



# HENDRICK HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT SOUNDINGS

Budget Issue ♦ May 2015

♦ BUCHANAN-VERPLANCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ♦ FRANK G. LINDSEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ♦ FURNACE WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
♦ BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ♦ HENDRICK HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL

## Budget Offers Educational Excellence, Responsible Spending



*The American flag flies proudly at sunset over the Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School*

On Tuesday, May 19, 2015, residents of the Hendrick Hudson School District will go to the polls to vote on a \$74,407,339 spending plan for 2015-16. For the third consecutive year, Hendrick Hudson's budget represents one of the lowest tax levy increases (0.03%) in Westchester County.

Statewide, the academic year 2014-15 has been full of educational news, as administrators, teachers, and parents try to make sense of high-stakes testing, Annual Professional Performance Reviews, Common Core, Race to the Top, and the New York State 2-Percent Tax Levy Cap, to name just a few. Here at Hendrick Hudson we are doing our level best not to let these larger issues distract us from the central business at hand: providing a high-quality educational experience for our students while remaining fiscally responsible to our home and business owners.

Significant work took place this year to craft the budget. While there are no projected cuts to academic programs, we seized every opportunity to trim and streamline across all expense areas.

We performed a thorough review of our transportation program to identify and implement economies there. We moved forward with a solar energy project that will result in long-term savings as well as a "greener" approach to running our facilities. Our annual Bus Proposition is \$45,000 lower than last year's and includes the purchase of a new fuel management system that is shared with community first responders.

Hen Hud continues to offer an impressive array of courses at the high school level, providing a rich and rewarding foundation for life beyond high school, whether in college, the workplace, or the military. Our students excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects as well as liberal arts, and the list of student accomplishments in athletics, visual arts, drama and music is noteworthy.

As we move into a new academic year, we pledge to continue to balance the needs of property owners with those of our students. Thank you for your continued support.

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### *Budget Summary*

**2015-2016 Proposed Budget:**  
\$74,407,339

**2014-2015 Approved Budget:**  
\$73,364,269

**Budget to Budget Increase:**  
1.4 %

**Estimated Tax Rate Increase:**  
Cortlandt 0.02% Peekskill 0.10%

#### **Bus Proposition:**

Replace:

- ♦ one 72-passenger bus
- ♦ three 20-passenger vans
- ♦ two 7-passenger Suburbans
- ♦ one heavy duty dump truck
- ♦ two utility vehicles
- ♦ existing fuel management system at the Bus Garage \*

\* This expense is shared with the other agencies using our fuel pumps: Verplanck Fire, Montrose Fire, Cortlandt Ambulance and the Village of Buchanan.

Not to exceed \$480,000

## **School Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election**

**VOTE TUESDAY,  
MAY 19th**

**Frank G. Lindsey School  
57 Trolley Road, Montrose, NY  
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

*Para información sobre el presupuesto en español, visite [www.henhudschools.org](http://www.henhudschools.org) > Board > Budget Updates, o busque una hoja de información en español en la oficina de su escuela.*

## From the Board President

Dear Community Members:

On Tuesday, May 19th you will be going to Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School to cast your vote on the 2015-2016 District budget and transportation bond.

This year was challenging for many reasons -- issues in Albany holding us up in finalizing our budget, ongoing unfunded mandates, and the Common Core and its implications. Through it all, we heard from many people regarding their priorities and concerns, and the Board thanks you for that. I believe we all want the same things for our students -- the best possible education, and the broadest possible level of opportunities, both in the classroom and beyond Hen Hud.

The 2015-16 budget change is within the tax cap, with a budget-to-budget increase of 1.4% over last year. Once again, we established this budget by continuing efficiencies, and looking at the best uses for our resources. Also factored in are savings derived from eleven District retirements. Our objective was to make the best possible use of District resources and stay within the confines of NYS tax cap limits.

In continuing with our established plan for replacement of buses and District vehicles, we are proposing a transportation bond not to exceed \$480,000 for buses, vans and District vehicles, as well as replacement of a fuel management system.

Specific details of the budget and bond are available online at [www.hen-hudschoools.org](http://www.hen-hudschoools.org) and in hard copy at our schools and at HH Free Library. Thank you again for your input and your continued support of our schools and students -- both are invaluable to this process. And thank you in advance for voting.

Mary-Pat Braggi, President, Board of Education  
Hendrick Hudson Central School District

## From the Superintendent

To Our Hen Hud Community:

On Wednesday, April 8, the Hendrick Hudson Board of Education adopted the 2015-2016 Budget.

