

# Hastings Happenings



**SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE**

**Your Guide to the Hastings-on-Hudson School District Budget for 2020-2021**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Hastings Residents,

This year’s budget process was like nothing we have seen before, as COVID-19 changed the landscape of state funding, and school in general, seemingly overnight. Faced with a massive budget shortfall for New York State of over \$15 billion, Governor Cuomo set three dates on which he has reserved the right to take back school funding which had already been promised to our District. One of these dates, May 15, has passed with no guidance and two remain in the distant future – Sept. 30 and Dec. 31. As such, we have had to budget with the worst case scenario in mind, which is the very real potential for the State aid we were originally promised for 2020-21 to be reduced by up to 20%, a loss that would equate to almost \$975K.

From the start of the budget season in January, our approach to creating the budget was based upon sound principles of zero-based budgeting where building leaders and administrators justify every part of their proposed budget, as well as historical budgeting which relies upon containing costs within areas such as contracts, supplies, and services. When COVID-19 hit in March, we asked these budget managers to take a second, and then a third, look at their proposals, with an eye towards reducing small pieces of multiple programs rather than wholesale cuts of any one program. Between March 2nd and May 19th, the Board of Education had eight budget meetings to review various proposals before adopting the current budget.

The process was not easy. We have tried to minimize the impact to the classroom and crucial services core to learning. We are also deeply aware of the financial struggles many in our community are facing. As such, we have focused on providing a budget that focuses on maintaining programs and services that have the widest reach across as many students as possible, while keeping the tax increase as low as possible. We recognize the value and importance of all our departments and have worked to find creative ways to stretch our resources. We have continued to support the needs of our special education students by acting upon the recommendation of

*continued on page 7*

### Budget Highlights

Proposed Budget: **\$51,660,159**

**\$21.32** per \$1,000 assessed value

Change from prior year: **\$0.20**

Budget to Budget increase: **0.73%**

Proposed Tax Rate Change: **0.95%**



## NYS STAR PROGRAM

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides homeowners with two types of exemptions that reduce their school tax bills. The Basic STAR exemption is available for owner-occupied primary residences for those with incomes below \$500,000 for STAR credit (\$250,000 or less for the STAR exemption). An Enhanced STAR exemption is available for those 65 or older, with incomes \$86,300 or less for 2019 benefits, or \$88,050 or less for 2020. Annual applications are required for the Enhanced STAR. A taxpayer who is eligible for the Enhanced STAR program may designate an adult third-party to receive an annual notice from the Town of Greenburgh regarding the filing deadline. For some taxpayers this credit will be received as part of the state tax return.

All applications must be filed with the Town of Greenburgh Assessor's office by May 1 for the following school year(s). Forms can be found online at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/forms/orpts/star.htm> or by calling the Assessor's Office at (914) 993-1520.

In contrast to recent years, when the exemptions have been shrinking, STAR will be increasing for the coming year. During the 2019-2020 school year, roughly 2,000 households in the district received STAR reduction.

For Village homeowners, the 2019-20 Basic and Enhanced STAR exemptions should be about \$1,794 and \$4,109 respectively.

## BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

**2020-2021  
Estimated Basic  
STAR Savings  
\$1,794**

# BUDGET OVERVIEW

## APPROPRIATIONS How the money will be spent:

	ADOPTED 2019-2020	PROPOSED 2020-2021	BUDGET CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$4,527,518	\$4,643,750	\$116,232
INSTRUCTION	\$32,034,426	\$32,157,992	\$123,566
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,498,660	\$1,463,294	-\$35,366
UNDISTRIBUTED	\$13,223,221	\$13,395,123	\$171,902
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$51,283,825</b>	<b>\$51,660,159</b>	<b>\$376,334</b>

