

# BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET 2024

## 2024-2025 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET



### VOTE • May 21, 2024

2024-2025 School Budget Vote  
& Trustee Election

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

@ All District Elementary Schools

### The proposed budget:

- Maintains all programs & services for students
- Provides increased support for alternate pathways for graduation
- Carries a tax levy increase within allowable tax cap



*This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.*

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Eileen Felix, *President*  
Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*  
Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*  
Hassan Ahmed, *Trustee*  
Brandon Garcia, *Trustee*  
Eileen Harman, *Trustee*  
Maria Malave, *Trustee*

Wanda Ortiz-Rivera, *Interim Superintendent of Schools*

# A Message from your Board of Education

Dear Resident,

This year has once again provided numerous successful activities and programs for students and brought much pride to our school community. In collaboration with our administrative team, we are pleased to present a 2024-2025 school budget that preserves all programs while keeping the tax levy increase within our allowable tax-cap limit. We have been able to achieve this thanks to the district's long-term financial planning, as well as increases in our aid and grant allocations. As you look through this newsletter, you will see all that we are doing to improve our facilities and enhance our educational programs for the advancement of our students.

Please take special note of our points of pride, which are just some brief highlights of the innumerable accolades and notable achievements in our schools.

In addition to our proposed budget, residents will be asked to vote for three seats on the Board of Education – the ones currently occupied by Julia Burgos, Cynthia Ciferri, and Eileen Felix. We hope you will join us at the polls on Tuesday, May 21, between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

Eileen Felix, *President*

Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*

Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*

Hassan Ahmed, Brandon Garcia, Eileen Harman, and

Maria Malave, *Trustees*



# Board Candidate Bios

## Seat 1: Cindy Ciferri (incumbent) versus Zed Key



**Cynthia Ciferri:** *My name is Cindy Ciferri. I've lived in Brentwood for over 50 years. I have spent the last 6 years on the Board of Education, making a positive difference every day. I'm an advocate for parents, students and community members. I have been acknowledged and awarded by the Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association for my work and dedication to our students. I'm looking forward to continuing the positive progress we have created for our children.*



**Zed Key:** *My name is Zed Key. I have lived in the community for 24 years. I am married for 26 years. I have 2 children that have come thru the Brentwood school district & are now in college. I am currently serving on the board of the BYA. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Brentwood school board in an effort to continue to improve our community.*

## Seat 2: Eileen Felix (incumbent, unopposed)



**Eileen Felix:** *I am proud to be on the Board of Education where I can give back to my community and the students. I have been involved with many organizations including BYA, Green Machine Parents Association and the Puerto Rican Coalition. Some of my achievements as a trustee are the addition of Advanced Placement classes, Unified Bowling, Senior Walk, Best Buddies Club, I AM Brentwood, Strive for Five, Technical Career Day & the District Breast Cancer Awareness Brunch.*

## Seat 3: Julia Burgos (incumbent) versus Kimberly Johnson



**Julia Burgos:** *In my tenure as a Board of Education member I have advocated for students of all ages and all capacities to receive the educational services that they need in order to prosper and to provide them with life skills that will prepare them for success in their lives. In my coming term I will continue to advocate for comprehensive education at the elementary and middle school levels and advanced college preparation and career and technical instruction as well as services for students with special needs.*



**Kimberly Johnson:** *Kimberly Johnson is a board-certified adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner and dually licensed registered nurse and adult health nurse practitioner in New York State, working in private practice with a collaborating physician. Ms. Johnson is an active member of Brentwood community, an entrepreneur and involved parent with Brentwood PTA. Ms. Johnson has strong beliefs in empowering the community and students to encourage active learning and educational engagement. As a former school nurse, Ms. Johnson understands firsthand the needs of the students and community to ensure success for the school board.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

### Are there any capital projects included in the budget?

Yes, funds are included as a transfer to capital to replace the fire alarm in the High School, add lighting to the soccer field, add air conditioning to the Freshman Campus cafeteria, and to renovate bathrooms in the District.

### Are there any special propositions on the ballot?

Yes, there is a second proposition before voters to approve the purchase of the property located at 1734 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, New York at an amount not to exceed \$1.4 million.

### Are there any multiyear deals in the budget?

Yes, the district will look to save taxpayer dollars by entering into multiyear deals in the following areas: copiers, software programs, curriculum items, secure socket layer certificates, hardware items, storage containers and mail machines.

