



# ARDSLEY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHALLENGING MINDS. BUILDING CHARACTER. INSPIRING EXCELLENCE.

## SPECIAL BUDGET ELECTION ISSUE

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

On Tuesday, May 17th, the community will be voting on the 2016-2017 School Year Budget, which was formally adopted by the Board of Education on April 19, 2016. The proposed budget is below the allowable New York State Tax Levy Cap and supports all key components of our Strategic Plan. This budget is a result of a process that began in January and has involved the administration, the Board of Education and the community. The proposed budget maintains our high academic standards, our class sizes and an environment conducive to teaching and learning while accounting for year-to-year increases in costs.



From left to right: Matthew Bonney, Frank Hariton,  
Joanne Sold, Steve Kastin, George Holt



**VOTE ON  
MAY 17, 2016**

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

**ARDSLEY HIGH  
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

The proposed budget for the 2016-2017 school year totals \$66,343,702, representing a 1.26% tax levy increase and a 3.90% year-to-year budget increase. Year-to-year cost increases include a 3.06% increase in BOCES costs, a 2.2% increase in programs and an increase associated with debt service. The 2016-2017 plan adds staffing to support additional sections of science, library, art, music and PE at CRS; a teacher split between CRS and AMS to implement a new STEM/Engineering program; an additional day of student assistance counselor support at AMS; and additional science/engineering teachers at AHS. Also included in the proposed budget is the restoration of two modified sports teams (girls volleyball and boys basketball); additional security coverage district-wide; and the implementation of a rigorous, articulated K-12 engineering curriculum called Project Lead the Way®, which is widely used across the country.

Ardsley continues to be a top-ranked district with student performance being among the highest in the county and thus a very desirable place to live. We have a dedicated team of administrators and teachers who continue to deliver the high academic standards our community demands while embracing innovation to meet the changing needs of our students. Our goal is to inspire excellence in every student by providing an educational environment that not only challenges minds, but also helps build character. It is our responsibility to support the diverse interests and needs of our student body, and to help students recognize their full potential as learners. With community support we will continue to strive for excellence in every area of the District in a cost effective manner.

Sincerely,  
The Ardsley Board of Education  
Joanne Sold, Steve Kastin, Frank Hariton, George Holt and Matthew Bonney

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

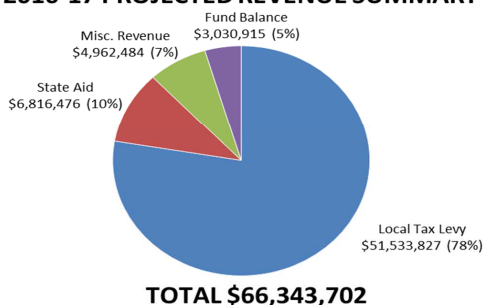
Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$63,856,355	\$66,343,702	\$65,703,008
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$2,487,347	\$1,846,653
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.90 %	2.89%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$50,893,133	\$51,533,827	
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)	\$50,893,133	\$51,533,827	\$50,893,133
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,789,139	\$2,228,301	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$49,104,194	\$49,305,526	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$49,103,994	\$49,305,526	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$200	-	
Administrative Component	\$5,822,956	\$5,907,704	\$5,900,504
Program Component	\$49,448,830	\$50,455,652	\$49,832,158
Capital Component	\$8,584,568	\$9,980,346	\$9,970,346
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
If the District goes to a contingency budget, all equipment expenses, additional proposed programs and teachers would not be included in the budget in the amount of \$640,694.			
** 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)	Description		Amount

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$2,031

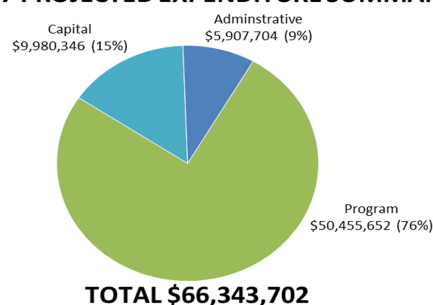
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Ardsley Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Ardsley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 6:00am and 10:00am and 2:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Ardsley High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM 2016-17 PROJECTED REVENUE SUMMARY



### HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT 2016-17 PROJECTED EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL:

- Maintains all present programs, offerings and class sizes;
- Expands our curriculum to include engineering in all three schools and additional computer science classes at AHS;
- Adds additional sections in science, library, art, music and PE at CRS; student assistance counselor support at AMS; and science/engineering teachers at AHS;
- Increases security coverage at all three schools;
- Absorbs all unfunded mandates and year-to-year increases in BOCES costs, insurance costs and general maintenance;
- Satisfies current debt responsibilities while preserving a fiscally responsible fund balance.

