BoE Budget Workshop

Develop Vision & Goals for 2024-25 School Year

Dec 4, 2023

Agenda

1. Vision & Goals
2. Brief overview of budgeting
3. Review 23-24 Budget
   - Shifts
   - Unplanned Expenses
4. Gather Board of Education ideas for additions/changes/removals
5. Status of Reserves
6. Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Review
7. New: Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers Tax Exemption
8. Real Property Tax Exemption Business Investment Property & S.3461

Greenwood Lake Vision

Through providing an environment conducive to learning, the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District will teach each student the skills needed to acquire and process knowledge while developing and fostering social, emotional, and multicultural awareness. This will empower each student to continue to set future goals for personal growth and contribute to the betterment of society.

Board of Education Goals

1 – Inspire the love of learning in all members of our school community.

2 – Preserve and enhance the local educational program for our Greenwood Lake students.

3 – Understand and respond to students' individual learning differences.

4 – Offer a cost effective education, aligned with the District's Strategic Plan, that utilizes best practices and academic research to provide students and staff the resources and infrastructure required for optimum teaching and learning in a safe and healthy environment.

5 – Develop the strength of character and knowledge necessary to cultivate responsible citizens who are prepared to live in a diverse and ever-changing world.

6 – Continue the pursuit of excellence in education for all students of the Greenwood Lake School District.

Developing a Budget

A budget is a spending plan, what we *expect* we will need to spend money on.

Actual cost may be slightly different.

Revenue: Property Taxes, State Aid, Federal Aid

Approaches to Budgeting

Rollover Budget w/ shifts

**contractual*
**needs/wants*
** plus/minus staff as needed*

Zero-Based Budgeting

(Build from scratch budget)

**discussed prior to do it every 5 years or so*
**much longer process, timing important*
**line by line review & build of budget*

Unplanned/Non-Budgeted Changes 23-24

Expenses	Reductions
1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant	1.0 FTE Teacher Aide
Policy #5280 - Interscholastic Athletics Assistant Coaches	
Charter Bus Services - Field trips	
Electric Bus Assessment - Zero Emission Mandate	

Initial Thoughts from District

Curriculum & Instruction	Athletics
TOSA / Grant Funded Position (?)	ES Scoreboard (?)
Safety & Security	**Buildings & Grounds**
Camera surveillance for Transportation parking Depo … 22 Buses that do not lock	Blacktop Sealer & Line striping (2022)
Lockdown Blue lights/marquees @ doors	MS MultiPurpose Room ceiling sound baffles
	MS Gym, Cafetorium, Music room duct cleaning
	Cleaning stage curtains/ ES & MS (2019)
Transportation	**Food Services**
Replace 2 or 3 buses	
Technology	**Other**
E-rate $17,806 - Wifi Access Points	Contract negotiations SRPs
Mosyle Apple Device Manager (every 3 years)	Contract negotiations Custodial Unit
Installment Purchase Agreement: Teacher Chromebooks & Interactive Whiteboards ~$252,000	

Board Thoughts (Needs vs Wish)

Instruction & Prof Dev't; PPS / Special Education; Technology; Summer Program; Athletics; Cafeteria; Buildings & Grounds; Security; Staffing; Other

- Before/After School Program / private company use space? / Club Kid (YMCA)
- Additional PreK class?
- Birth rate/enrollment
- If 3 teachers per grade level ($350,000 @MA3) - 1.9-2.0% Tax Levy
- Review organizational structure (admin) - create additional levels for continuity/movement possibilities, without adding to budget
- Electric Buses /
-

Status of Reserves

Description	Balance
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RESERVE	140,500
RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE	460,874
SUB FUND: RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE-TRS	539,050
RESERVE FOR EMPLOYEE ACCRUAL BENEFITS	512,230
INSURANCE RESERVE	1,079,235
RESERVE FOR TAX CERTIORARI	670,815
REPAIR RESERVE	487,663
RESERVE FOR DEBT	391,146
CAPITAL RESERVE for BUS PURCHASES (Approved by Voters 2022)	322,159

