

Dear Blind Brook Residents:

The Blind Brook Board of Education is pleased to present a 2022-2023 school year budget of \$52,567,594, which represents a 2.73% increase from the prior year. The tax levy increase of 4.01% meets the tax cap limit imposed by NYS law – the 11th consecutive year that the approved budget has remained at or below the tax cap.

As in prior years, our goal is to deliver a conservative and responsible budget that maintains the integrity of our K-12 curriculum and programming, including small class sizes and appropriate student support. The addition of a permanent Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum later this year will further enhance the quality of our programs.

This proposed budget returns the District to its pre-COVID levels of spending on extracurriculars, athletics and other interscholastic activities that enrich our students' experience at Blind Brook. It adds new personnel to support both students and facilities, including a social worker at the MS/HS, a dedicated maintenance mechanic, and an additional night cleaner to service our expanded buildings. The budget also provides critical network upgrades and new devices to enhance learning. Finally, it allows the District to procure four new buses to update our aging fleet.

This feat was accomplished through a meticulous review of anticipated revenue and expenditures by Superintendent Dr. Colin Byrne, our Interim Business Officials Laurie Baum and Sue Shirken, the entire District business office, and our Leadership Team of administrators.

We encourage you to learn more about the 2022-2023 budget at <https://www.blindbrook.org/Page/862> and by watching our Board meeting budget discussions online at <https://vimeo.com/BlindBrook>.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not extend our gratitude to the community for overwhelmingly approving the District's bond referendum in December, enabling the District to complete the facilities project at the BMP Ridge Street School. The Board does not take on new debt obligations lightly. The District and Board will continue to work diligently to manage costs and ensure that these funds are used responsibly, with the goal of applying any excess funds to manage current debt obligations and reduce future tax levies.

The Board of Education and District leadership thank the Blind Brook community for its dedication, generosity and unwavering support of our schools. With fiscally-mindful and innovative planning, the Blind Brook Schools are poised to remain a pillar of excellence in our community!

Scott Jaffee,
Blind Brook Board of Education President

BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

A Message from Dr. Colin Byrne, Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Blind Brook School District's goal has always been to provide our students with the best educational experience possible. We continually look for opportunities to support the learning of all our students in all facets of their education.

To that end, the budget that has been proposed for the 2022-2023 school year will provide the resources that our schools will need to help our students grow intellectually, socially and emotionally. After weathering several years of non-standard instruction due to COVID, we are working to return all of our programs to their previous levels. We will continue to support the work that has already been done in problem based learning and DICE and will look to address the needs of both our most needy and most advanced students.

Next year's proposed budget also includes funding that will help support our students socially, mentally and emotionally. The District will start its second year of training on the Yale RULER program which provides a language for identifying and working with emotions. A second social worker will be brought in to give support to our secondary level students. We will also look to continue the work that was started at the end of this year on diversity, equity and inclusion to make our schools a safer and more welcoming place for all of our students.

The proposed budget includes funding to maintain the support structures in the District. To help with the maintenance of our buildings we are planning to hire a mechanic. A much needed replacement of network infrastructure will keep our system online and accessible to our students. We will also look to continue the upkeep of all of our buildings and grounds so as to mitigate the need for large renovation projects in the future.

With the proposed 2022-2023 budget the District looks to provide an outstanding educational experience for all of our students!





BUDGET LEARNING INITIATIVES

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School

The Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School is committed to providing our students with a supportive learning environment that fosters their academic and social-emotional growth. We want our bluebirds to fly high as we promote 21st-century learning skills that are student-centered and learner-driven. Our programs enhance core competencies such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, and problem-solving.

Below are highlights of the budget that has been prepared for the upcoming school year:

- Complete our selection of a new literacy curriculum that aligns with Next Generation Literacy Standards, with an emphasis on rigor and text complexity to ignite our students' interests.
- Purchase Teacher Editions of our literacy curriculum in advance, which will allow our teachers to familiarize themselves with the program and participate in professional development.
- Continue to implement our enVisionMath Program, which aligns with Next Generation Mathematics Standards, with an emphasis on explaining thinking through writing, speaking, and visual representation.
- Emphasize hands-on experiences in our Science curriculum, which aligns with Next Generation Science Standards.
- Utilize our new spaces, such as our Arts and Innovation Wing, Early Childhood Center, Outdoor Learning Classroom, Cafetorium Performance Area, Instructional Media Center, and new Main Office.
- Enhance school-wide programming for a wider array of experiences for our students.
- Return to our previous club and co-curricular programming.
- Build the skills of emotional intelligence and explore conflict management curriculum to reach all students.
- Provide programs that foster connection and strengthen community.
- Provide instruction through a lens of diversity while accepting and appreciating others.

Blind Brook Middle School

The Blind Brook Middle School budget continues to promote the implementation of principles of middle-level education. These include: an organization and structure that supports academic excellence and personal development through grade-level teaming; a comprehensive educational program that is

challenging, integrated, exploratory, relevant, and aligned to the Next Generation Standards; comprehensive counseling and support services to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of young adolescents; instruction that fosters active, purposeful, and meaningful learning; and co-curricular activities that enrich students' lives and lead to the development of the whole child.

