



LONGWOOD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2023

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Poll Hours:

7:00 am - 9:00 pm

2023-24 Proposed Budget:
\$291,000,000

Budget Increase: 7.38%

0.97% Tax Levy Increase

*Homeowners will see their annual tax
bill increase 0.97%*

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 2023-24 School District Election and Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.

A Message from the Board President and Superintendent

Dear Longwood School Community,

After more than a decade of advocating for equitable funding, we are pleased that New York State is fulfilling the promise to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula enabling the District to offer the second-lowest levy increase to our community in more than a decade, less than one percent.

The Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$291,000,000 on April 18, 2023. This year, residents will be asked to vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 16, and vote for two candidates running for the Board of Education.

This year's proposed budget reflects our ongoing commitment to build upon past successes to support a strong and diversified educational program for our students while maintaining our fiscal responsibilities to our community.

As part of the District's long-term strategic plan, we will continue to work on our overarching goals of strong curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices; empowered students, staff, and school community; collaborative school and community partnerships, and efficient and effective operations.

This fiscal plan will continue to increase STEM and career and technical opportunities for our students, along with early intervention programs and high-quality professional development for our faculty. We will continue our campus branding and beautification projects and expand upon our uniform communication system, ParentSquare. Also included in this year's budget are increased mental health services and the implementation of additional school safety measures. Please take a moment to review the complete list of this year's budgetary items in this newsletter.

Our community continues to demonstrate incredible support and dedication to our schools, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our students, staff, families, and community. We look forward to our continued work together to ensure all of our students reach their full potential.

Remember, your vote – every vote – counts! As always, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of our students, our schools, and the entire Longwood School community.

Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D.
Board of Education, President

Lance Lohman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Longwood

Central School District

35 Yaphank Middle Island Road
Middle Island, NY 11953

Board of Education

Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D., President

Victoria Molloy, Vice President

Daniel Tomaszewski

Paul Infranco

Penelope J. Blizzard-McGrath, Esq.

William Massian

Christina Brown

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Lance Lohman

Current Resident



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

*****MANWSS***

Proposition One: 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Projected Expenses

Administrative (Instructional Support)

Board of Education

\$ 228,173 \$ 233,365

Includes District Clerk/Secretary, memberships, conferences, district meetings, and supplies.

Central Administration

3,199,713 3,355,858

Includes the Office of Superintendent and 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

5,264,896 5,362,416

Includes Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and Community Services, public information, clerical staff, contracted services, records management, printing, mailing, supplies, equipment, AV technicians and BOCES services.

Special Items

2,793,753 2,937,753

Includes insurance and BOCES administrative costs.

Building Administration Curriculum Development

12,403,192 12,504,663

Includes Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Learning, directors, coordinators, principals, asst. principals, clerical staff, retirement, memberships, in-service education, educational conferences, equipment, and supplies.

Benefits

7,258,198 8,302,070

Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, and worker's compensation; and unemployment insurance.

Subtotal

\$ 31,147,925 \$ 32,696,125

Program (Instruction and Service)

Legal

\$ 274,500 \$ 283,500

Teaching

70,657,499 74,465,650

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

Charter School Tuition

1,400,000 1,455,000

Pupil Personnel Services

61,119,858 63,294,197

Includes K-12 special education teachers, PCEN teachers, teaching and staff assistants, school counselors, nurses, speech and 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

3,831,676 3,283,621

Includes library/media specialists, library services, technology, computer hardware and software, supplies, library books, memberships, conferences, and equipment.

Sports and Activities

2,111,196 2,474,663

Includes co-curricular program, club advisors, interscholastic programs, coaches' salaries, officials, medical and security fees, participation fees, equipment, supplies, and clerical staff.

Pupil Transportation

17,651,862 19,712,536

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. 2023-24 is the first year of a two-year extension for home-to-school large buses totaling \$19,100,352 and a two-year extension for field trip/athletic transportation totaling \$1,537,846.

Charter School Transportation

298,547 325,737

Benefits

52,924,742 61,478,529

Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

Interfund Transfers

575,000 450,000

The District shared costs for summer special education program.

Subtotal

\$210,844,880 \$227,223,433

Capital (Buildings Grounds)

Operations/Maintenance

\$ 15,201,654 \$ 15,928,054

Includes Director of Plant Facilities, custodians, maintenance staff, groundsman, equipment, security guards, utilities, clerical staff, maintenance of buildings grounds, vehicles, contracted services, supplies, judgments and claims.

Capital Project

450,000 950,000

PA upgrades and HVAC rooftop unit replacement.

