



Briarcliff Manor

Union Free School District

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

On the Ballot
for 2024-2025

THE BUDGET

- Proposed Budget: **\$59,293,787**
- Tax Levy Increase: **1.65%**
- Complies with the State Tax Levy Cap



VOTE

May 21, 2024 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Briarcliff Youth Recreation Center
5 Van Lu Van Rd, Briarcliff Manor, NY**

Budget Vote and Board Candidate Election



Message from District Leadership

Dear Briarcliff UFSD Families:

As we advance towards the 2024-2025 school year, our focus sharpens not just on maintaining high standards and improving our educational offerings, but also on evolving our facilities to reflect our commitment to sustainability. The proposed budget for the coming year, set at \$59,293,785, represents a tax levy increase of 1.65%, that reflects this dual focus on excellence and responsibility. Our aim is to foster an environment that nurtures both the intellectual and ecological futures of our students.

Priorities of the Proposed Budget Proposition #1

This year's budget focus remains steadfast on elevating our academic excellence through key initiatives:

- **Reducing Elementary Class Sizes:**
Aiming for more personalized attention to enhance student learning and growth.
- **Strengthening Fundamental Literacy and Math Programs:**
Ensuring foundational skills are robust across all student groups.
- **Implementing NYS Next Generation Standards:**
Keeping our curriculum up-to-date and challenging across all subjects.
- **Enhanced Mathematics Instruction for 6th Graders:**
Delivered by certified specialists to forge strong numeracy skills.
- **Expanding Advanced Course Offerings:**
Increasing participation in Engineering, Computer Science, and AP Capstone courses.
- **Professional Development for Faculty:**
Focusing on mathematics to enhance teaching quality and student outcomes.



New Voting Location

- Briarcliff Youth Center at 5 Van Lu Van Road, Briarcliff Manor
- May 21, 6:00 am until 9:00 pm

A move to keep kids safe!

Comprehensive Energy Upgrades and Sustainability Initiative Proposition #2

In a significant stride towards sustainability via an Energy Performance Contract (EPC), we propose a district-wide transformation that transcends typical upgrades. We plan to shift from reliance on fossil fuels to embracing renewable solar energy. This initiative includes:

- **Solar Power Installation:**
Our goal is for our schools to achieve net-zero electricity usage, powered entirely by solar energy.
- **Boiler System Overhaul:**
Proposed upgrades will reduce our natural gas consumption by 42%, lowering our CO2 emissions by 1,615 metric tons — a significant environmental impact.
- **LED Lighting:**
Transitioning to LED lighting throughout our facilities will not only save energy but also enhance our learning environments.
- **Cooling System Updates:**
Modernizing our cooling systems will ensure more comfortable learning spaces without excessive energy consumption.

This transformation will be funded through future energy savings and supplemented by additional state aid, contingent upon community support in a public referendum. This crucial vote, coinciding with the budget vote on Tuesday, May 21 could further increase our funding by an additional 10% from State Aid, directly benefiting our sustainability projects.

Although Proposition #2 does not need voter approval because it will not result in increased taxes, **a vote in favor of the proposition will result in \$1 million dollars in additional state funding for the project.**

Your Role is to GET OUT AND VOTE!

The Budget vote and Board of Education election will take place on **May 21** at the **Briarcliff Youth Center located at 5 Van Lu Van Road, Briarcliff Manor**, New York 10510 from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM. We strongly encourage every eligible voter to participate in this important decision-making process.



For further details, please refer to the comprehensive Budget Book available on our District website or directly at bit.ly/Briar-Budget22.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community's future.

Warmest regards,

Dr. James Kaishian
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Haberman
Board of Education President

Budget/Expense Summary

Category	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
Salaries & Benefits	\$37,672,825	\$39,102,435	\$40,860,244	\$42,747,905
Equipment	\$760,920	\$1,992,465	\$1,352,257	\$369,917
Supplies	\$961,920	\$831,487	\$829,734	\$835,864
Tuition	\$1,483,443	\$1,098,210	\$836,674	\$805,935
Contractual	\$6,833,336	\$7,105,502	\$7,476,742	\$7,536,259
BOCES Services	\$2,132,456	\$2,012,688	\$2,267,570	\$2,477,768
Debt Service	\$3,314,484	\$3,372,622	\$3,601,188	\$3,975,137
Transfers to Other Funds	\$232,899	\$115,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
Capital Projects	\$300,000	\$650,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$53,692,283	\$56,280,408	\$57,719,409	\$59,293,785