This proposed budget calls for a minimal tax levy increase of 0.03%, while holding expense increases to 1.4%. I am proud that we have been able to prepare a budget that is fiscally responsible, controls expenses, and is reflective of our area's current financial status. I commend our staff and the Board of Education for carefully scrutinizing expenses to ensure that resources continue to be invested wisely.

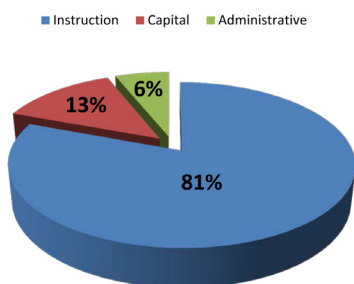
The Board and Administration committed to finding expense areas that would yield efficiency savings. These areas include transportation, overtime, substitute teacher costs and energy use. Since January, we've evaluated these expenses, and will continue to do so, in order to maintain our world-class staff and programs.

For a second straight year, a driving force behind this balanced budget is the retirement of 11 teachers, effective June 30, 2015. As these staff members prepare for the next chapters in their personal and professional lives, we thank them for their years of committed service to our children and our district. As a result of these retirements, and in order to balance the budget without layoffs, this budget reduces the number of Elementary Math Coaches from three to one. We will continue to evaluate opportunities to "tighten the belt" to maintain all three of the Math Coaches.

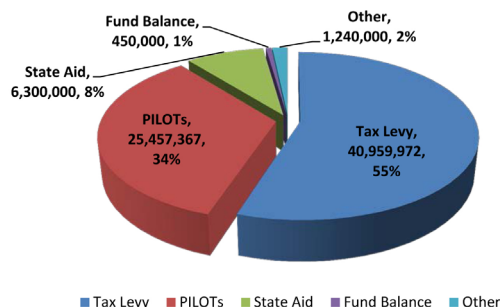
Finally, I extend a heartfelt thank you as I continue to transition into the role of your superintendent. There are so many things to be proud of in this wonderful school district!

Joseph E. Hochreiter, Superintendent  
Hendrick Hudson Central School District

Expenditures by Category, 2015-16



Revenues by Category, 2015-16



## Voter Information

**Registration** To vote in the Hendrick Hudson School District election, you must be registered. If you are registered to vote in the general election and have voted within the last four years, you are also registered to vote in the School District election. If you wish to register for only the School District election, you may register on Thursday, May 14, 2015, with the District Clerk, Rosanne Squillante, at the School District Administration Building, 61 Trolley Road, Montrose, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. If you are not sure if you are registered, please call Ms. Squillante at 914-257-5112.

**Qualifications to Vote** A person must be: a citizen of the United States / at least 18 years old / registered to vote in the general election and/or the School District elections, and / a resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding the vote.

**Absentee Ballots** Applications for absentee ballots are available now for registered voters who will not be able to vote in person on May 19, 2015. You may apply in person for an application at the School District Administration Building. May 12 is the deadline for an absentee ballot application if it is to be mailed to the voter. May 18 is the deadline for absentee ballot applications if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. All absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 pm on May 19. For further information, contact Ms. Squillante, District Clerk, at either the address or phone number above.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2015-16 School District Budget

### Q: Where does the money come from?

**A:** Hendrick Hudson receives funding from a variety of sources. The majority of revenue, 55%, comes from the local tax levy. The next largest source is PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements with local industries, representing 34% of our revenue. Additional revenues include State Aid (8%) and other revenue sources.

### Q: Where does the money go?

**A:** Our school budget is divided into three major categories: Administrative (6.1%), Capital (13.2%), and Program/Instruction (80.7%). Administrative covers expenses such as district/school administrators and support staff, legal fees, and School Board meetings and fees. Capital reflects the funds needed to run our schools--energy, maintenance, facilities, and debt service. Instruction, the largest budget component, comprises costs associated with educating our students, including teacher salaries and instructional support.

### Q: Will there be any reductions in staff this year?

**A:** Once again, the District has been able to rely on attrition.

Eleven teachers will be retiring at the end of this academic year (6/30/15) and all but two will be replaced. The two remaining positions are two of our three Math Coaches, which we plan to consolidate into one position.

### Q: What happens if the budget fails on May 19?

**A:** If the budget does not meet voter approval on May 19 there are three options: 1) put the same budget up for a vote a second time; 2) make additional cuts, which could include cuts to both staff and programs (if the revised budget fails to pass, the district must move immediately to a Contingent Budget); or 3) immediately adopt a Contingent Budget (see School District Budget Notice for more detail).

