



# RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2024

2024-2025 BUDGET ISSUE



**We are proud of how our students and staff reflect the attributes of our Raider Profile: Engage, Embrace, Think, Care, Create, Empathize and Collaborate.**

### Mill Road Elementary (Think)

Mill Road Elementary students participated in tapping maple trees and making syrup, as part of lessons in how trees work and the differences between processed and homegrown foods led by the school's garden teacher. The reward at the end of the unit was pancakes topped with the syrup created by boiling down the sap collected in the buckets from the trees located right outside the 3-5 school's entrance.

### Linden Avenue Middle School (Embrace)

Linden Avenue Middle School students were immersed in various aspects of Latin American life, history, and traditions when the school held its Latin Culture Fair in February. There was live music to enjoy, research project posters to read, and a cafeteria full of activities. More than 50 community members participated in the event, introducing students to their region's food, music, history, and celebrations.

### Red Hook High School (Empathize)

A delegation of 11 high school students took part in the International Model United Nations Conference in New York City March 13-16. The Red Hook delegation joined over 2,000 other students, about half of whom are from outside the U.S., to discuss resolutions to global issues such as human rights, affordable housing, labor standards, transportation infrastructure and, environmental awareness. The students worked in committees to debate and come to agreements on each issue. In total, the students spent roughly 18 hours in their committees, where they worked closely with students from areas ranging from Italy and Sweden to China and Ethiopia.

## Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian!



Congratulations to our Valedictorian Ani Safaryan and Salutatorian Abigail Mercier on their academic achievements. Both Ani and Abigail have been students in our district since kindergarten. They are pictured here with members of their families.



## Annual District Election

### When:

Tuesday,  
May 21, 2024  
Noon to 9 pm

### Where:

Mill Road Elementary School  
3-5 Cafeteria

### Vote Includes:

2024-25 Budget  
Election of Three School Board Members  
School Bus Proposition  
Capital Project Proposition  
Red Hook Library Proposition  
Tivoli Free Library Proposition

## School Board Election

Three (3), 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2024

The following individuals have filed petitions for election to the school board.

- Austin Crittenden**
- Seth Halvorson**
- Jennifer Mañón**
- Mark G. Maroney**
- Erin Misasi**

Additional information on the candidates will be presented at the public hearing and on our district website.

## For More Information:

(845) 758-2241, Ext. 55010  
[www.redhookcentralschools.org](http://www.redhookcentralschools.org)

# AT A GLANCE

## 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Original  
2023-24  
Budget

Proposed  
2024-25  
Budget

Comparison  
2024-25  
2023-24

PROGRAM  
COMPONENT

In-Service Training	95,500	86,500	(9,000)
Teaching Regular School	15,930,795	16,240,111	309,316
Teaching Special Schools	7,658,202	8,771,625	1,113,423
Instructional Media	1,995,686	2,118,764	123,078
Guidance	809,205	686,081	(123,124)
Health Services	469,455	569,645	100,190
Pupil Personnel Services	4,750	4,750	-
Clubs, Student Activities	270,000	276,000	6,000
Interscholastic Athletics	440,500	478,500	38,000
Pupil Transportation	2,923,923	2,818,339	(105,584)
Census	6,100	6,100	-
Employee Benefits	14,833,217	15,349,482	516,265
Interfund Transfers	200,000	200,000	-
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>45,637,333</b>	<b>47,605,897</b>	<b>1,968,564</b>

CAPITAL  
COMPONENT

Operation and Maintenance	3,691,513	3,789,897	98,384
Refund on Real Prop. Tax/Assessments	32,000	32,000	-
School Bus Purchase	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	1,287,513	1,376,691	89,178
Debt Service	2,857,471	2,914,613	57,142
Interfund Transfer	100,000	100,000	-
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>7,968,497</b>	<b>8,213,201</b>	<b>244,704</b>

ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMPONENT

Board of Education	111,570	112,746	1,176
Central Administration	327,273	350,073	22,800
Finance	770,382	764,027	(6,355)
Legal/Central Services	244,400	253,170	8,770
BOCES Admin. Fees/District Insurance	496,150	496,150	-
Supervision	3,139,961	3,406,413	266,452
Employee Benefits	1,581,469	1,642,661	61,192
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>6,671,205</b>	<b>7,025,240</b>	<b>354,035</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>60,277,035</b>	<b>62,844,338</b>	<b>2,567,303</b>

## 2024-25 Proposed Budget

Proposed Budget Total	62,844,338
Percent Change from 2023-24	4.26%

## 2024-25 Projected Tax Levy

Projected 2024-25 Tax Levy	\$39,690,000
Percent Change from 2023-24	3.47%

Note: The Projected Tax Levy falls within the amount allowed by the Property Tax Cap Legislation and does not require an override to be enacted.