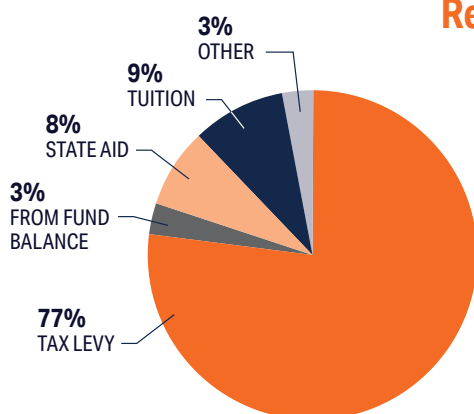
Revenue Summary

Category	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
State Aid	\$4,112,436	\$3,839,013	\$4,219,691	\$4,986,337
County Sales Tax	\$690,000	\$690,000	\$730,000	\$760,000
Tuition & Charges for Services	\$3,914,211	\$3,826,281	\$4,902,356	\$5,076,541
Interest Earnings & Rentals	\$69,480	\$69,480	\$299,050	\$571,000
Other Miscellaneous	\$187,225	\$193,225	\$177,926	\$158,176
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	\$8,973,352	\$8,617,999	\$10,329,023	\$11,552,054
TAX LEVY	\$43,696,931	\$44,898,025	\$44,982,025	\$45,724,228
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$1,022,000	\$2,764,384	\$2,408,361	\$2,017,503
GRAND TOTAL	\$53,692,283	\$56,280,408	\$57,719,409	\$59,293,785

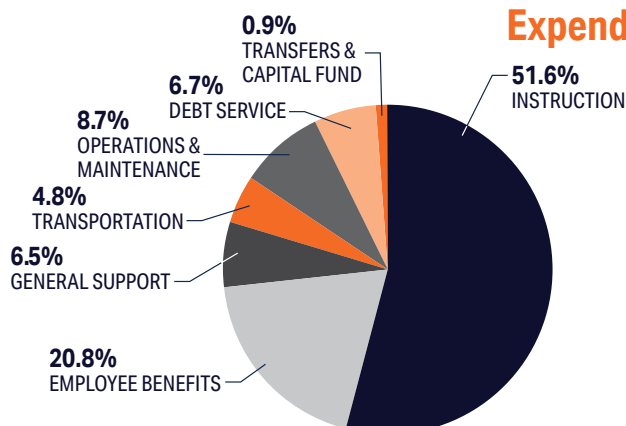
1.65% Tax Levy Increase

2023-2024 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Breakdown

Revenues



Expenditures



BHS Highlights & Accolades

- ▶ **Gautam Gupta** was named **Valedictorian**. **Joseph Berger** and **Mirabel Solomon** were named **Salutatorians**.
- ▶ The school put on the shows **"She Kills Monsters"** and **"Chicago."**
- ▶ **World Language** students visited Costa Rica.
- ▶ Ninth grader **Bianca Jain** won the **Congressional App Challenge** for New York's 17th Congressional District.
- ▶ Senior **Angelina Meng** won the Honorable Mention, **Youth Advocate for the 2023 NCTE National Intellectual Freedom Award** and is the first-ever student to win it.
- ▶ Briarcliff High School hosted **Alumni Day** with visits from 28 alumni.
- ▶ The school held a **blood drive** in November.
- ▶ BHS was named to the **AP 2023 Honor Roll**.
- ▶ **Gordon Beckler, Maryum Faisal, Sasha Plitt, Sage Willey, Ava Wu** and **Anika Zaidi** participated in the **2024 ACDA Eastern Region Conference Honors Choir** in Providence, RI.
- ▶ BHS seniors in the **Science Research Program** participated in the **Westchester-Rockland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium** at Yorktown High School.
The following students were recognized with awards:
 - **Theo Molinoff**, 2nd Place, local, Physical Science.
 - **Maya Siegel**, 1st Place, local, Biology & Medicine.
 - **Gautam Gupta**, 5th Place, regional, Behavioral Science.
 - **Tristan Rutman**, 2nd Place, regional, Behavioral Science.
 - **Edmund Tsou**, 1st Place, regional, Computational Biology & Bioinformatics.
- ▶ BHS seniors **Tristan Rutman** and **Edmund Tsou**, who advanced to the **Upstate JSHS science research competition** and presented their work at the University at Albany. **Edmund** won First Place overall.
- ▶ Six BHS students presented their artwork at the **Katonah Museum of Art Young Artists 2024 Exhibit**.
- ▶ The school held **winter and spring concerts**.
- ▶ The **Briarcliff High School debate team** won the Second Place Overall medal at the Rockland County Forensic League Tournament.

