

BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET 2023

2023-2024 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET



VOTE • May 16, 2023
2023-2024 School Budget Vote
& Trustee Election
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
@ All District Elementary Schools

0% Tax Levy Increase

This is our third year with NO tax levy increase for residents and our fourth year with the SAME tax levy.



This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Eileen Felix, *President*
Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*
Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*
Hassan Ahmed, *Trustee*
Simone Holder-Daniel, *Trustee*
Maria Gonzalez-Prescod, *Trustee*
Maria Malave, *Trustee*
Richard Loeschner, *Superintendent of Schools*

A Message from your Board of Education

Dear Resident,

With a highly successful year underway, we are excited to again present a budget with no tax impact to residents for 2023-2024. We have been able to do this thanks to the long-term financial planning of our business administration, as well as increases in our aid. As you look through this newsletter, you will see all that we are doing to our facilities, with our program and for the advancement of our students. Take special note of our points of pride, which are just some brief highlights of the innumerable accolades and notable achievements in our schools.

In addition to our proposed budget, residents will be asked to vote for two seats on the Board of Education – the ones currently occupied by Simone Holder-Daniel and Maria Gonzalez-Prescod.

We hope you will join us at the polls on Tuesday, May 16, between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

The Board of Education

Eileen Felix, *President*

Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*

Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*

Hassan Ahmed, Simone Holder-Daniel,

Maria Gonzalez-Prescod, and Maria Malave, *Trustees*



Board Candidate Bios

Brandon Garcia

I'm running for the school board to take what I and others have experienced as a student and implement the necessary changes to make sure every child is seen as an individual with personal goals, ideas, and ambitions and may have "untraditional" paths that should be navigated with staff. Where I see potential room for continued improvement is sport uniforms, life skills development, and teaming up with more and more outside organizations to maximize opportunity.

Donovan Currey

For the past 30+ years, I have raised my family in Brentwood, and I have established my business in this wonderful community. With my accounting background, I can help assure the fiscal health of the district. As a Board member I will always be transparent and accountable, prioritizing our students' needs. Regarding curriculum, I would like to enhance financial literacy throughout the district because it is necessary to prepare our children for their financial futures.

Eileen Harman

My name is Eileen Harman. I am running for a seat on the Brentwood Board of Education. I have lived in Brentwood over 60 years and retired from Brentwood, teaching 26 years. I was a co-teacher for ENL students. I was a volunteer member of the Dream Team, granting wishes for students. I taught after-school remedial math and language arts. I was a member of an Instructional Support Team. I advocated for students both in the classroom and up in Albany.

Elvia Salinas

As an immigrant from El Salvador and Brentwood graduate, I can uniquely relate to our student body because I've walked in their shoes. For all stakeholders, I would like to bring more awareness to mental health by strengthening school culture and expanding social-emotional learning programs and mental health supports. As a special needs parent and advocate, I would promote inclusion through sports, arts and music, and encourage meaningful healthy relationships that embrace differences and abilities.



Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any capital projects included in the budget?

Yes, funds are included for the possible acquisition and renovation of a building. In addition, funds are included to complete Phases I and II of the High School turf field project. This will include the soccer stadium, press box, pavilion and the football field. In addition, funds are included to expand storage areas at Sonderling and Loretta Park.

Are there any multiyear deals in the budget?

Yes, the district will look to save taxpayer dollars by entering into multiyear deals in the following areas: copiers, software programs, curriculum items, secure socket layer certificates, hardware items, storage containers and mail machine.

What is a contingency budget?

A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. Since our proposed tax levy increase is currently 0%, the levy amount would remain the same; however, we would be forced to uphold certain expenditure caps, and the state would impose controls on all capital projects and severe restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or eliminate programs, which could include the summer recreation program, instrumental music and extracurricular activities.

Points of Pride

- Established the first High School Spanish Theater – Teatro Mundo de Los Suenos.
- Established a Kindergarten Spanish Language Immersion Saturday Program.
- District has first participant in Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.
- District has first recipient of the J100-AFROTC Scholarship.
- BHS boys varsity basketball won its seventh Long Island championship and competed in the New York State basketball semifinals.
- BHS varsity cheerleading performed at the Universal Cheerleading Association National Championship competition for the third time in program history.
- BHS wrestling team won Suffolk County Section 11 League Championship and earned first individual championship in girls varsity wrestling.
- The Brentwood Business Institute opened in September, providing students interested in financial disciplines with a more appropriate environment to learn about stocks and portfolio planning.



The Proposed 2023-2024 Budget Includes:

- Middle schools will transition to a nine-period day.
- More electives and Regents-level courses will be offered at this level.
- Security improvements include additional cameras, blue light system, vape/aggression detectors and door security improvements.
- Additional mental health support staff.
- Expand faculty to combat learning loss and provide tutoring.
- Secondary highlights: Virtual Enterprise and Financial Literacy offerings, robust credit recovery program, more AP courses and early-college offerings, enhanced career pathways, exceptional growth in the Seal of Biliteracy credential.
- Elementary Highlights: new reading program, additional reading and math specialists, new science curriculum and instructional specialist, late buses will be added, many Saturday Academy programs.
- Special services highlights: expansion of the Early Intervention Program, introduction of skills assessment to identify students' strengths and competencies, wraparound services to support mental health needs.
- Capital projects will continue throughout the District, including parking lot renovations, home economics kitchen improvements, cafeteria improvements, locker room renovations and much more.



Brentwood Union Free 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	\$503,374,071	\$561,203,261	\$559,077,261
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$57,829,190	\$55,703,190
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		11.49%	11.07%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$111,568,807	\$111,568,807	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$111,568,807	\$111,568,807	\$111,568,807
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$252,049	\$123,939	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$115,384,805	\$115,932,950	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$111,316,758	\$111,444,868	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$4,068,047	\$4,488,082	
Administrative Component	\$50,961,705	\$58,580,501	\$56,577,001
Program Component	\$392,674,406	\$434,775,341	\$435,942,841
Capital Component	\$59,737,960	\$67,847,419	\$66,557,419

* Should the budget be defeated, all equipment and funds for capital projects will be removed from the budget. In addition, the District will be required to charge a fee for building usage.

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

Description	Amount
N/A	

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$735
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Brentwood School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Hemlock Park, Laurel Park, Loretta Park, North Elementary, Northeast, Oak Park, Pine Park, Southeast, and Southwest school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Brentwood 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.