Debt Service

8,780,642 9,059,042

Includes principal and interest on school construction bonds, public library construction bonds, and interest on Tax Anticipation Notes. Please note that this component of the budget includes payments on lease purchases of copier equipment.

Benefits

4,574,899 5,143,346

Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

Subtotal

\$ 29,007,195 \$ 31,080,442

Total School Budget

\$271,000,000 \$291,000,000

Percentage of Budget Increase

7.38%



Anticipated Revenue Budget

Where does the money come from?

Category	2022-23	2023-24	Revenue Percentage
Real Estate Taxes	\$155,055,333	\$156,552,750	53.80%
State & BOCES Aid	102,328,309	119,442,311	41.05
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000	2.06
Reserves	1,250,000	700,000	0.24
PILOT Payments	1,900,000	2,500,000	0.86
Other Revenue	4,466,358	5,804,939	1.99
Total	\$271,000,000	\$291,000,000	100%

American Rescue Plan

Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief

All plans and budget forms are available on the District website, under Departments, Business Office, and Resources. If you would like a copy of the documentation, please send a formal written request to Mrs. Pizzolo, District Clerk, 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island, NY 11953.

Percentage of Tax Levy Increase: 0.97%

Estimated Tax Rate per \$100 Assessed Value*: \$297.05

*Based upon the assessed value for 2022-23. The assessed value is subject to change for 2023-24.

Estimated Increase for Average Home (assessed at \$2,442): \$69.38

Budget Vote

Voter Registration: Registration is available at the Office of the District Clerk, 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, Central Registration, 15 Everett Drive, Yaphank, Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm, or at any one of our schools during school hours. Registration is also available through our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us - On the home page, click About, Budget 2023-2024, and follow the links to Voter Registration. The last day to register to vote is May 11, 2023.

Voter Eligibility: You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, and a resident of the Longwood School District for at least 30 days prior to May 16, 2023.

Absentee Ballots: Applications can be found on the website under District - 2023-2024 Budget - Voting Information. Absentee Ballot Applications cannot be accepted prior to April 17, 2023. Applications must be received no later than May 9th if the ballot is to be mailed. Applications must be received by the day before the election, May 15th, if the ballot is to be personally delivered.

Board of Education



In addition to voting on the proposed budget, you are also asked to vote for TWO board members for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2026.

- ☐ Christina Jackson
- ☐ Phyllis D. Bush-Butler
- ☐ Gina Pozzolano Gebbia

Polling Locations

11727 Coram, 11763 Medford, and
11766 Mt. Sinai
**CORAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
61 Coram Mt. Sinai Rd.
Coram, NY
Election District 1

11953 Middle Island and
11764 Miller Place
**WEST MIDDLE ISLAND
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
30 Swezey Lane
Middle Island, NY
Election District 2

11961 Ridge and
11786 Shoreham
**RIDGE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
105 Ridge Rd.
Ridge, NY
Election District 3

11980 Yaphank, 11973 Upton and
11967 Shirley/E. Yaphank
**CHARLES E. WALTERS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Primary Building
Cafeteria
15 Everett Dr.
Yaphank, NY
Election District 4

For additional details, visit our website at
www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us



Our Students Excel in Academics, Athletics, Music and Fine Art, and Community Leadership

Academics

Graduation rates reached 91% in 2022, up from 83% in 2013.

More than 120 students in the Class of 2022 graduated with the Seal of Biliteracy, and Longwood High School received the Silver Milestone Badge from the New York State Department of Education for its Seal of Biliteracy Program.

Students receiving Advanced Regents Diplomas have increased 70% since 2013.

Seniors received more than 250 credits through the Early College Entrance Partnership Program.

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.

Our High School Robotics team earned the Team Spirit Award for extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit for their exceptional partnership and teamwork.

Athletics

Ninety percent of our high school student-athletes were named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes for earning a 90 or above.

The boys and girls varsity bowling teams captured Suffolk County Bowling titles, and represented Section XI at the NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships, earning sixth and second place, respectively.

A senior received the NYS Football Coaches Association 12th Man Award, given to an athlete who overcomes adversity or medical hardship.

The varsity football team was a Suffolk County Championship Finalist and Big Four Champions, ranked #18 in New York State.

Three seniors were also named to the New York System Sports Writers Association All-State Team.

A senior won the Suffolk County Girls Singles Tennis Championship, finishing #2 in New York State.

The Unified Sports Program participated in a local Youth Summit, sponsored by Special Olympics.

The varsity girls' flag football team continues in its second season after being awarded emerging status by New York State Public High School Athletic Association.