- ▶ **"Briars & Ivy,"** Briarcliff High School's literary arts magazine, has been recognized as a **REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)**.
The magazine was also awarded First Place with Special Merit by the **American Scholastic Press Association Contest**.
"Briars & Ivy" also won the Empire State Scholastic Press Association's (ESSPA) 2023 **Silver Award for Best Overall Literary Magazine**.
- ▶ The following seniors were recognized for their work:
 - **Angelina Meng**, Best Written Work in a Literary Magazine – Silver
 - **Nico Vargish**, Best Feature Story – Silver
 - **Conor Duperrouzel**, Representation in Media – Honorable Mention
- ▶ The magazine also won a Silver in the 2024 **Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Crown Awards**.
- ▶ Science Research seniors **Gautam Gupta, Rashmi Narayanan** and **Edmund Tsou**, who were named as Scholars in the **2024 Regeneron Science Talent Search**.
- ▶ The following students performed in the 2023 **NYSSMA Winter Conference** in Rochester, NY:
 - Sophomore **Ariana Thomas** performed as a solo pianist at the Lilac Ballroom at the Hyatt Hotel in Rochester, NY.
 - Junior **Sage Willey** performed with the All-State Chorus at the Eastman Theater in Rochester, NY.
- ▶ Sophomore **Aanya Shetty** received the **HOBY Award**.
- ▶ BHS alum **Mark Levitt** received the 2023 Briarcliff High School **Distinguished Alumni Award**.
- ▶ The following students played at the Area All State Concert in New Rochelle: **Nathan Lucht, Connor Bohan, Joey Berger, Sophie Tanios** and **Jack Lucarelli**.
- ▶ The following are Commended Students in the **2024 National Merit Scholarship Program**: **Maryum Faisal, Rashmi Narayanan, Blake Cohen, Greta Martin, Nina Phillips, Nathaniel Tanen, Gordon Beckler, Brian Pahk, Angelina Meng, Christopher D'Onofrio, Tristan Rutman, Nathaniel Lucht, Edmund Tsou, Noah O'Neill, Joshua Daniels** and **Sofia Choudhri**.
- ▶ The following students are **National Merit Semifinalists and Finalists**: **Colin Zhao, Rian Kelmendi, Gautam Gupta, Mirabel Solomon, Joseph Berger, JP Kuhn** and **Benjamin Unger**.

- ▶ The school held a **Science Research Symposium** in April.
- ▶ Senior **Edmund Tsou** defended his title and won the Second Annual **BHS Chess Tournament** in an overtime match against junior **Daisy Star**.

