



# ARDSLEY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHALLENGING MINDS. BUILDING CHARACTER. INSPIRING EXCELLENCE.

## BUDGET NEWSLETTER

### A Message From Your Board of Education

The Ardsley School District experienced many changes this year. We welcomed a new superintendent, implemented new programs emphasizing social and emotional wellness, and initiated a community-wide effort to identify priorities for our next strategic plan.

On Tuesday, May 21, the community will vote on three distinct items relating to the 2019-20 school year: (1) the proposed 2019-20 school budget, (2) a proposition to approve an energy performance contract, and (3) the election of two trustees to the Board of Education.

- **2019-20 School Budget:** The proposed budget of \$72,348,771 represents a year-to-year increase of 3.66%. The budget includes a proposed tax levy of \$56,836,923, which represents a year-to-year increase of 2.75% and is below the New York State tax levy cap. For more details on the 2019-20 budget, please see 'Highlights of the Budget Proposal' below, FAQs on page 2, and the Budget Notice on page 5.
- **Energy Performance Contract:** The ballot will also include a proposition to approve an energy performance contract (EPC) to install solar panels across the school district. If approved, the district will be eligible to receive additional state aid over 15 years equal to ten percent (10%) of the overall cost of the project, as well as realizing energy cost savings from the solar panels. For more details on the EPC proposal, please see page 2.
- **Board of Education Election:** Voters will elect two trustees to the Ardsley Board of Education. A public candidate forum will be held on May 7 at 6 - 7 PM in the Ardsley High School auditorium.

As we look ahead to next year, we are continuing our efforts to manage class sizes and other resources in a fiscally prudent manner as we absorb the impact of increased residential development across our community. Above all, we remain committed to providing our diverse student population with a well-rounded educational experience to realize their potential as learners and global citizens.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to recognize the many community members who generously volunteer their time and energy on behalf of the Ardsley School District -- including members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Ardsley Education Foundation (AEF), our school Planning and Performance Leadership Teams (PPLT) and the Ardsley Panther Booster Club. We are grateful for the commitment and passion of these volunteers, who truly make our district special!

Sincerely,

Nicole Minore (President), Hrishi Karthikeyan (Vice President),  
Matthew Bonney, Pamela Epstein and Frank Hariton  
(Board Trustees)

**VOTE ON  
MAY 21, 2019**

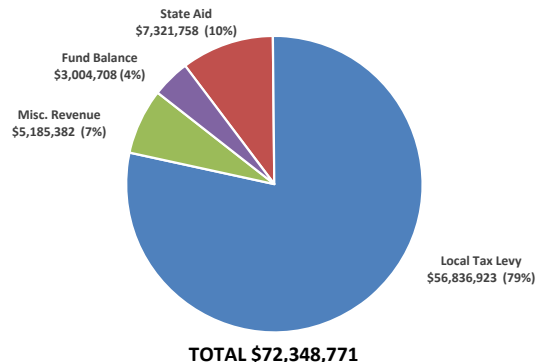
**POLLS OPEN  
6 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND  
2 P.M. TO 9 P.M.**

**ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
CAFETERIA**

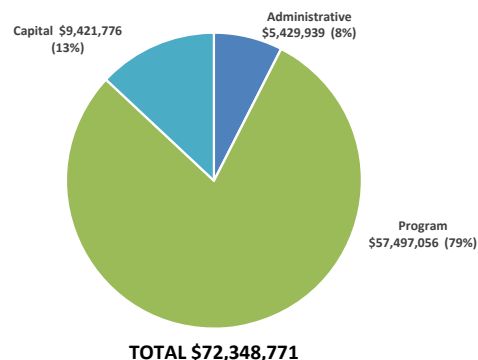
### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL

- **Tax Levy/Rate.** The proposed total tax levy is \$56,836,923, which translates to a 2.75% increase over last year, and is below the tax levy cap. Based on current calculations, this would reduce the tax rate from \$22.44/\$1000 of assessed value of your property this year to \$22.08/\$1000 of assessed value next year.
- **Budget Change.** The proposed 2019-20 budget is 3.66% more than the current year's budget. This budget manages class sizes and maintains current programs and services -- including social and emotional learning (SEL) initiatives, literacy support and Project Lead The Way -- while also aiming to help manage the tax burden on our community.
- **Staffing.** We have seen increasing enrollment over the last few years, which drives the need for additional support for both general and special education students. To help address these needs while managing class sizes, the proposed 2019-20 budget includes funding for two new classroom teachers at the elementary school, additional section coverage plus 3.7 full-time equivalent special education teachers at all three schools, and one library aide at the high school.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM  
2019-20 PROJECTED REVENUE SUMMARY



HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT  
2019-20 PROJECTED EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: BUDGET

### What resources are being added to manage increased enrollment and class size?

- Concord Road Elementary School: two classroom teachers, one special education teacher, and additional sections in physical education, science and music.
- Ardsley Middle School: one special education teacher, additional sections in social studies, science and Spanish.
- Ardsley High School: one library clerk, one special education teacher, additional sections in Spanish and math.