**The proposed budget falls below the Tax Levy Cap allowable for Ardsley by the state.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Who can actually vote in a school budget/trustee election?** In order to vote, you must be a registered voter who is at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the US and a resident of the Ardsley School District for a period of 30 days or more.

**How do I vote if I am out of town?** If you are not available to vote in person, you can complete an absentee ballot application available to registered voters by coming to the District Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by downloading a copy from our website ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)). In order for your vote to be counted, it must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 17<sup>th</sup>, so please account for mailing time or bring it to the office.

**What is the budget increase and what are the causes?** The budget-to-budget increase is 3.90% higher than the 2015-2016 budget. The budget includes funding for additional teacher positions, the implementation of a district-wide engineering program, and satisfies current capital improvement debt service.

**If the tax levy is increasing by 1.26%, then why isn't the tax rate the same percentage?** The Ardsley School District does not control the actual tax rate increase. The final rate is calculated by the Town of Greenburgh and incorporates total property value assessments in addition to the tax levy.

**How does the new Town of Greenburgh assessment impact my 2016-2017 school taxes?** The new property assessments do not take effect until 2017 and will not impact your school taxes until the 2017-2018 school year. This year's school taxes are based on your current 2016 assessed value.

**What will happen if the community does not approve the school budget on May 17<sup>th</sup> with a simple majority vote?** State law provides that the Board of Education can, if it wishes, resubmit 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 resubmit the budget for a second vote, the school will operate on a contingency budget. A contingency budget would not allow the District to increase the tax levy and add additional staff.

**How do I get more information about the budget?** Come to the Board of Education/District Office located at 500 Farm Road, stop by any of the schools or visit our website for a copy of the complete budget document. If you have specific questions, contact Kelly E. Seibert, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Facilities & Operations, at 914-295-5530.

## ARDSLEY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

500 Farm Road  
Ardsley, NY 10502

Phone: 914-295-5500  
www.ardsleyschools.org

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## RESIDENT OF ARDSLEY

STAY CONNECTED \* WEBSITE: [WWW.ARDSLEYSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.ARDSLEYSCHOOLS.ORG) \* FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ARDSLEYSCHOOLDISTRICT](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ARDSLEYSCHOOLDISTRICT)

### New Voting Machines!

This budget vote will employ the latest voting technology, the ImageCast Scanner, a paper-based optical scan voting system. Ardsley residents were introduced to this system in the last general election. The ImageCast system allows for paper ballots to be immediately tabulated and makes voting easier for a person with disabilities to privately and independently vote. The process is simple:

1. Sign in and the pollworker will give you a ballot.
2. The privacy booth has four sections, allowing for up to four voters to mark his/her ballot at a time. Using the marker provided, fill in the oval completely to indicate your selections.
3. When you have finished marking selections and reviewing your ballot, insert the completed ballot into the ImageCast scanner.
4. A separate ballot marking device will be available for those with disabilities.
5. Assistance will be available as needed.



### Ardsley: A Great Place to Learn

- Fifty-three AHS students were inducted into the **National Honor Society**;
- The **AMS Math Counts** team placed third in the regionals and one Ardsley student will be one of only four students representing NYS on the national level;
- Two students in the new three-year **Science Research Program** competed at WESEF and were named grand prize winners and will attend the **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**;
- An AHS science research student was named as an **Intel Semi-Finalist**;
- The **AHS DECA Club** competed in the NYS DECA State Career Conference and is sending eight students to the national competition. One of our students was elected the 2016-2017 NYS DECA President;
- The **AMS Science Olympiad Team** came in 4<sup>th</sup> overall at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition;
- The AHS Girls Basketball, Girls Bowling and Girls Fencing Teams were all **League Champions**;
- Over 30 students' **art work** was shown at Pace University, the Atria Woodlands, Concordia College, and the Katonah Museum.