## REVENUE Where the money comes from:

	ADOPTED 2019-2020	PROPOSED 2020-2021	BUDGET CHANGE
NEW YORK STATE AID	\$5,210,000	\$4,433,075	-\$776,925
MISC. RECEIPTS	\$1,180,000	\$1,190,000	\$10,000
APPROPRIATED BALANCE	\$1,700,000	\$1,680,000	-\$20,000
RETIREMENT RESERVE	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$50,000
RESERVE FOR TAX CERTIORARI	\$200,000	\$0	-\$200,000
PROPERTY TAXES	\$42,543,825	\$43,857,084	\$1,313,259
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$51,283,825</b>	<b>\$51,660,159</b>	<b>\$376,334</b>

## ESTIMATED TAX RATE What it will cost:

It is estimated that the proposed school budget will increase property taxes by 0.95%, bringing the property tax rate to \$21.32 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Change from prior year: \$0.20

## VOTING

**Tuesday, June 9**

by Absentee Ballot Only

In order to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- 18 years old as of June 9, 2020.
- A resident of the District for 30 days prior to June 9, 2020.
- Previously registered or have voted in either a School Election or a General Election held since 2015.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee Ballots will be mailed to all Hastings registered voters.

If you do not receive a ballot in the mail, please contact the District Clerk, Jeanine Genauer at 478-6206 or email [genauerj@hohschools.org](mailto:genauerj@hohschools.org).

Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020.



# WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT.

## PROPOSITION I YES | NO

Shall the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, Town of Greenburgh, NY, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2020-2021 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$51,660,159 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

## ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS VOTE FOR ANY TWO

The election of two Board of Education Trustees will take place at the same time as the budget vote. The candidates in the order in which they will appear on the ballot are:

<b>Jeremy Galland</b>	<b>Sean Hayes</b>	<b>Nina Segal Kennedy</b>	<b>Donna Liparulo</b>
<b>Darren McDermott</b>	<b>Joanne Pedro-Scardino</b>	<b>Doug Sundheim</b>	<b>Jessica Woodhouse</b>

## DEBT SERVICE

This category represents the District's long term financing of capital improvement projects and alterations.

Funds are included for the payment of principal and interest of the capital improvement bond authorized by the community in 2014.

Also included is the District's lease payment on the Energy Performance Contract. The lease payment is financed by the savings the District received in energy costs.

### Interfund Transfers

#### **Capital Fund**

Funds have been appropriated for capital improvement projects and upgrading facilities. The following is a breakdown of projects funded

#### **Hillside Elementary School/Farragut Complex**

Funds have been appropriated for capital improvement projects and upgrading facilities. The following is a breakdown of projects funded

EGRESS & HANDICAP RAMP	\$55,000
SECURITY VESTIBULE	\$5,000

#### **Districtwide**

Funds have been appropriated for capital improvement projects and upgrading facilities. The following is a breakdown of projects funded