- ▶ Sophomore **Madeline Chu** won the **Gold Key Award** from Scholastic for her short story "Captivation."
- ▶ The following **BHS Science Research** students were recognized with awards at the **New York State Science & Engineering Fair**, also known as NYSSEF:
Special Awards:
 - **Edmund Tsou** – United States Air Force Award for Excellence in Science and Engineering.
 Best in Category Awards:
 - **Daisy Star** – 3rd Place in Computational Biology.
 - **Rashmi Narayanan** – 2nd Place in Biochemistry.
 - **Edmund Tsou** – 2nd Place in Biomedical Engineering.
 - **Kevin Gong** and **Eric Zhou** – 1st Place in Cellular and Molecular Biology.
- ▶ The following students were recognized at the Awards Ceremony for the Westchester Science & Engineering Fair (WESEF):
 - **Jack Lucarelli** – American Psychological Association Award.
 - **Tristan Rutman** and **Adya Tiwari** – US Agency for International Development. (USAID) Science Champion Award.
 - **Maya Siegel** – Excellence in Medical Research Award.
 - **Rashmi Narayanan** – Momentive Women in Science Award.
 - **Kevin Gong** and **Eric Zhou** – Leason Ellis Team Project Award.
 - **Daisy Star** – Regeneron Biomedical Research Award.
 - **Edmund Tsou** – George D. Yancopolous Award – Innovations in Science Award.
 - **Megan Stopera** – Honorable Mention Award.
 Best in Category Awards:
 - **Blake Cohen** – 3rd Place in Behavioral & Social Science.
 - **Maryum Faisal** – 3rd Place in Medicine and Health Science.
 - **Rashmi Narayanan** – 2nd Place in Biochemistry.
 - **Riya Raina** – 2nd Place in Behavioral & Social Science.
 - **Sabrina Venezia** – 2nd Place in Behavioral & Social Science.
 - **Kevin Gong** and **Eric Zhou** – 2nd Place in Cellular and Molecular Biology.
 - **Daisy Star** – 2nd Place in Computational Biology / Bioinformatics.
 - **Edmund Tsou** – 2nd Place in Computational Biology / Bioinformatics.
 - **Elise Nakahara** – 2nd Place in Medicine & Health Science.
 - **Gautam Gupta** – 1st Place in Behavioral & Social Science.
- ▶ The **Art Department** held an **Art Salon**, showcasing students' work in visual arts such as drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, digital art, ceramics and sculpture, as well as film shorts.



Briarcliff Middle School

- Briarcliff Middle School received the Blue Ribbon recognition.
- State Sen. Pete Harckham visited the school to issue a Proclamation in honor of the Blue Ribbon recognition.
- Briarcliff Middle School students and staff went on a school-wide ice-skating trip to Rye Playland Casino.
- Mathcounts Club members won third place in the Regional Mathcounts Competition.
- An internet safety expert presented to students on digital safety.
- Students participated in Community Day and Kindness Day.
- Students held a Thanks & Giving Boutique and donated 700 pounds of food to Feeding Westchester.
- Student artists from the Middle School displayed artworks ranging from traditional to digital art at an exhibit held at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library.
- Twenty students performed at the Middle School's annual talent show.



- BMS held a World Read Aloud Day with virtual visits from authors such as Dana Alison Levy, Rachel Toalson and Michael Leali.
- The school held a winter concert, showcasing pieces such as "Let the Journey Begin!" by James Swearingen and "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms. Chorus students sang with Briarcliff High School students "Carol of the Bells."



- Middle School language students read books they had written in Spanish or French to first graders.
- Eighth graders went to see Hamilton on Broadway.
- Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk visited the school to tell the Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

Todd Elementary School

- State Senator Pete Harckham visited fourth graders to discuss government issues and his work on the environmental committee.
- The school celebrated World Read Aloud Day, with visits from dignitaries such as the Briarcliff Mayor and Chief of Police.
- Author and illustrator Meghan McCarthy visited second and third graders.
- Fifth graders participated in A Day in Clay.
- The school rolled out Clubs at Recess for students in third, fourth and fifth grades.
- Students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge.
- Author Stuart Gibbs visited fourth and fifth graders.
- Students participated in the National Circus Project.
- Students participated in Read Across America and read together in the school hallways.
- Todd kindergartners celebrated the 100th Day of School with visits from Briarcliff High School musicians and athletes.
- Todd Elementary held Kindness Week.
- Briarcliff Manor Fire Department visited students for a fire safety presentation.
- Fifth graders put on the show Frozen Jr. with JKJ Productions.
- The school held a winter concert.
- Briarcliff Middle School language students read books they had written in Spanish or French to first graders.



- Todd students participated in the Holiday Sing with each grade singing a holiday or winter-themed song.
- Todd students participated in Hour of Code.
- The school held a Halloween Parade.
- The school celebrated The Big Apple Crunch.
- Fifth graders participated in Chalk the Walk.
- Kindergartners had a field trip to Teatown Lake Reservation.
- First graders had a field trip to Hilltop Hanover Farms.
- Author Kelly Starling Lyons visited kindergartners and first graders.