**What does this mean for my taxes?** Your 2019-20 school taxes are calculated by multiplying (x) your 2018 assessed property value by (y) the 2019-20 tax rate. The Town of Greenburgh notified residents of their 2018 assessment in June 2018. For example, if your 2018 assessed value is \$700,000, your estimated 2019-20 school taxes would be (x) \$700,000 multiplied by (y) the 2019-20 tax rate (\$22.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value) = \$15,456. Please note that the projected tax rate is an estimate based on the current assessment roll for the Ardsley School District. Some variation may occur before the final assessment roll and tax rate are calculated in September.

**What will happen if the community does not approve the school budget on May 21st with a simple majority vote?** State law provides that the Board of Education can re-submit the same or a different budget to the community for approval one more time by funding a second vote. If the second budget is also rejected, or if the Board of Education decides not to re-submit the budget for a second vote, the school district will operate on a contingency budget, resulting in a reduction of staff and/or services.

## PROPOSITION 2: ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT (EPC)

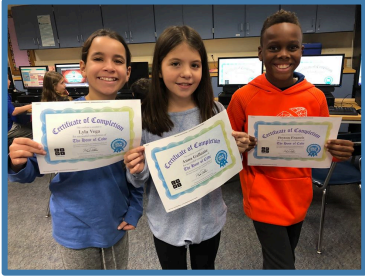
Managing rising energy costs is important for our long-term financial stability. In 2017, our community approved a bond that included adding green energy initiatives to our campuses. We are moving forward with these initiatives, which include installing solar panels across the school district. However, we now have an opportunity -- in the form of an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) -- to receive approximately \$475,000 (10% of the overall cost of the EPC) in additional aid from the state over 15 years. In order to be eligible for this additional aid, we need voter approval of this proposition.

An EPC is a provision under NY State Energy Law, Article 9 which allows a school district to engage an energy service company to provide services that will either improve the facility or produce energy. An EPC is financed through an installment finance agreement as opposed to a bond.

### What does the proposition provide, and what happens if it is not approved?

Voter authorization of the EPC enables the school district to receive additional aid from the state over 15 years to help fund our solar energy project. If the proposition is not approved, the school district will continue moving forward with the project, but without the additional aid.

## ARDSLEY: A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



Thanks to the steadfast support of our community and our dedicated and talented staff, we are able to offer a broad curriculum, complemented by many extracurricular programs and after-school offerings. We provide students with opportunities to pursue their individual interests, natural talents and maximize their learning potential. Our mission is to inspire excellence in every student by providing an educational environment that not only challenges minds, but builds character. Our results are clear: We are consistently ranked as one of the top school districts in the county.



### Social and emotional learning: Being well is as important as doing well

- Challenge Success
- “RULER” program to promote emotional literacy
- No Place for Hate
- Dedicated guidance lessons in every grade
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy strategy lessons in grades 9 and 10
- Wellness Week



### Classrooms of the future, today

- Active learning classrooms
- Smart Boards in every classroom
- Every student has access to Chrome books, iPads, and other classroom technologies
- Science classes have access to 3D printers, lathes and other shop equipment
- STEM/engineering lab at AHS



### Global citizenship

- Jump Rope for Heart
- Building Bridges Club
- Amnesty International
- Key Club
- International Day
- Veterans Day celebrations
- Ardsley Cares Day
- Thanksgiving food collections



### Advanced Learning Opportunities

- Cambridge Global Perspectives
- Science Research
- Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) classes
- Project Lead The Way engineering in grades K-12
- Thinking maps
- Computer science in grades 1-12

### Well-equipped facilities

- Safety features such as new classroom doors, enhanced outdoor lighting
- New walkways, roadways and outdoor staircases
- Gymnasium floor and locker room upgrades
- Performing arts facilities upgraded with new curtains, sound systems and more
- Heating and cooling systems replaced and repaired at CRS and AHS

### Other programs and activities

- Modified / varsity sports and more!
- Art, jazz, orchestra, chorus, drama, guitar clubs and more!
- Debate Club, Environmental Club, Girls Who Code, Innovate, Model UN, Robotics Club, Math League, Science Olympiad, and more!