RECONFIGURE NURSES OFFICE FOR COVID	\$20,000
CREATE SECURE VESTIBULES FOR COVID	\$10,000
SIDEWALKS/FENCING	\$10,000

**Grand Total** **\$100,000**

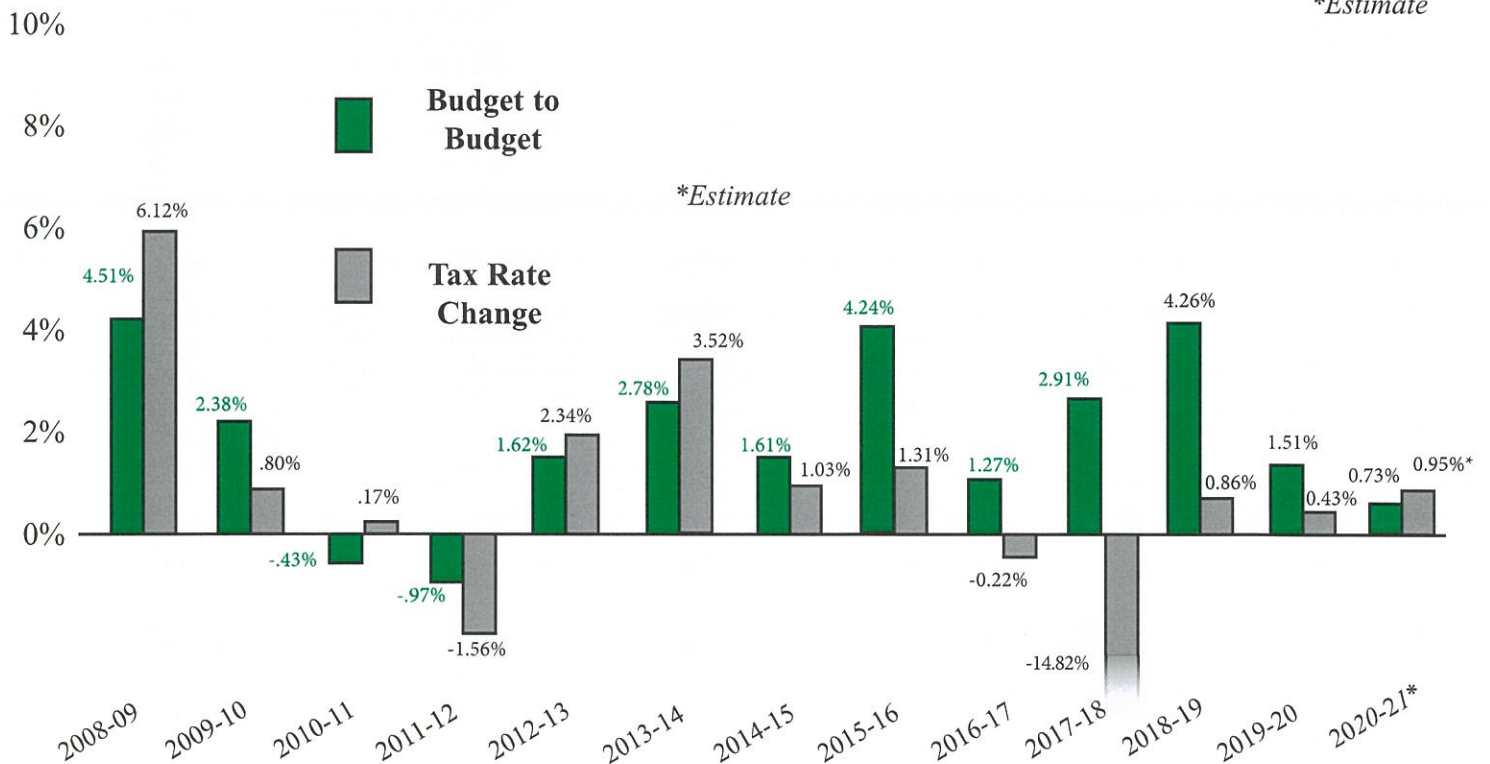
### Special Aid Fund

Funds for the summer school program for students identified by the Committee on Special Education are allocated in this fund. The District is responsible for 20% of summer school tuition and busing.

# BUDGET HISTORY

School Year	Budget	Budget-to-Budget	Tax Rate Change	Tax Rate per \$1,000
2008-09	\$41,633,422	4.51%	6.12%	\$734.01
2009-10	\$42,624,795	2.38%	0.80%	\$739.89
2010-11	\$42,441,795	-0.43%	0.17%	\$741.12
2011-12	\$42,028,394	-0.97%	-1.25%	\$731.86
2012-13	\$42,708,466	1.62%	2.34%	\$748.96
2013-14	\$42,895,492	2.78%	3.52%	\$775.34
2014-15	\$44,601,912	1.61%	1.03%	\$783.31
2015-16	\$46,493,447	4.24%	1.31%	\$793.55
2016-17	\$47,082,130	1.27%	-0.22%	\$791.78
2017-18	\$48,454,314	2.91%	-14.82%	\$20.86
2018-19	\$50,518,586	4.26%	0.86%	\$21.04
2019-20	\$51,283,825	1.51%	0.43%	\$21.13
<b>2020-21</b>	\$51,660,159	0.73%	0.95%*	\$21.32*