Briarcliff Athletics Highlights

Fall Season

Varsity Cheerleading

Scholar Athlete Team

Ava Diaz – All League/All Section
Jake Jelenevsky – All League
Sienna Shulman – All League

Varsity Girls Cross Country

Scholar Athlete Team

Zoe Franks – All League
Lauren Isbell – All League
Caroline Pastore – All League
Emily Isbell – All League
Nina Nowakiwskyj – All League
Hannah Tashiro – All League

Varsity Boys Cross Country

League Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

Miles Chamberlain – All League/All County/All Section/NYS Qualifier
Luke Dennis – All League/All County
J.P. Kuhn – All League/All County
Michael Cherubini – All League
Dov Kurtis – All League
Alex Rosenbluth – All League
Tristan Rutman – All League

Varsity Field Hockey –

Scholar Athlete Team

Lily Shafiroff – All League

Varsity Football

Jonathan Iwai – All Conference
A.J. Milano –

**Briarcliff has 7 Student-Athletes
Moving on to Play Collegiate Athletics**

Varsity Boys Soccer

League Champions/Class B Finalists/Scholar Athlete Team

Brandon Beck – Head Coach of the Year
Miles Prosperino – All League/All Section
Emilio Abud Chalita – All League/All Section
Tobias Young – All League/All Section
Theo Molinoff – All League
Sebastian Lai – All League
Sebastian Rohde – All League
Ethan Anisman – All League
Eli Snider – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Soccer – Section One Class B

Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

Sora Marable – League Player of the Year/All League/All Section
Karina Bar – All League/All Section
Ava Makaron – All League/All Section Honorable Mention
Nico Vargish – All League
Mar Rivera Font – All League
Bailey Apter – All League Honorable Mention
Gemma Fante – All League Honorable Mention
Lilah Prosperino – All League Honorable Mention
Lily Rowe – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Swimming/Diving

Scholar Athlete Team

Alexis Kung – All League/All Section/State Qualifier
(200 IM & 100 Back)



Varsity Girls Tennis

Scholar Athlete Team

Diana Jones – All League
Leahna Rodriguez – All League
Natalie Lopez – All League
Maren Zedlovich – All League

Boys Volleyball

League Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

Robin Cooke – Coach of the Year
Marc Arroyo – All League/All Section/
Player of the Year

Girls Volleyball

Scholar Athlete Team

Aanya Shetty – All League

Winter Season

Varsity Boys Basketball

Scholar Athlete Team

Luke Lawler – All League
Jordan Kratz – All League

Varsity Girls Basketball

Scholar Athlete Team

Adrianna Scanga – All League
Gemma Fante – All League
Nico Vargish – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Bowling

Scholar Athlete Team

Varsity Cheerleading – Scholar Athlete Team
Alexandra Shulman – All Section/All League
Jake Jelenevsky – All League
Sienna Shulman – All League

Varsity Ice Hockey

Scholar Athlete Team

Will Soffer – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Boys Swimming/Diving

Scholar Athlete Team

James DuTremble – Qualified for States/All League
Brayden Malioneck – Qualified for States
Elias Malioneck – Qualified for States

Varsity Winter Track

Scholar Athlete Team

All League Players:

Will McLay – 55M Dash and 4x200M Relay
Chase Sedacca – 55M Dash, 300M and 4x200M Relay
Damien White – 55M Dash and 4x200M Relay
Marc Arroyo – 55M High Hurdles and High Jump
Jack Lucarelli – 55M High Hurdles
Edmund Tsou – 55M High Hurdles
Karina Bar – 55M High Hurdles
Lauren Isbell – 600M, 1000M, and 1500M
Zoe Franks – 600M, 1000M, and 3000M
Michael Cherubini – 600M, 1000M, and 4x800M Relay
Miles Chamberlain – 1000M, 1600M, 4x400M Relay
Luke Dennis – 1000M, 3200M and 4x800M Relay
Sophie Tanios – 1500M Race Walk and 4x400M Relay
Gautham Modugu – High Jump and Pole Vault
Tristan Tsou – Long Jump
Elias Duay – Triple Jump, Pole Vault
Kaitlyn Loparrino – Shot Put and Weight Throw
Rian Kelmendi – Shot Put
Dan Chioccola – 4x200M Relay
Sabrina Venezia – 4x200M Relay