The varsity girls' volleyball team were League I Champions for the first time since 1999, with their head coach earning Coach of the Year honors.

The JV boys soccer coach was named JV Coach of the Year by the Suffolk County Soccer Coaches Association. The team was awarded the JV Sportsmanship Award from the Suffolk County Officials Association.

Music and Fine Arts

The District's music education program received NYSSMA's Award of Excellence.

For the fifteenth consecutive year, the District has been named among the "Best Communities for Music Education" in the nation as designated by the NAMM Foundation.

Seventy-three students were selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's All-County ensembles in band, chorus, and orchestra.

Four students were selected to the New York State School Music Association's All-State Festival in Rochester, NY.

Two seniors performed in the National Association for Music Education's All-National Festival in Grand Harbor, MD.

Three students performed in the National Association for Music Education's All-Eastern Festival in Rochester, NY.

One senior performed in the New York State Band Directors Association's Honors Jazz Ensemble in Syracuse, NY.

Community Leadership

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

Continued increased community and voter support.

Our School-to-Business Partnerships with local businesses continue to enrich our Pathways to Learning Academies program.

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.

Parent workshops are offered Districtwide focusing on ongoing mental health issues.

2023-2024 Program Priorities

Strong Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices

- Providing high quality professional development in the science of reading
- Implement new, and enhancing current, summer transition programs
- Supporting summer learning recovery programs
- Engaging in collaborative curriculum writing projects across subject areas
- Continuing to increase career and technical (CTE) opportunities
- Maintaining and building on our dual enrollment course offerings
- Expanding career exploration and internship opportunities
- Replacement of the Project Adventure High Elements Tower
- Building consistent systems of data review and inquiry



Empowered Students, Staff, and School Community

- Advancing the campus branding and beautification projects
- Purchasing production systems for K-4 musicals
- Fully implementing our girls' flag football program
- Continuing to support student, staff, and community voice
 - ◊ Restorative practice training
 - ◊ School and community perceptions survey
 - ◊ Committees and focus groups
- Expanding opportunities for student and staff recognition



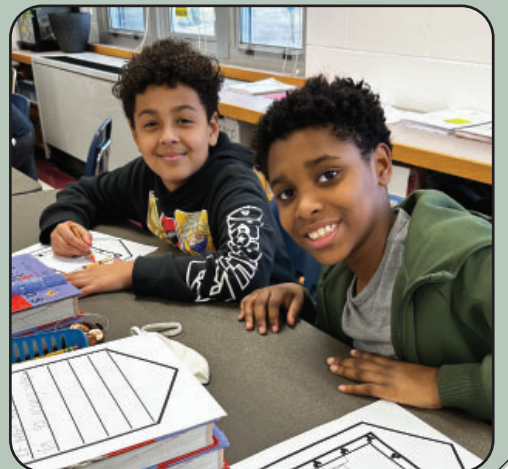
Collaborative School and Community Partnerships

- Implementation of District Communication Plan and Districtwide phone number (631) 345-6800
- Expanding Districtwide usage of ParentSquare
- Facilitating community engagement activities and events
- Continuing our partnerships with our community organizations and leadership
- Increasing mental health services
- Engaging alumni
- Building upon strong community connections



Efficient and Effective Operations

- Upgrading high school auditorium screens and lighting
- Purchasing production systems for K-4 musicals
- Expanding our District network bandwidth
- Enhancing cybersecurity and implementing multi-factor authentication
- Implementing additional school security measures
- Providing additional instructional and administrative support for special education
- Expanding District maintenance team staffing
- Implement and enhance recruitment plan to hire, train, and retain the very best
- Progressing Districtwide Capital Improvement projects
- Maintaining outstanding financial credit rating of AA+



Candidates for Board of Education: The PTA Council submitted the following questions to school board candidates to provide information and goals. The profiles are printed as submitted, without editing, when submitted before the March 31 deadline. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition to the District Clerk and are listed as appearing on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services.

Christina Jackson



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

My residency within the Longwood community started in 1997, raising 4 children. We chose to live in Longwood, because it provided both a quality education, and a diverse environment for the family. I am proud to call Longwood our home as it has provided stability, educational opportunities, school programs, school teams, LYSA football, basketball, baseball, and friendships. Our older children have followed both the collegiate and trade school paths, and our youngest is in 7th grade.

Education:

My education includes a Bachelors' in Science in Nursing from StonyBrook University, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Benedictine University.