The Proposed Tax Levy is \$4,121 below the tax cap amount allowed. The Proposed Budget is currently higher than the contingent budget cap. By law, a contingent budget would require the elimination of certain equipment items and increased charges for use of school facilities by the public. A contingent budget would also require significant program reductions to be considered. The District would be unable to continue existing programs while meeting the voter approved debt service obligations. A contingent budget would save the owner of a \$400,000 home with the Basic STAR \$19.33 per month.

## 2024-25 Projected Tax Bill

Based on a home assessed at \$400,000 and located in the Town of Red Hook. Please note that final actual tax bills will vary from these projections based on final assessments, final STAR rates, and final equalization rates established in each of the five towns that make up

### Projected School Tax Bill

	Monthly	Annually
No STAR	\$584.33	\$7,012.00
Basic STAR	\$521.00	\$6,252.00
Enhanced STAR	\$434.67	\$5,216.00
Enhanced STAR with Senior Aged (Income < \$36,000)	\$142.50	\$1,710.00

the school district. The Red Hook Central School District has consistently operated under a budget that places the district in the lower half in a ranking of school districts in the region based on per pupil expenditures. Even with this ongoing efficient and conservative expenditure philosophy, lagging state aid has regularly put pressure on local property owners to provide the revenue necessary to maintain the current educational program. For 2024-25, the implementation of the property tax cap, combined with the current difficult

economic environment, will again present the community with an important decision about the quality of local public education. The tax levy affiliated with the proposed budget falls within the tax cap limitations. By law, if the proposed budget fails to gain voter approval after two attempts, the Board must adopt a contingent operating budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. A contingent budget would require program eliminations in order to comply with law. Non-contingent items such as necessary educational equipment would be eliminated. Public use of the facilities would be required by law to be curtailed.

## Why is the Tax Cap at 3.48% this Year?

There are three major factors impacting this year's tax cap calculation of **3.48%**: the Tax Levy Growth Factor (CPI) of **2%**, the Tax Base Growth Factor of **1.05%**, and the Capital Tax Levy Exclusion of **0.43%**.

The Tax Levy Growth Factor is the most well understood component of the tax cap calculation. This is the value of CPI but capped at **2%**. CPI was at **4.12%** during the 2023 calendar year (the period used to establish the CPI for 2024-25 budget purposes) and therefore the Tax Levy Growth Factor was set at the maximum and capped at **2%**.

The Tax Base Growth Factor represents the real increase in property valuation within the Red Hook Central School District. This would be represented by new buildings and additions and improvements that add value to the total tax base and would allow taxes to be spread over that larger tax base. Prior to the 2023-24 year, the Tax Base Growth Factor for the District has generally ranged between **0.25%** and **0.75%**. This year, the value of the Tax Base Growth Factor is at **1.05%**. An increase in the Tax Base Growth Factor enables a District to levy the same taxes at a lower cost to individual taxpayers or modestly increase taxes without increases to individual taxpayers because taxes are spread over a larger tax base.

The Capital Tax Levy Exclusion is the amount necessary to pay the local share of capital debt service and other capital expenses that have been previously approved by the voters. For our District's 2024-25 budget, this change is represented by new debt service related to the \$22 million Capital Project that was approved by voters in February 2022 which increases the tax cap calculation by **0.43%**.

