funds in future budgets for this purpose.

## Fiscal Prudence and Educational Excellence

By Dr. Paul R. Fried, Superintendent of Schools

Our work to prepare an annual budget each year is part of a very strategic long-term fiscal planning strategy. Thinking far beyond what's right in front of us, we begin in the fall by updating our five-year budget plan. Under the leadership of the Board of Education, we proceed with a collaborative and transparent process, including three public Board meetings and two community forums that give all stakeholders an opportunity to provide input and feedback.

The \$208,750,000 proposed budget that we will ask the community to approve on May 17th is responsible, forward-thinking and ensures our ability to continue providing an excellent education to the 7,000+ students in our district. With a 1.43% increase over last year, we will once again remain within property tax cap limitations. The tax cap, based on CPI, is only a 0.12% increase, which will result in a very minimal increase in the school tax rate -- 0.30%. This equals an estimated \$28.05 per year for the average residence. (For more details about the tax cap and tax levy, please refer to the FAQ on page 4 of this newsletter.)

The budget reflects a \$2.4 million increase in New York State aid as well as a reduction in State pension costs, factors that allow us to submit a very low taxpayer increase while still making key program and staffing additions.

**“Even though it’s an annual budget, it’s never just about ‘this’ year,”** said Fred Seiler, Assistant Superintendent for Business. **“Whether we’re facing a more difficult year or one with some breathing room, our conservative planning approach ensures that we’re always able to balance fiscal responsibility with our**

**commitment to excellent programming for students.”**

The May 17th vote also includes:

- a proposition authorizing the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund with an ultimate amount of \$25 million with a term of 10 years, to be used for facilities and site improvement
- the election of two Board Members for three-year terms; candidates are incumbents Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris

### Highlights of the Proposed Budget:

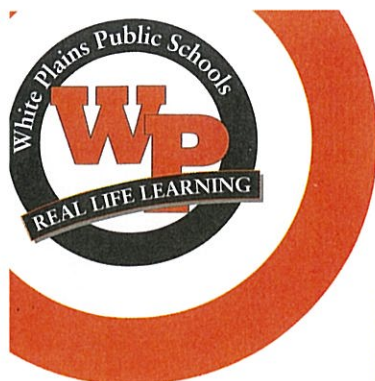
- More in-district special education programs; fewer students will have to leave the district each day to attend school and they will have more opportunities to connect with peers.
- Two additional elementary school teachers will allow us to maintain an average class size of 21 students.
- Computer instruction assistants at the elementary schools and Eastview Middle School will enhance technology learning and allow us to develop a sequential curriculum.
- A new art teacher will meet student demand for visual arts classes at the high school.
- Additional assistant coaches will support the large number of participants and ensure a safe environment.
- No budget-related program or staff reductions are included; only adjustments based on enrollment.

## Salute to Fred Seiler

Fred Seiler, Assistant Superintendent for Business, has served the White Plains School District with distinction for 10 years. His contributions toward a stable budget, along

with his attention to important capital projects, have led us forward and positioned us well for the future. Fred will retire on June 30th, and we wish him and his wife Hilde much health, happiness and relaxation.





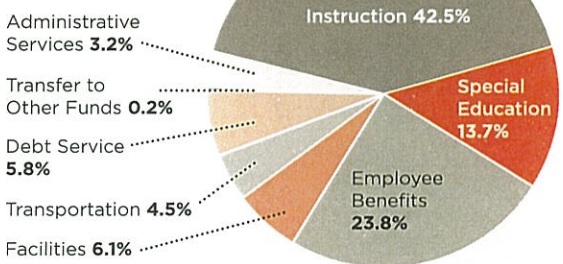
## Budget at a Glance White Plains Budget Expenses by Category Proposed Expenditures 2016-2017

	2015-2016	2016-2017	\$ Change	% Change
Instruction	\$ 85,772,171	\$ 88,815,037	\$ 3,042,866	3.5%
Special Education	27,629,595	28,662,163	1,032,568	3.7%
Employee Benefits	50,595,781	49,707,000	(888,781)	(1.8%)
Facilities	12,610,404	12,834,967	224,563	1.8%
Transportation	9,456,058	9,459,463	3,405	0.0%
Debt Service	8,233,965	12,122,503	3,888,538	47.2%
Transfer to Other Funds	4,845,053	450,000	(4,395,053)	(90.7%)
Administrative Services	6,656,973	6,698,867	41,894	0.6%
	<b>\$205,800,000</b>	<b>\$208,750,000</b>	<b>\$2,950,000</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