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:

I have worked as a Registered Nurse since 1995, advancing into leadership in Nursing Administration, within multiple hospitals and facilities. In addition, I responded to the tragedy of 9/11, which led me to become American Red Cross Volunteer Nurse.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

Current community service includes the Longwood Budget Advisory, Policy & Procedure and Community Culture sub-committees. PTA member in WMI & MS, JHS throughout the years. I am also a current member of the Coram Civic Association.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

My candidacy is to promote School and Community Excellence

- Growth with education-To provide resources & emotional support so each child can reach their highest ability, whether their path includes college, career trade, or life skills
- Taxpayer accountability within the school budget
- Parental choice is a fundamental right.
- Encourage parental participation academically & mental health well being
- Balanced support for administration, faculty & staff, parents, and community
- Unity in the Community-because we all have more in common than we realize

I fully understand the impact of decisions to be made at this level, as it affects all involved, MOST importantly, our students. I appreciate your consideration to serve you on this Board.

Today's Leadership for Tomorrow's Future

Phyllis D. Bush-Butler



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

Six of my children have graduated from the district, two of my grandchildren are currently enrolled in the elementary school.

Education:

My education and experience, including a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Music Therapy, certification New York State Certified Teaching Assistant, and Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Certification of Completion.

Current Occupation/Professional & Business Experience:

I am the owner of Sweet Melody Music Studio.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

I have participated in various events and programs including the Brookhaven Martin Luther King Luncheon and Town of Brookhaven Black History Program. The Gordon Heights Chamber of Commerce events and Dare To Dream Organization, a longtime member of the Brookhaven NAACP, The Rosa Parks Democratic Committee as well as The Brookhaven Town Democratic Committee Women's Caucus. In addition, I have received numerous Community Service Awards in recognition of my community involvement.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

I'm running for the Longwood Board of Education because while working as a Substitute Teacher in the district, I've seen the lack of diversity in our teaching staff firsthand. I believe that addressing this issue is essential. I'm committed to working with a team of professionals who believe in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be, why, and how would you approach?

I will focus my efforts and advocacy on promoting diversity in our schools through a multifaceted approach, including recruitment and hiring of teachers and administrators of diverse backgrounds with diverse perspectives within the school district.

Gina Pozzolano Gebbia



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

No children

Education:

Bucknell University 1988 BS Education

Dowling College 1991 MA Diagnosis of Reading Disabilities

Current Occupation/Professional & Business Experience:

I am recently retired from the Longwood Central School District (June '22). My career began at CEW, then completed a year at West Middle Island, and returned to CEW for 10 years before spending the last 21 years at the Longwood Middle School. During my time at Longwood, I taught Kindergarten through sixth grade.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

- Served on CEW and Middle School Shared Decision Making Teams
- Girls Lacrosse coach from 2002
- Athletic Supervisor for Junior High sports teams from 2005
- Teacher and Administrative interview committees
- Longwood Safety Committee member from 2018
- MITA Representative 2010 - 2018
- MITA Treasurer 2018 - 2022

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

After working in the LCSd for over thirty three years as a teacher and a coach, I am running for the BOE to continue to serve the students and community of Longwood. I would like to give back to the district that has given me so much and to ensure students are on a path to graduate and be educationally equipped to lead a successful life.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be, why, and how would you approach?

I would like to help bridge our current classrooms to curriculum and policy. Students' needs have changed drastically since I joined Longwood in 1988. My experience in the classroom can be an asset on the board to give insight to the struggles that students and families are currently facing. In these changing times, I can continue to help offer solutions with first hand knowledge of the classroom experience for our children.



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 271,000,000	\$ 291,000,000	\$ 289,502,583
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 20,000,000	\$ 18,502,583
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.38 %	6.83 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 155,055,333	\$ 156,552,750	
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)	\$ 155,055,333	\$ 156,552,750	\$ 155,055,333
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,450,531	\$ 2,707,070	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 150,604,802	\$ 153,845,680	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 150,604,802	\$ 153,845,680	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 31,147,925	\$ 32,696,125	\$ 33,274,556
Program Component	\$ 210,844,880	\$ 227,223,433	\$ 225,240,359
Capital Component	\$ 29,007,195	\$ 31,080,442	\$ 30,987,668
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law . Eliminate staff: administrators, teachers and support staff (CSEA); increase class sizes at all grade levels; reduce electives on the secondary level; curtail co-curricular activities; curtail interscholastic athletic program; reduce after-school transportation; cut field trips; limit use of buildings and grounds by community organizations and impose usage fees as required by law ; eliminate capital projects and reduce building repairs; and eliminate all equipment purchases.			
** 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)	Description		Amount
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 1,169

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Longwood Central School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Charles E. Walters, Coram, Ridge, and West Middle Island Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Longwood Central School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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