### Q: Will there be anything else on the ballot?

**A:** Yes. There are two vacancies to be filled on the School Board; **Proposition #2** asks voters to authorize an expenditure of no more than \$480,000 for various vehicles and equipment, including the replacement of the Fuel Management System; and **Proposition #3** asks voters to authorize \$835,304 to be applied to the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, not affiliated with the District.

## Highlights from Hendrick Hudson

In the current academic year, the continued support of our entire community has enabled a variety of activities and achievements: Cheerleading championships and Chinese dancers; All Eastern musicians and All Section/All League athletes; Science fairs and *Sensical*; A Russian delegation and Response to Intervention; Business awards and Blood drives; Harlem Wizards and Hen Hud *LIVE*; Honor Rolls and Hoops for Heart; Peer Buddies and Pumpkin Math; Meet & Greets and *Macbeth*.

Our focus on technology in the classroom continues to expand with the addition of 500 Chromebook devices for classroom use and ongoing training of teachers and



support staff in the ever-expanding field of information technology.

This work was made possible through your support of the 2013 Hendrick Hudson Capital Projects bond.

Our relationships with local business and industry grew stronger than ever. For the second year, Hendrick Hudson hosted Elementary Math Nights, designed to provide parents with an opportunity to learn, in a hands-on setting, about Common Core math principles.

Another math learning initiative was made possible by Wheelabrator, which provided Math Bags chock full of math-related manipulatives for our youngest students.

## HHCEF Kicks Off 20th Anniversary with Family-Friendly Fun

The Hendrick Hudson community definitely witnessed exciting basketball this past season, but nothing topped the recent sold-out performance by the Harlem Wizards basketball team at our high school in March. Sponsored by the Hendrick Hudson Community Educational Foundation, the Wizards kept the crowd entertained with their tricks, slam dunks and family friendly-fun, all while raising money for educational initiatives throughout the district.

Performing alongside the famous Harlem Wizards were many dedicated staff, administrators and community members. The final score may not have been in favor of Hen Hud, but all players, as well as the community's support, helped the HHCEF raise over \$5,000.

“Since our founding 20 years ago, the HHCEF has enabled countless educators to provide enriching learning experiences for our students. We feel privileged to have played a part in so many unique programs and projects that have undeniably had a positive impact throughout

our community,” said Beth Gruber, HHCEF President.

To date, the Foundation has granted nearly \$250,000, including support for Project Lead the Way and an art studio in the high school, new technology throughout our schools, art electives at the middle school, You Be the Reader books for B-V and fitness classes for our senior citizens.



*The HHCEF is an all-volunteer, community-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting and enhancing educational opportunities in our community, and functioning independently of the school district.*

*If you would like to volunteer, please email the Foundation at [info@HHCEF.net](mailto:info@HHCEF.net).*



## Postal Patron

### School District Budget Notice

<b>Hendrick Hudson School District</b>	Budget Adopted for the 2014-15 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year	Contingent Budget for the 2015-16 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$73,364,269	\$74,407,339	\$74,394,217
Increase/decrease for the 2015-16 school year		\$1,043,070	\$1,029,948
Percentage increase (decrease)		1.42%	1.40%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		1.62%	
Resulting property tax levy for 2015-16		\$40,959,972	\$40,948,000
Administrative component	\$4,548,585	\$4,492,511	\$4,479,388
Program component	\$59,278,329	\$60,047,723	\$60,047,723
Capital component	\$9,537,355	\$9,867,106	\$9,867,106

\*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2015-16 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated: Computer equipment; all other equipment and furniture; all capital expenditures and some supplies for students and staff will be eliminated. Staff will be reduced and class size will be increased. Instructional and athletic programs will be reduced in size or eliminated.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact Estimated Basic STAR <sup>1</sup> Exemption Savings	Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 1,554

<sup>1</sup> Based on a hypothetical house in the Town of Cortlandt with a full value of \$7,700

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-16 by the qualified voters of the Hendrick Hudson Central School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School Gym, 57 Trolley Road, Montrose, NY, in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Under 495 of Real Property Tax Law, the Real Property Exemption Report is available on the District Website and is attached to the 2015-16 Budget Book.

### How to Find Us

**On the Web:** www.henhudschools.org ♦ **On Facebook:** Hendrick Hudson School District  
**On Twitter:** @HenHudSupt ♦ **On Pinterest:** Hendrick Hudson Schools  
**In the News:** Daily Voice, Hamlet Hub, LoHud, The Examiner, The Gazette, Patch