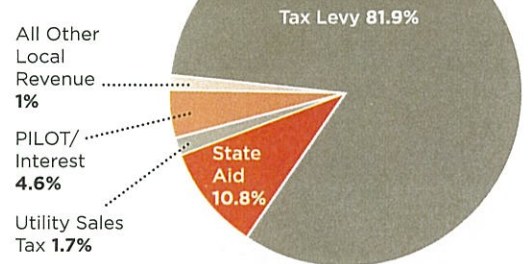
**VOTE!**  
Tuesday, May 17  
noon - 9 pm

**NOTE:** Poll #1 has been moved to the Battle Hill Community Room, McKinley Avenue, from Fire Station #5, which has been closed.

### Expenditures as a Percent of Total



### Revenues as a Percent of Total Revenue



**White Plains Board of Education Election Districts**

For information, please call 914.422.2000

## Voter Information

**Voting will take place Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon-9pm.**

### Voting Qualifications

To vote in this election, an individual must be a registered voter, a resident of White Plains for 30 days prior to May 17th and at least 18 years of age.

### Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who will not be in White Plains on May 17th during voting hours may vote by absentee ballot. Please call (914) 422-2000 to obtain an application or go online to [www.whiteplainspublicschools.org](http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org).

### Budget Information

- Watch "A Look at the Budget" on Channels 46 and 77, with airings from now to election day.
- Call Dr. Paul Fried, Superintendent of Schools, at (914) 422-2019, or Fred Seiler, Assistant Superintendent for Business, at (914) 422-2064.
- A copy of the proposed budget may be reviewed at any of our schools, the White Plains Public Library, Education House (5 Homeside Lane), or the Family Information Center on North Street.

### Candidate Information

Two seats on the Board of Education will be filled in this year's election, each with a three-year term of office, beginning July 1, 2016. A Candidates' Meeting, sponsored by the White Plains League of Women Voters, will be shown on Channels 46 and 77 and repeated until election day. Consult the district's channel guide for specific dates. Candidates are the two incumbents, Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris.

# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

## Students Lead Teacher Conferences at Church Street

Church Street 5th graders in Melanie Bradish's and Jackie Miller's classes are taking ownership of their education and progress by participating in portfolio-led parent/teacher conferences twice a year. To prepare, students gather materials to demonstrate to parents what they've been working on, how they're progressing toward goals and what support they may need to meet challenges. On conference day, students lead the conversation with their parents and show them evidence of their progress using a script they've prepared, while the teachers circulate and visit with each family.

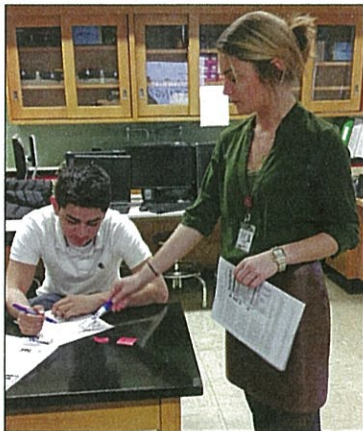
**“Our students now understand that their grades are what they have earned, not just what a teacher gave them,”** said Ms. Bradish, who teaches reading and writing.

A heartfelt moment as Church Street fifth grader Cairenn explains to her mom that she met two of her reading goals and demonstrates the connection between her effort and her increased reading scores.



## Wellness Day at Rochambeau

Rochambeau High School's recently held its first Wellness Day, designed to provide students with the knowledge and community resources to lead a healthy lifestyle. Students participated in interactive presentations and activities led by a variety of health professionals on topics such as nutrition, fitness and first aid, and careers in related fields.



Annelise Quinn, Clinical Dietician at White Plains Hospital, reviews a nutrition worksheet with a student.

## Science Research Award Winners

White Plains High School's Science Research Program, led by teacher Kimberly Fleming, had four winners at the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, an annual competition that attracts hundreds of students from approximately 30 different high schools in the two counties. Students compete in various categories, ranging from Behavior to Cell and Molecular Biology.