Capital Update

Current District-wide Capital Improvement Project = $7,500,000

Establish a Reserve in preparation for the next Capital Project

Tax Exemptions Updates

For Board of Education Consideration

NY Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 467

Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Review

Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

INCOME	% REDUCTION IN ASSESSED VALUATION
Less than $19,500	50%
More than $19,500 but less than $20,499	45%
More than $20,499 but less than $21,499	40%
More than $21,499 but less than $22,499	35%
More than $22,499 but less than $23,399	30%
More than $23,399 but less than $24,299	25%
More than $24,299 but less than $25,199	20%
More than $25,199 but less than $26,099	15%
More than $26,099 but less than $26,999	10%
More than $26,999 but less than $27,899	5%

Approved by the Board of Education on 8/18/2010

How does GWL compare to our High School Partners?

School	Scale %	Maximum	
Chester	50% - 5%	24,000	32,399
Greenwood Lake	50% - 5%	19,500	27,899
Warwick Valley	50% - 5%	17,500	25,899

Changes resulting from the 2023-2024 Enacted State Budget

1. Take effect for the 2024 assessment cycle
2. Redefines what is considered income to the Federal Adjusted Gross Income reported on the applicant's federal income tax return.
3. With several adjustments:

Adjustment	**Addition/Deduction to FAGI**	**Local Option?**
Tax Exempt interest and dividends	Addition	No
Loss limitations	Addition	No

Local Options For Consideration

3. There are 3 Local Options for consideration*:

Adjustment	**Addition/Deduction to FAGI**	**Local Option?**
Taxable IRA distributions	Deduction	Option not to deduct
Social security benefits not included in FAGI	Addition	Option not to add
Medical & Prescription drug expenses not covered by insurance	Deduction	Option not to deduct (same as current Law)

*Town of Warwick Assessor reports, “no other taxing jurisdictions have adopted any of the 3 options.

For Board of Education Consideration

NY Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 466-a

Partial Exemption on Real Property
Owned by Qualified Volunteer
Firefighters & Ambulance Workers

NY Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 466-a

Partial Exemption on Real Property for Firefighters & Ambulance Workers to:

- Encourage recruitment & retention
- Available to all jurisdictions: School, Town, Village

Eligibility Requirements:

- The exemption may be granted only to applicants who reside in the city, town or village served by the fire/ambulance company.
- Property must be owned by an enrolled & certified member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or ambulance service; and,
    - The property exemption is only available for the portion of property used exclusively for residential purposes.
- The volunteer must be certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer company
- To receive this exemption, the volunteer **cannot claim** a NYS Income Tax credit for the same volunteer service.
- Application must be submitted to the Tax Assessor by March 1, 2024
- One time filing

Options for Board of Education consideration

Exemption amount - Option to grant **up to 10%** of assessed value of the primary residence, with no maximum.

Length of Service - Option to grant an exemption for a minimum of **2-5 years of service**.

Lifetime exemption - Option to grant lifetime 10% exemption for a volunteer that has accrued more than 20 years of active service, as long as the volunteer's primary residence is located within the county.

Un-remarried Spouse - Option for exemption to be continued or reinstated for the un-remarried spouse of an enrolled volunteer killed in the line of duty who has been a volunteer for at least 5 years and was receiving the exemption prior to his/her death.

Un-remarried Spouse - Option for exemption to be continued or reinstated for the un-remarried spouse of deceased volunteer with more than 20 years of service and receiving the exemption prior to his/her death.