### What is a contingency budget?

A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. If the district were required to adopt a contingency budget, that would require \$12,064,600 to be cut from the proposed budget. The district would also be forced to uphold certain expenditure caps, and the state would impose controls on all capital projects and severe restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or eliminate programs, which could include the summer recreation program, instrumental music and extracurricular activities.



# Points of Pride

- The Brentwood boys' soccer team won the New York State championship. Stalyn Acosta was named an All-American and coach Ron Eden was named the National Coach of the Year.
- In addition to the success of the boys' soccer team, Brentwood also celebrated two All-American wrestlers, a Suffolk County girls' bowling singles champion, a perfect game of 300 in boys' bowling, and two All-State honorees in track and field. The Boys' fencing team posted the best overall record in Suffolk County and won the League Championship.
- The Brentwood High School Air Force Junior ROTC instructors and cadets underwent a unit assessment conducted by the United States Air Force where they earned an overall unit assessment score of Exceeds Standards, which is the highest rating attainable.
- The Brentwood High School cheerleaders represented Brentwood at the Universal Cheerleaders Association's National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida, for the fourth time in program history.
- Brentwood High School students from the Advanced Journalism, Digital Journalism, and Pow Wow Newspaper courses competed in the Quill Awards competition and had an impressive showing, placing first in five different categories, including Most Outstanding Newspaper.
- Fourth grader Aylin Guerrero Espinal from North Elementary School and eighth grader Steven Diaz from East Middle School were chosen as winners for the Shanti Fund Calendar Art Contest, and their artwork has been featured in the Shanti Fund's 2024 calendar.
- Brentwood High School social worker Lisa Ponce was awarded a Governor's Citation by New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul, celebrating her work and leadership in the district's Latina Mentoring Program.
- In March, the Brentwood special education department unveiled its Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab at Brentwood High School to measure and strengthen postsecondary abilities and goals related to training, education, employment and independent living.
- Brentwood High School seniors Alisha Ahsan and Stephanie Pizano are among 125 winners in the National STEM Challenge.
- Brentwood High School was one of three high schools in the nation to receive the Motif Award for outstanding youth advocacy with systemic change.



## The Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Includes:

- Maintained robust educational programs, initiatives, and student support services to produce the highest graduation rate in district history.
- Programs offering students skilled trade certifications upon graduation.
- Security improvements including vape/aggression detectors and the addition of security vestibules in several buildings.
- Expanded faculty for tutoring.
- Expansion of drama clubs at all middle schools.
- Revitalization of secondary education to provide students alternate pathways to graduation with Graduation Plus initiatives.
- Continued Virtual Enterprise and Financial Literacy offerings for secondary students.
- Continued Early-College courses for students at no cost.
- Expanded BOCES programs.
- Expanded music program to offer instrumental instruction to sixth grade students.
- New math programs and reading interventions at elementary levels.
- Continued rotation of laptop and desktop computers.
- Continued capital improvement projects around the district including building upgrades, parking lot renovations and air conditioning to the Freshman Campus cafeteria.
- New lights for the soccer field.

# Brentwood Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 561,203,261	\$603,274,281	\$591,209,681
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$42,071,020	\$30,006,420
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.50%	5.35%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
<b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$111,568,807</b>	<b>\$114,358,027</b>	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$111,568,807</b>	<b>\$114,358,027</b>	<b>\$111,568,807</b>
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$123,939</b>	<b>\$117,616</b>	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$115,932,950</b>	<b>\$115,732,644</b>	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>	<b>\$111,444,868</b>	<b>\$114,240,411</b>	
<b>I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>	<b>\$4,488,082</b>	<b>\$1,492,233</b>	
<b>Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$58,580,501</b>	<b>\$64,589,314</b>	<b>\$64,072,314</b>
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>\$434,775,341</b>	<b>\$484,594,478</b>	<b>\$483,496,878</b>
<b>Capital Component</b>	<b>\$67,847,419</b>	<b>\$54,090,489</b>	<b>\$43,640,489</b>

\* Should the budget be defeated, all equipment and funds for capital projects will be removed from the budget. In addition, the District will be required to charge a fee for building usage.

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions is not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
Purchase of property located at 1734 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, New York	Not to exceed \$1.4 million

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$685</b>
---	--------------

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Brentwood School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Hemlock Park, Laurel Park, Loretta Park, North Elementary, Northeast, Oak Park, Pine Park, Southeast, and Southwest school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Brentwood School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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