**As part of an ongoing effort to stay below the Tax Cap every year, the Board of Education has again approved a budget to present to voters that will include a tax levy below the Tax Cap of 3.48% for the 2024-2025 budget.**

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE

	2023-24	2024-25
State Aid	17,546,518	17,752,598
Fund Balance	2,500,000	2,800,000
Property Tax	38,360,367	39,690,000
Miscellaneous	1,870,150	2,601,740
	<u>60,277,035</u>	<u>62,844,338</u>

# STUDENT DATA

## Class of 2022 (2018 Cohort) Post-Graduation Plans

**61% to 4-year college**    **2% to military service**  
**25% to 2-year college**    **7% to undecided or other**  
**5% to employment**

## RHHS Class of 2022 Graduation Rate (as of August 2022)

87% of the Class of 2023 (2019 cohort) earned a diploma  
70% of those graduates earned a Regents Diploma with  
Advanced Designation  
30% of those graduates earned a Regents Diploma

## District Priorities for the 2024-25 School Year

- Rightsizing staff and programming due to enrollment
- Continue support for the two Pre-K classes at Mill Road Elementary
- Continue support for mental health services
- Preserve and expand secondary courses: Robotics, Intro to Business, Advertising & Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Advanced Woodworking, Advanced Metalwork & Fabrication, Advanced Automotive Technology, Mind Body Wellness, and Freshman Focus
- Expand Performing Arts programming to include IB Theater, and Technical Theater & Stage Management
- Continue support for bilingual outreach and communication
- Continue support for School Resource Officer Program with Red Hook Police Department
- Ongoing upgrades of district facilities
- Continue support for Year 3 of the 1:1 student laptop initiative in grades 6-12
- IB for all - English 11
- Electives - 9th & 10th grade students will have choice in their English selections: Graphic Novel, Unreliable Narrator, A Hero's Journey, Sports Literature, Literature in Film, Dystopian Fiction, Exploring the Novel I and II

# VOTING

## Application for Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available by completing and submitting an Absentee Ballot Application. The application is available on our website or at our District Office. You can stop by the District Office to pick one up, you can email the District Clerk at [emaskell@rhcsd.org](mailto:emaskell@rhcsd.org) to request one\*, or you can call the District Clerk for more information at 845-758-2241 ext. 55010.

Please mail Absentee Ballot Applications to Red Hook Central School District, ATTN: District Clerk, 9 Mill Road, Red Hook, NY 12571.

Absentee Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election and vote - Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

\*Ballot Applications will be accepted via email with the agreement that the application will also be sent via First Class Mail so the District has the original signature on file.

## Early Mail Voting

The New York Early Mail Voter Act, which went into effect January 1, 2024, established an early mail voting system for New York elections.

Upon successful completion of an application, qualified voters can be provided a ballot to submit their vote prior to May 21, 2024.

Unlike absentee ballot voting, early mail voters do not have to provide a reason why they cannot appear in person at the polls on election day. Similar to absentee ballots, voters may request delivery of their early mail ballots by designating hand-delivery to themselves or an authorized person, or sent via mail to them at a designated address.

**If you are interested in early mail voting, you must complete an application to do so.** An original signature is required to obtain an early mail ballot. Applications may be accepted electronically by emailing Red Hook District Clerk [emaskell@rhcsd.org](mailto:emaskell@rhcsd.org). Remember to follow up by mailing the hard copy original to: Red Hook CSD District Clerk, 9 Mill Road, Red Hook, NY, 12571.

Applications for early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than May 14, 2024, to mail out the ballot. If the early mail ballot is to be delivered to the voter in-person, applications must be received no later than May 20, 2024. The District Clerk is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. If you need assistance after those hours, call 845-758-2241 ext. 55010, and the District Clerk may accommodate voters by making appointments for other times.

To have your early mail ballot counted, it **MUST** be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. May 21, 2024. Ballots received after this date/time will not be counted for the May 21 election.

Please contact Elena Maskell, the District Clerk, if you have any questions.

Email: [emaskell@rhcsd.org](mailto:emaskell@rhcsd.org)  
Phone: 845-758-2241 ext. 55010  
Fax: 845-758-3366  
Text: 845-372-1074

# BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

## **PROPOSITION #1 - THE 2024-25 SCHOOL BUDGET & ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

- To adopt the \$62.8 million annual budget of the Red Hook Central School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025.
  - To elect three (3) members of the Board of Education to terms of three (3) years each to begin July 1, 2024, and end June 30, 2027.
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## **PROPOSITION #2 - SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE**

The district is asking voters to approve up to \$500,000 to purchase electric school buses, with a maximum cost of \$250,000 per bus after outside grant or funding assistance. Financing of these vehicles does not impact the 2024-25 budget.