District that have Adopted the Partial Exemption

10% - 2 years Service

Chester

Goshen

Highland Falls - Fort Montgomery

Marlboro

Middletown

Minisink

Tuxedo

Wallkill

Example of 10% Exemption

23-24 Tax Rate	166.98		
		Assessed Value	Tax
		30,000	5,009.45
Exemption	10%	3,000	500.94
		27,000	4,508.50

If approved - Board of Education consideration…

- Service Minimum of ___ consecutive years of service.
- ___% exemption of assessed value of primary residence
- Lifetime Exemption - 10% exemption for 20 years or more of service
- Un-remarried spouse of a enrolled volunteer killed in the line of duty with at least 5 years of service and receiving the exemption before the death of the volunteer.
- Un-remarried spouse of a deceased volunteer - 20 years of service and receiving the exemption before the death of the volunteer.
- Effective 24-25 school year
- No impact on tax levy/ Local share is distributed among other taxable property owners
- Public Hearing
- BOE Approve Resolution

For Board of Education Consideration

NY Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 485-b

Real Property Tax Exemption
Business Investment Property

NY Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 485-b

Real Property Tax Exemption/Tax Incentive for Businesses outside NY City (1976)

- To be granted to facilities used primarily for the buying, selling, storing, or development of goods or services, the manufacture or assembly of goods, or the processing of raw materials. If not excluded the exemption also applies to hotels and motels, but not to property used as primary accommodations to residents or transients.
- The cost of the construction or improvement project must exceed $10,000 or any higher amount, not exceeding amount set by the local taxing unit.
- Basic Exemption: Amount of exemption is limited, in the first year, to 50% of increase in assessed value attributable to the construction or improvement; in each succeeding year, the amount of exemption is decreased by 5%. Local option may reduce the annual percentage of exemption allowed by state law.

Senator Skoufis letter, dated November 23, 2023

Excerpts:

In light of the economic and industrial unrest of the mid-1970s, legislators in Albany sought to incentivise new development across the state, and launched 485-b with the goal to maximize new business investment while minimising the impact on local municipalities and schools.

… in the past five years alone, **over 800 485-b property tax abatements totaling nearly 240,000,000** in lost tax revenue have been granted across our Senate District, **and not one has been required to utilize local labor** in its development.

I am sponsoring a bill to address that last part - S.3461 which would establish local labor requirements as part of the approval to receive a real property tax business investment exemption - but until my bill becomes law, local leaders can take action to block Albany’s robbery of local tax dollars.

District that have Opted-Out of the Business Investment Exemption

Cornwall

Florida

Goshen

Monroe-Woodbury

Washingtonville

Valley Central

Senator Skoufis bill S.3461 - January 21,2023

Establishing local labor law requirements as part of the approval to receive a real property tax business investment exemption requiring the use of:

- Local labor - workers who reside within the same county or an adjoining county
- State labor - workers who reside in the state of New York
- 85% or more of the workforce hired is from the local labor market or if not possible and can show good faith effort, the state labor market
- Must keep supporting documentation of good faith effort.
- There are exemptions:
  - Installation of specialized equipment and installed by manufacturers installers
  - Specialised construction and no local or state contactors have the skills/certifications/training
  - Significant cost differentials in bid prices whereby local labor is at least twenty percent
  - Developer requires key or core persons: supervisors, foreman, construction workers with special skills not available in the local/state market.

Next Steps:



Rollover budget as the basis for the new spending plan

Determine what we can economize on from our existing budget.

Dec 11	BoE Meeting	Adoption of Vision/Goals
Jan 30	Committee Mtg	Initial Curric, Inst, PPS, Tech, Facilities, Trans, Staffing
		Review Tax Exemptions
Feb 12	BoE Mtg	Enrollment & Staffing/Tax Levy Compliance/*Tax Exemptions*
Mar 6	BoE Workshop	Curric, Inst, PPS, Tech, Facilities, Trans
Mar 11	BoE Mtg	BOCES Presentation (tentative)
Mar 19	Committee Mtg	Detail of GWL Budget
Apr 3	BoE Workshop	First Draft of Budget
Apr 18	BoE Mtg	Final Budget Adoption/BOCES Budget Vote
		Property Tax Report Card
May 14		Public Hearing
May 21	BoE Mtg	Budget Vote & Election

Thank You!