## WPHS Hospital Internships

Five students from White Plains High School who are interested in pursuing a career in patient-focused medicine are participating in an exciting internship program at White Plains Hospital. Through a series of lectures and correlated clinical experiences, the students are provided with an understanding and appreciation of anatomy and physiology of various organ systems as well as the pathology of common disease entities. They learn about the various advances in diagnostics and treatments throughout the subspecialties in medicine. The program is designed to reinforce previous learning, provide new insights, promote inquiry, develop health-related attitudes and skills, and introduce possible career paths. Each Tuesday from January through June, participants work with a clinician at White Plains Hospital in a different subspecialty.



Jacob Brady, Miriam Matute, Sarah Samaranayake and Arman Kabir. Not pictured: Brittany Ham

## Eastview on Broadway

This year's outstanding "Eastview on Broadway" production included songs from many of the most beloved Broadway musicals of all time, such as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, *Hairspray* and *Singin' in the Rain*. Throughout the show, emcees shared interesting facts about each song. In addition to the on-stage performers, many others students had a hand in the success of the play by helping with lighting, backstage management, makeup, costumes, photography, and public relations. The experience culminated with a cast party sponsored by the PTA. To see a video of "Eastview on Broadway," [www.wpcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/598](http://www.wpcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/598).



Science Research Award Winners Elana Hausknecht, Sarah Samaranayake, Bridgit O'Donnell, Nicholas Crino

The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



White Plains Public Schools  
 5 Homeside Lane  
 White Plains, NY 10605  
 www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

Non-Profit Org.  
 US Postage Paid  
 Permit #47  
 White Plains, NY  
 ECRWSS

Dr. Paul R. Fried  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Board of Education**  
 Rosemarie Eller, *President*  
 Charlie Norris, *Vice President*  
 Sheryl Brady  
 James F. Hricay  
 Cayne Letizia  
 Rose Lovitch  
 Randy Stein

Postal Patron

**Proposed Budget FAQs**

**Q. Does the White Plains school district comply with the New York property tax law?**

**A. YES.** In White Plains, the estimated tax levy of \$170,975,098 for 2016-2017 represents an increase of \$410,257 or 0.24%. This amount is in full compliance with the property tax levy cap and thus maintains resident eligibility for applicable property tax rebates/credits.

**Q. Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?**

**A. NO.** The tax levy represents the amount of school district funding provided by local property taxes. In White Plains, the estimated tax levy for 2016-2017 corresponds with a tax rate increase of \$1.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, or 0.30%. This amount exceeds the tax levy growth rate due to slightly declining assessed values. However, the taxes paid by individual property owners will vary greatly from household to household and are impacted by equalization rates and individual assessed values.

**School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal**

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 205,800,000	\$ 208,750,000	\$ 208,339,743
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$ 2,950,000	\$ 2,539,743
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.43 %	1.23 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		.12 %	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$ 170,564,841	\$ 170,975,098	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 170,564,841	\$ 170,975,098	\$ 170,564,841
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 7,810,305	\$ 6,856,043	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <i>Excluding Levy</i> for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 162,754,536	\$ 164,119,055	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <i>Excluding Levy</i> to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 162,754,536	\$ 164,119,055	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,491,828	\$ 17,715,994	\$ 17,715,994
Program Component	\$ 159,040,148	\$ 162,148,413	\$ 161,738,156
Capital Component	\$ 29,268,024	\$ 28,885,593	\$ 28,885,593

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated twice: The Contingency Budget requires that the 2016-17 tax levy be no greater than the previous year levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling \$410,257 would be necessary, resulting in significant impact to program offerings. Additionally, adjustments for disallowed equipment purchases are included. Non-school groups using district facilities would be required to pay the full cost of operation. Additional reductions to a Contingency Budget may be determined by the Board of Education.

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup> \$ 1,649

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Ridgeway School, Highlands Middle School, Church Street School, Battle Hill Community Room, Rochambeau, and Mamaroneck Avenue School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 12 noon and 9 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine. For information about the exact location of your voting place, please call 422-2000.

1 The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.