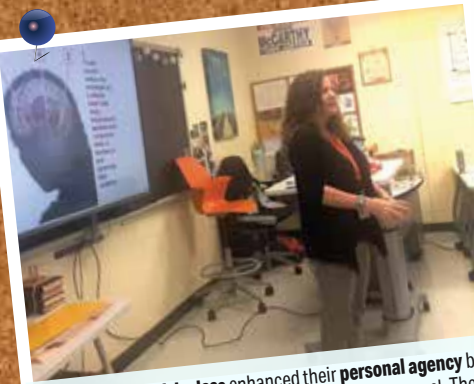


Anisa Chalabi – 4x200M Relay and 4x400M Relay
Phoebe Safian – 4x200M Relay
Sofia Cruz – Triple Jump and 4x200M Relay
Brady Lofaro – 4x400M Relay
Max Horgan – 4x400M Relay
Paul Torosian – 4x400M Relay
Niamh Dooley – 4x400M Relay
Ava Schwartz – 4x400M Relay
Skylar Feiguine – 4x800M Relay
Hannah Tashiro – 4x800M Relay
Nina Nowakiwskyj – 4x800M Relay
Emily Isbell – 4x800M Relay
JP Kuhn – 4x800M Relay
Jack Hulea – 4x800M Relay
Sydney Weiss – High Jump

The Briarcliff Commitment

The Briarcliff Manor School District is committed to helping every student maximize their potential to become confident and capable young adults who make informed decisions and positive contributions to society. Within our broad educational program, we hope to engage, enlighten and inspire students so they are prepared for life and opportunity in the 21st Century.

We aim to foster critical thinking, complex problem solving, digital and information literacy, civic engagement and personal agency.



Seniors in English class enhanced their **personal agency** by exploring the way alcohol use is portrayed in the novel, *The Great Gatsby*, and discussing its potential for devastating effects with Student Assistance Counselor Meredith Ohmes.



First graders created marshmallow structures, honing their **complex problem solving skills**. They were tasked with building the **tallest snowman** using toothpicks and marshmallows of various sizes.



Second graders practiced **complex problem solving** by using the engineering design process model. They were asked to create a structure that could support a hardcover book using the smallest quantity materials.



Fifth graders conducted a hands-on science experiment in **STEAM class**, using **critical thinking skills**. They tested how long it would take Alka Seltzer tablets to dissolve in water if broken up into four or eight pieces, or kept whole.



Seventh grade world language students practiced **civic engagement** by visiting Todd first graders and reading books they had written in Spanish and French to them.



Middle school students participated in a **Thanks & Giving Boutique**, donating 700 pounds of canned and packaged goods to a local food pantry, which translated to 585 meals, fostering **civic engagement**.



AP Biology students visited the DNA Learning Center at **Regeneron** to participate in a hands-on lab, performing experiments on genetically-modified bacteria and fostering **critical thinking skills**.



Kindergartners in physical education class used mental math while playing a game of "musical hoops" to ensure they had the right amount of people per hoop, working on **complex problem solving**.



Senior **Marc Arroyo** saw that the school did not have a **boys volleyball team**, so he asked Athletic Director Chris Drosopoulos to create one and ended up forming a team with Croton-Harmon High School, for which he was co-captain, in a display of **personal agency**.



Retired investigator and police officer Tom Roidl visited **BMS students** to discuss internet safety and their digital footprints, helping students explore **digital and information literacy**.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION
Michael Haberman, *President*
Michelle Woerner, *Vice President*
Kenneth Torosian
Tony Sammi
Lisa Manuele (temporary until May 21st)

"ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE"

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bit.ly/briarcliffnews



- Two seats expire on June 30, 2024. One is that of Mr. Michael Haberman who will not run again. The other seat is of Mr. Swaroop Reddy who relocated to another town and could no longer remain on the Board. His seat is temporarily being filled by Mrs. Lisa Manuele.
- The person who receives the highest number of votes on May 21st will immediately be sworn in and finish out Mr. Reddy's term.



New Voting Location

- Briarcliff Youth Center at
5 Van Lu Van Road, Briarcliff Manor
 - May 21, 6:00 am until 9:00 pm
- A move to keep kids safe!**

VOTING INFORMATION

**Budget Vote &
Board Candidate Election
May 21, 2024**

To vote on May 21, 2024 you must be:

- A United States citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.
- A registered voter of the district and or a registered voter of Westchester County whose name appears on the list supplied by the Westchester County Board of Elections as having voted in a national, state or county election during the past four calendar years.
- For information please call District Clerk at (914) 432-8130.