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## **PROPOSITION #3 - CAPITAL PROJECT**

The district is asking voters to approve a \$14.95 million capital improvement project which includes:

- New LED lighting for Red Hook High School and Mill Road Elementary School
  - Expanding and upgrading the air conditioning at Mill Road
  - Bolstering the boiler system at Linden Avenue Middle School
  - Expanding ease of access to the lockdown system in each school
  - Repairs to the four front columns of the Linden Avenue building
  - Installation of a multipurpose educational and athletic field
  - Installation of new field lighting
  - Resurfacing of the outdoor track, which is cracked and was last resurfaced in 2010
  - Improvements to the other athletic fields' drainage system
  - New fencing for the track and multipurpose field
  - Replacement of the high school's gymnasium bleachers and wall padding, and renovation of its floor
- 

## **PROPOSITION #4 - RED HOOK LIBRARY**

The Red Hook Library requests that its annual appropriation be increased by \$16,000, to the total amount of \$224,400. This funding is separate and apart from the school district's annual budget. It is raised annually by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, and by law, must be included as part of the school tax bill if approved by the voters.

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## **PROPOSITION #5 - TIVOLI FREE LIBRARY**

The Tivoli Free Library requests that its annual appropriation be increased by \$15,071, to the total amount of \$105,371. This funding is separate and apart from the school district's annual budget. It is raised annually by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, and by law, must be included as part of the school tax bill if approved by the voters.

## RAIDERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS - WINTER SPORT SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Hard work paid off for our varsity athletes in the 2023-24 winter season. Congratulations to all the student athletes and their coaches! Here's a look back at the Raiders' successful winter season:

- **Girls Basketball:** The Raiders, led by tri-captains Emilie Kent, Katie Boyd, and Liv Christensen, defeated top-seeded Marlboro, 58-42, to win the Section 9 Class A championship, after earning Class B crowns the previous two years. They ended the season at 16-7, losing to eventual state finalist Walter Panas.

Kent was named Section 9 Class A Player of the Year. The 6-foot-1 junior averaged roughly 22 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. Boyd and Kent were both named to Section 9's Top 50 list and Mid-Hudson Athletic League all-stars.

- **Boys Swimming And Diving:** Red Hook's swimmers compiled a 9-2 regular-season record. Ten individuals qualified for the Section 9 championships, with junior Owen Daniels winning a title in the 100-yard backstroke.

Daniels, Sam Button, Edmund Wilson, and Keizo Chen-Suzuki all qualified for the state championships. There, Daniels placed eighth in the backstroke and Wilson finished 18th in the backstroke and 26th in the freestyle.

- **Indoor Track And Field:** Taiia Mokii won a Sectional 9 championship in the girls race walk. Mokii had the 55th fastest time in the 1,500-meter race walk in the nation this season, 8:48.6.

Five school records were broken: Vincent Smaldone set the marks for the boys 1,000- (2:44.89) and 1,600-meter (4:43.38) runs; Taylor Kabat reset the record for the girls 55-meter dash (7.8 seconds); Izzy Faraldi broke the girls high jump mark by four inches (4 feet, 6 inches); and Gianna Wanzer took the record for the girls weight throw (25 feet, 10 inches).

- **Wrestling:** The wrestling team took second in the Section 9 meet and earned a 9-5 dual-meet record. Ewan Celestine and Mark Paschal both won Section 9 Division II championships; for junior Celestine, it was a second title in as many years. Paschal, a senior, won three matches at the state meet in Albany and Celestine won two. Senior Shane Cranna placed second, and Emanuel Celaya Lavariega finished third.

- **Ice Hockey:** A trio of ice hockey players from Red Hook, Adam Jurkowski, and Liam and Owen Maroney, who play for Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, were instrumental in winning the Hudson Valley High School Ice Hockey Association championship.



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## CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

The Red Hook Central School District benefits from a 64.4% State Building Aid Ratio on voter approved capital project work. With proper planning and community support, significant and necessary facilities needs can be addressed with a substantially reduced local cost because the State pays nearly two-thirds of the total costs, including principal and interest on the debt related these projects.

In February of 2022, the voters approved a \$22 million project to address facilities needs at all three schools: windows at the elementary school and high school, HVAC work at the high school, and HVAC and roofing work at the middle school. This project is underway with the middle school work nearly complete, the window work at the elementary school beginning this spring, and the HVAC work at the high school happening on nights and weekends throughout the school year. The window work at the high school is scheduled for the summer of 2024. The project is currently under budget by more than \$3 million.