\*Estimate





# Schedule of RESERVE FUNDS

RESERVE TYPE	RESERVE NAME	RESERVE DESCRIPTION *	3/31/20 ACTUAL BALANCE	6/30/20 ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE	INTENDED USE OF THE RESERVE IN 2020-2021
Capital	Reserve For Capital	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	\$1,347,371	\$1,347,371	Capital Building Projects
Repair	Reserve For Repairs	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.			
Workers' Compensation		To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.			
Unemployment Insurance		To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.		\$50,000	To pay unemployment insurance
Reserve for Tax Reduction		For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.			
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	Reserve For Debt	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.	\$20,277	\$20,277	None
Insurance		To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.			
Property Loss		To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.			
Liability		To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.		\$250,000	To pay liability claims
Tax Certiorari	Reserve For Tax Certiorari	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements	\$969,630	\$1,369,630	To pay Tax Certiorari Judgments.
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries		To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	Reserve For Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	\$344,418	\$335,000	Vacation payout for employees terminating service.
Retirement Contribution	Reserve For Retirement System Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$1,269,869	\$1,669,859	To pay ERS liabilities.
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		For unpaid taxes due certain city school districts not reimbursed by their city/county until the following fiscal year.			
Other Reserve	Reserve For Retirement System Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS.)	\$200,000	\$300,000	To pay TRS liabilities.



multiple experts. We are creating the role of Inclusion Facilitator in place of a content coaching model to help general educators and special educators modify lessons, assignments, and assessments for students with IEPs, with a goal of creating a truly inclusive environment for all of our students.

We encourage you to review the enclosed material; the full budget is available on the District website: [www.hohschools.org](http://www.hohschools.org). Please be in touch if you have questions—board members and the Superintendent are always available and our contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Please note that voting this year will be by absentee ballot only. In order for your ballot to be counted, it must arrive back to the school district no later than Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5 PM. Any ballot received after this time will not be counted. Absentee ballots are being mailed to all Hastings registered voters. If you do not receive a ballot, please call the District Clerk at 478-6206. We thank Dr. Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Superintendent of Schools, and Maureen Caraballo, Business Official, for their leadership in developing this budget. And we thank building and department leaders for their hard work in making difficult choices, always keeping children front-and-center throughout.

Sincerely,  
*Members of the Board of Education*

# Property Tax **REPORT CARD**

	ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR	% CHANGE
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$51,283,825	\$51,660,159	0.73%
Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>	\$42,543,825	\$43,857,084	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$42,543,825	\$43,857,084	3.09%
Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$428,504	\$429,726	
School Tax Levy Limit , Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>	\$42,345,548	\$43,478,816	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions	\$42,115,321	\$43,427,358	
Difference: (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>2</sup>	\$230,227	\$51,458	
Public School Enrollment	\$1,674	\$1,686	0.72%
Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
<sup>1</sup> Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest. <sup>2</sup> Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements. <sup>3</sup> For 2019-20, includes any carryover from 2019-20 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.			
	ACTUAL 2019-20	ESTIMATED 2020-21	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,679,194	\$5,350,000	
Assigned Appropriate Fund Balance	\$1,700,000	\$1,680,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$2,051,332	\$2,066,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%	

## **BUDGET VOTE Tuesday, June 9, by Absentee Ballot Only**

**If you did not receive a ballot in  
the mail, and you are a registered  
voter, call 478-6206.**

**VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE**



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# Hastings Happenings

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NEWSLETTER OF THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UFSD

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent of Schools

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**Hastings-on-Hudson NY 10706**

# BUDGET VOTE

**June 9, 2020**  
**by Absentee Ballot Only**

**VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE**

**SI QUIERE UNA TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DE ESTE BOLETÍN,**

**POR FAVOR LLAME AL 914-478-6206**