



BUDGET 2012 REVOTE

The Beacon of Hope

EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revised Budget BELOW Tax Cap

Employees Partner with District and District Receives State Aid Boost,
Preserving Full-Day Kindergarten, Most Athletics, 9-Period Day and Most of Music Program

The Board of Education unanimously adopted a proposed \$105.8 million budget that reflects a 2.99 percent tax levy increase, which is well under the state-imposed 3.23 percent tax levy cap.

The 2.99 percent levy budget was made possible through a combination of personnel and other reductions, a significant employee compensation modification (with no contract extension or deferrals) and new state aid.

Included in this budget is full-day kindergarten, the high school and middle school nine-period day, the full complement of varsity and JV sports, almost the entire current music program and the retention of two elementary computer lab teaching assistants.

On the other side of the ledger, the budget would eliminate sixth-grade foreign language classes, third-grade instrumental music lessons and late buses, along with general reductions in equipment, contractual expenses and materials and supplies. School clubs would be trimmed and consolidated at the elementary, middle and high school levels. A total of 27 staff positions would be cut (15 of these were trimmed in the first budget; an additional 12 have been reduced in the revised budget): one elementary librarian, one guidance counselor, one AIS math teacher, one social worker, one BOCES social worker, five computer lab assistants, 12 inclusion-classroom teaching assistants (to be replaced by 12 paraprofessionals), six clerical positions, one music teacher, one additional administrator, three custodians, one general education teacher, two paraprofessionals, .5 special education teacher, 1.5 middle school foreign language teachers and one security position.

Employees Pitch In

Productive meetings with the district's school employee units resulted in the following money-saving compensation modification: a one-time reduction in the employee welfare trust (totaling \$320,000), and a compensation give back from district office administrators. There are no reciprocal contract deferrals or extensions associated with these arrangements. Instead, members of the EITA (East Islip Teachers Association) will have a summer conference day requirement waived, and other employees will be given a one-time floating holiday.

- **2.99 percent tax levy increase is BELOW cap**
- **Employee compensation modification with no deferrals or extensions provides \$320,000**
- **Unexpected state aid through the support of Senator Zeldin provides additional \$120,000**
- **Additional reductions in program and spending**
- **Key programs preserved for students**
- **Vote June 19, 6 am - 9 pm at Connetquot Elementary, Ruth C. Kinney Elementary, JFK Elementary, Timber Point Elementary**

State Aid Infusion

The new budget was also strongly impacted by the infusion of additional state aid, thanks to the efforts of local legislators. State Senator Lee Zeldin will sponsor a legislative resolution – intended for approval by June 21 – that will provide \$120,000 in state aid for East Islip, to be used to support an investment to renovate aging technology infrastructure, which will allow better use of existing technology investments. This unexpected funding allowed the district to reduce the tax levy increase to 2.99 percent.

The revised budget, up for revote on June 19, will need a simple majority (50 percent plus one) to pass. **Should the budget revote fail, the resulting contingency budget or “tax freeze” would require additional cuts of \$1.9 million and would mean not only the loss of all the restored programs (including full-day kindergarten, the nine-period day, the athletic program and non-mandated music), but additional major staff and program reductions, as well.**

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How the Board Preserved Programs and Reduced the Tax Levy Increase to BELOW the Cap

After the initial budget was defeated on May 15, the Board informed the community that it would deliver a new proposed budget at or below the tax levy cap.

To get to the tax cap of 3.23 percent, the Board had to reduce spending by at least \$1.789 million. This was achieved through the following:

- reducing 12 more staff positions
- eliminating middle school sports
- reducing costs by special agreement with employees
- reducing other non-personnel budget allocations

It has been suggested that the District made empty threats regarding the potential loss of programs in the revised budget. This is, without question, untrue. Absent the agreements with the employees, another \$320,000 worth of program cuts would have had to be made, which would have impacted full-day kindergarten, the nine-period day, the music program and athletics. In addition, it should be remembered that the loss of 27 staff positions is impacting programs, albeit in a much less acute manner.

Finally, the infusion of state aid from Senator Zeldin for

IMPACTED AREA	\$ AMOUNT	STAFF
Employee Agreements - Savings - Teacher units	310,000	
Employee Agreements - Savings - Administrators	10,000	
Employee Agreements - Savings - District Office Administrators	4,846	
Middle School Athletics cost savings	195,380	
Other athletics cost savings - supplies, repairs, recon.	39,000	
Cost Savings - Reduce ES clubs	15,078	
Cost Savings - Reduce MS clubs	61,326	
Cost Savings - Reduce HS clubs	81,786	
Cost Savings - Cut late buses in public & private schools	30,000	
Cost Savings - Add'l cuts in equipment, materials & supplies	106,000	
Cost Savings - Reduce BOCES special education cost	60,000	
Cost Savings - Reduce computer technology budget	57,600	
Cost Savings - Reduce music program	150,721	1.0
Eliminate 1 add'l administrator position (incl. benefits)	169,785	1.0
Eliminate 1 general education teacher position (incl. benefits)	64,600	1.0
Eliminate 2 para professional positions (incl. benefits)	44,940	2.0
Eliminate .5 special education teaching position (incl. benefits)	32,521	0.5
Eliminate 1.5 foreign language teaching positions at the MS	112,528	1.5
Eliminate 2 additional clerical positions (incl. benefits)	67,176	2.0
Eliminate 3 custodial positions (incl. benefits)	138,836	3.0
Other cost reductions - employee benefits	36,955	
Total cost reduction	\$1,789,078	12.0
Add Special Grant in Aid from SED	120,000	
Total change to meet 2.99 percent tax levy	\$1,909,078	

Note: the 12 positions listed above are in addition to the 15 positions eliminated in the first proposed budget.

network infrastructure upgrades allows the Board to further reduce the tax levy increase to 2.99 percent, which is below the tax cap for East Islip.

The Board of Education is extremely grateful for this funding as well as the efforts of our employees to help reduce costs in the interest of preserving student programs and the integrity of the East Islip School District.

For more detailed information about the revised budget and June 19 vote, please visit our website: www.eischools.org.



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