At the annual election on May 21, 2024, the community will be given another opportunity to take advantage of the 64.4% State Building Aid Ratio for necessary capital improvements. The work proposed in the 2024-25 capital project vote includes lighting upgrades at the high school and elementary school, HVAC at the elementary school, renovations to the high school gymnasium, replacement of the track, and installation of a multipurpose artificial turf field with fencing and lighting.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIREES!

Thank you to the following staff for their years of dedicated service to our students and learning community: Dave Bathrick (12 years), Deb Beam (22 years), Connie Burud (34 years), Maureen Byrne (24 years), Andy Clark (32 years), Mary Coon (22 years), Darren Fleischman (27 years), Beth Goldberg (20 years), Kim Goldhirsch (33 years), Stephanie Harrison (37 years), Kim Houston (22 years), Michelle Kayden (32 years), Mary Mahony (30 years), and Diane Zduniak (20 years). We wish you all the best!

**Follow us on social media for good news and important updates from the school district!  
Instagram @redhookcsd; X @rhcsd; and Facebook at Red Hook Central School District**

## Red Hook Central 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	\$ 60,277,035	\$ 62,844,338	\$ 61,514,705
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 2,567,303	\$ 1,237,670
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.26%	2.05%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 38,360,367	\$ 39,690,000	
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)	\$ 38,360,367	\$ 39,690,000	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 970,172	\$ 1,146,296	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 37,542,679	\$ 38,547,825	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 37,390,195	\$ 38,543,704	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 152,484	\$ 4,121	
Administrative Component	\$ 6,671,205	\$ 7,025,240	\$ 6,790,240
Program Component	\$ 45,637,333	\$ 47,605,897	\$ 46,511,264
Capital Component	\$ 7,968,497	\$ 8,213,201	\$ 8,213,201

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

1. Most instructional equipment will be removed from the budget as required by law.
2. Necessary Transfer to Capital Project will be cancelled as required by law.
3. Groups seeking to use school facilities will be required to pay applicable use charges as required by law.
4. Between 11 and 15 additional staff positions would be eliminated from our current level. These staff eliminations would dramatically reduce non-mandated programs and services such as Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Social and Emotional Support Service, Interscholastic Athletics, and Extra-Curricular Activities. Such a reduction would also produce significantly larger class sizes within the District. The District would be unable to continue existing programs while meeting the voter approved debt service obligations.

\*\* 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
Vehicle Proposition (Does Not Impact 24-25 Tax Levy or Levy Limit)	\$ 500,000
Capital Proposition (Does Not Impact 24-25 Tax Levy or Levy Limit)	\$ 14,950,000
	\$
	\$

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 760

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Red Hook Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia County, New York, will be held at Mill Road Elementary School in said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the 3-5 Intermediate School Cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

9 MILL ROAD • RED HOOK, NY 12571

Non-Profit  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 255  
Newburgh, NY

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Janet Warden, Superintendent of Schools

Warm regards,

members of our school district staff.

Once again, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your dedication is greatly valued by me and all

the district is actively pursuing grants to mitigate the expenses associated with acquiring electric buses. financial planning and the effective utilization of available resources to minimize the financial burden on taxpayers. Furthermore, covered by state aid, the final cost to the district will amount to approximately \$5 million plus interest. This highlights our prudent it is also crucial to emphasize that the proposed project carries a total cost of \$14.95 million. With nearly two-thirds of the cost

achieved with a significant cost saving of \$3 million below budget, alleviating the need for additional funds from taxpayers. This completed our instructional methods and building spaces. Our proposed capital project renovations aim to create physical spaces that amplify our instructional programs while ensuring greater accessibility for all students. Our most recent project was

As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, our proposed budget includes key factors such as CPI, Tax Base Growth Factor, and Capital Exclusion. Our district is dedicated to fostering innovation in both our instructional methods and building spaces. Our proposed capital project renovations aim to create physical spaces that amplify our instructional programs while ensuring greater accessibility for all students. Our most recent project was

Profile. In our pursuit of excellence, we also continue our commitment to be fiscally responsible. understand the importance of forward-thinking while remaining true to our mission, vision, and Raider opportunities, and nurturing classrooms tailored to meet the unique needs of every child. We students with an exceptional education. This encompasses a relevant curriculum, engaging learning students is truly remarkable. At the heart of our mission lies a resolute commitment to providing our I want to extend my appreciation for your ongoing support of our schools. Your dedication to our

Dear Families and Community Members,

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