Specifically, the proposed budget will allow us to:

- Maintain all current courses and programs.
- Purchase new World Language textbooks.
- Hire an additional shared Social Worker.
- Enhance school-wide programming.
- Begin the replacement of furniture to facilitate 21st-century learning.
- Restore co-curricular programming to pre-pandemic levels.

Blind Brook High School

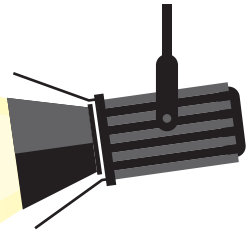
The Blind Brook High School budget supports our continued work to provide a high quality educational program to our high school students. Our program includes supporting our teachers in keeping up to date with teaching methodologies and resources, consistent implementation of PBL and other student engagement strategies, and providing a rigorous and enriching core academic curriculum, as well as opportunities for students to explore areas of interest in DICE, Humanities and the Arts. As students progress through our high school program, they develop authentic connections with their peers and with the adults in the building. When they graduate we are proud that they are prepared for both college and career pathways.

Specifically, our budget will allow us to:

- Maintain all current courses and programs.
- Support new course offerings, providing students with opportunities for advanced learning.
- Support current curricular program needs with supplies, textbooks, and independent reading books.
- Hire an additional shared Social Worker.
- Prioritize student health, social and emotional wellness through schoolwide programming.
- Restore extra and co-curricular offerings and supervision to pre-pandemic levels.
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in intensive career education programming through a partnership with SWBOCES.



SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES



Dr. Richard C. Buzin

Rick Buzin is seeking election to a full term on the Blind Brook Board of Education. He and his wife, Gail, have raised their two children in Rye Brook and have always been active in the community, including nine years on the Board of Education and two years as village trustee. He has served as school board president twice and vice president three times. He was appointed last year to serve the remainder of an unexpired term. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, with a B.A. in history and a D.M.D. from the School of Dental Medicine. He retired in 2014 and took on additional volunteer opportunities. He was Chairman of the village Recreation Council, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester, and tutored first graders at the BMP Ridge Street School.



Naomi Schaefer Riley

Naomi Schaefer Riley is running for a seat on the Blind Brook Board of Education. She and her husband, Jason, moved to Rye Brook six years ago with their two daughters, who are currently in 9th grade and 4th grade, and their son who is in 8th grade. Naomi is a journalist who writes about child welfare issues, as well as education, philanthropy, religion and family. Since graduating from Harvard with a degree in English and Government, Naomi has worked at the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Post*, among other publications.



Samantha Smith

Samantha Smith is running for a seat on the Blind Brook Board of Education. She and her husband, JJ, have lived in Rye Brook for nine years with their three children, who are in the 8th, 6th, and 3rd grades, respectively. Samantha grew up in Rye Brook and is a Blind Brook graduate. She is a real estate agent and taught Special Education for several years in New York City at the elementary and pre-school levels.

Samantha graduated from The University of Michigan as a psychology major and has a Masters degree in Special Education from Hunter College. She has been involved in the Rye Brook community as a class parent, a PTA member since 2013, part of the RIPL committee for the elementary school, and a member of the middle school shared decision making committee.

2022-2023 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

Budget Vote & Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 -BMPRSS Old Gym
Polls Open: 7 a.m. · Polls Close: 9 p.m.

Absentee Ballot Application

If you are unable to vote in person on May 17, 2022, you must submit an absentee ballot application which is available on the district website, www.blindbrook.org or by contacting the District Clerk at 914-937-3600 x1001, vgroccia@blindbrook.org to have an application mailed to you.

Absentee Ballot applications must be completed by the person requesting the ballot and received by mail or in-person at the office of the District Clerk by 2 p.m. on May 10, 2022 if the ballot is to be mailed — or by 4 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022 if the Ballot is to be delivered personally.

You may request an absentee ballot if you are concerned about contracting COVID-19. Check box 1, “temporary illness or physical disability.”

For additional information, please contact Vivian Groccia, District Clerk, 914-937-3600 x1001, vgroccia@blindbrook.org.



The Board of Education
Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
390 North Ridge Street
Rye Brook, NY 10573

Non-Profit Org
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White Plains, NY
Permit No. 1213

VOTING: RIDGE STREET OR ABSENTEE BALLOT

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 p.m.