## OUR COMMUNITY

We are all familiar with the proverb, “it takes a village to raise a child.” Nothing could be more true. The partnership between our schools and our community is an important cornerstone of our success. Countless, tireless volunteers fuel our programs and bring unique value to our students. Without volunteer support, many wonderful events, celebrations and learning opportunities would not be possible and the voice of the community would not be heard in district and school committees. We sincerely thank you and honor your commitment to our children.

### MANY THANKS TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE:

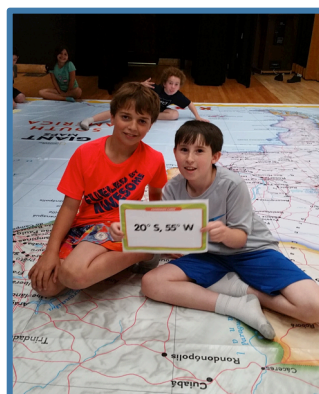
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Ardsley Education Foundation (AEF)
- Ardsley Panther Booster Club
- Class Parents
- Planning and Performance Leadership Teams (PPLTs)
- Ardsley SAYF Coalition
- Ardsley Friends of the Visual Arts (AFVA)
- Strategic Planning Council

### AND LET’S NOT FORGET:

All the community members who support special activities focused on athletics, science, performing arts, yearbooks, activity nights, graduation traditions, family tours and so many other wonderful programs.

### FOR ALL YOU DO TO ENRICH LEARNING AND CREATE COMMUNITY!

- Special Speakers and Assemblies
- Veterans Day
- Ardsley Cares Day
- Homecoming
- Spirit Week
- The Big Read
- Election Day
- 5K Fun Run
- Book Swap
- Book Fairs
- International Day
- Family Paint Nights
- Wellness Week
- Writing Celebrations
- Young Inventors
- Harlem Wizards
- Spirit Wear
- Lost & Found
- Activity Nights
- Funding for technology resources, learning tools, classroom upgrades & other assets
- And so much more!





## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 69,792,272	\$72,348,771	70,479,641
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$2,556,499	\$687,369
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.66 %	0.98%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	55,315,743	56,836,923	
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)	55,315,743	56,836,923	55,315,743
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,595,917	\$2,613,158	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$52,959,968	\$55,472,474	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$52,719,826	\$54,223,765	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$240,142	\$1,248,709	
Administrative Component	\$5,803,469	\$5,429,939	\$5,026,980
Program Component	\$55,071,106	\$57,497,056	\$56,308,885
Capital Component	\$8,917,697	\$9,421,776	\$9,143,776
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>If the District goes to a contingency budget, all equipment expenses, additional programs and proposed staffing would not be included in the budget in the amount of \$1,869,130.</p>			
<p>** 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)</p>	Description		Amount
	NONE		

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgt@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgt@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$1,988
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Ardsley Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Ardsley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 am and 10:00 am and 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, 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.

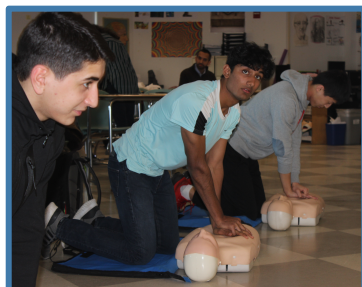
## ARDSLEY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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#### VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE

Este boletín de presupuesto ya está disponible en español en la Oficina de Distrito y las oficinas principales en la Escuela Secundaria de Ardsley, Escuela Media y la Escuela Concord Road.

También pueden encontrar este documento en nuestro sitio web bajo District Info / Budget Information.

También puede seguir este enlace para acceder la versión en español:



**VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** In order to vote, you must be a registered voter who has been a resident of the Ardsley School District for a period of 30 days or more prior to the election date. If you are not available to vote in person, you can complete an absentee ballot application by coming to the District Office (500 Farm Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, or by downloading the application from our website ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)). Your ballot must be received by the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 21st, so please account for mailing time or bring it to the District Office in person.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BUDGET:** Please visit the District website ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)) and click on the “District Info” tab and then select “Budget Information”. If you have specific questions, please contact Cheri Rosenblatt, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Facilities and Operations at 914-295-5556 or [budget@ardsleyschools.org](mailto:budget@ardsleyschools.org).