2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



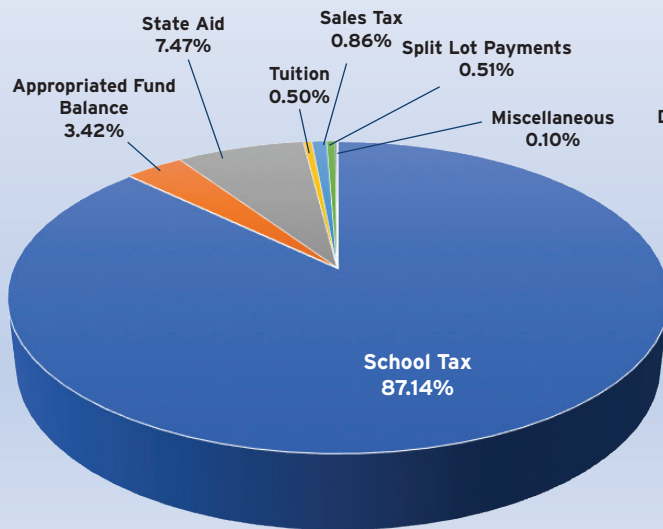
BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

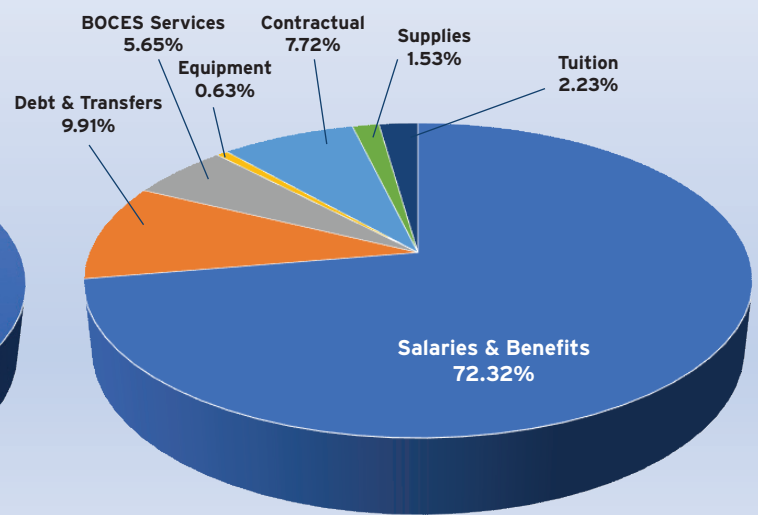
For more information: www.blindbrook.org

Revenue Source	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Budget	Dollar Change	% of Budget
School Tax	\$45,809,574	\$44,042,253	\$1,767,321	87.14%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,797,841	\$2,604,649	(\$806,808)	3.42%
State Aid	\$3,925,142	\$3,350,763	\$574,379	7.47%
Tuition	\$262,340	\$317,354	(\$55,014)	0.50%
Sales Tax	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0	0.86%
Split Lot Payments	\$270,000	\$300,000	(\$30,000)	0.51%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$52,697	\$104,400	(\$51,703)	0.10%
Total Revenues	\$52,567,594	\$51,169,419	\$1,398,175	100.00%

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Expenditures: How is the Money Spent?

Expenses	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Budget	Dollar Change	% of Budget
Salaries & Benefits	\$38,019,485	\$37,238,938	\$780,547	72.32%
Debt & Transfers	\$5,208,593	\$4,748,410	\$460,183	9.91%
BOCES Services	\$2,968,549	\$2,418,266	\$550,283	5.65%
Equipment	\$333,786	\$586,511	(\$252,725)	0.63%
Contractual	\$4,058,497	\$3,990,987	\$67,510	7.72%
Supplies	\$805,351	\$822,114	(\$16,763)	1.53%
Tuition	\$1,173,333	\$1,364,193	(\$190,860)	2.23%
Total Expenses	\$52,567,594	\$51,169,419	\$1,398,175	100.00%

Budget Notice

Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2021-2022 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-2023 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 51,169,419	\$52,567,594	\$50,800,273
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-2023 School Year		\$ 1,398,175	-\$369,146
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.73 %	-.72%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$44,042,253	\$45,809,574	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$44,042,253	\$45,809,574	\$44,042,253
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,693,657	\$ 4,312,591	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$40,696,292	\$41,496,983	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$40,348,596	\$41,496,983	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$ 347,696	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,903,941	\$ 5,802,741	\$ 5,682,741
Program Component	\$36,680,679	\$37,919,873	\$36,482,052
Capital Component	\$ 8,584,799	\$ 8,844,980	\$ 8,635,480
* The District would be required to cut \$1,767,321 from the proposed budget. The Board of Education would be forced to eliminate some combination of teaching positions, teacher aides, and support staff, and severely diminish interscholastic athletics and student activities. In addition, community use of buildings and grounds, all equipment and furniture, conference and travel expenses and memberships in professional organizations would be eliminated.			

Under the Budget
Proposed for the
2022-2023 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$1,360

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at BMP Ridge Street School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the Blind Brook school(s), 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.

ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE - 2022-2023 BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$52,567,594 be approved and the taxes in the necessary amount therefore be levied?

PROPOSITION NUMBER TWO - BUS PROPOSITION

Shall the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District be authorized to lease-purchase or purchase by installment contract four (4) 72-passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$478,332.44 plus interest, for a five (5) year term, commencing July 1, 2022 and terminating on June 30, 2027, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?