

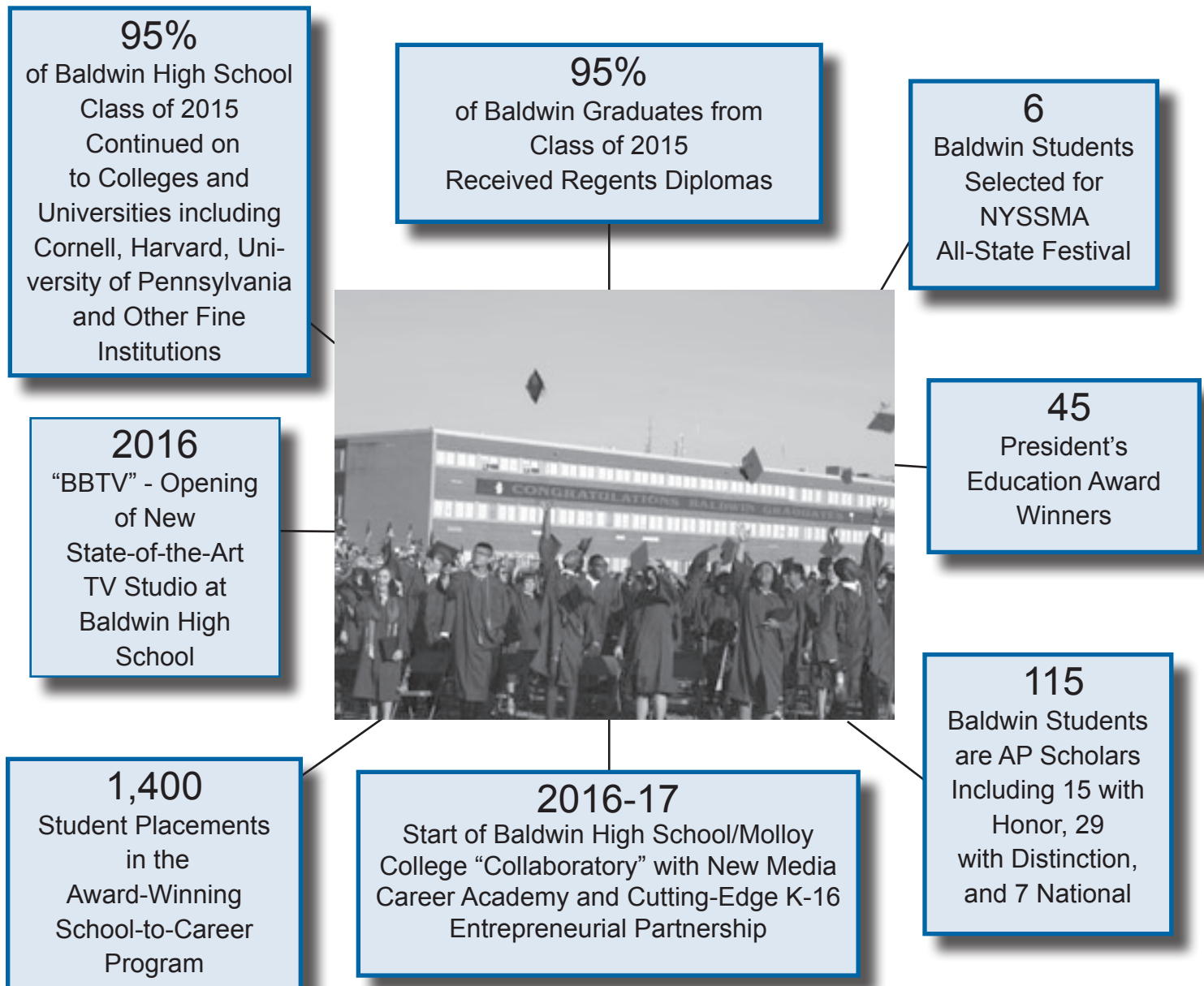


Baldwin Beat

www.baldwinschools.org

Budget Issue – May 2016

2016-17...Building the Best Budget for Baldwin



Budget Vote, Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Baldwin High School, 7 AM - 10 PM

Message from the Board

"What is the purpose of a school budget?"

It centers on the quality of education for students. It is about maintaining the signature programs we are so proud of as a district and community – from our model school-to-career and career academy programs to our highly regarded fine and performing arts groups and winning athletic teams. These are the points of pride that are the foundation of a Baldwin education. That define Baldwin.

Now in the fifth year of the state-imposed tax cap, the formula this year is even more difficult than in the past, resulting in a negative tax levy of -0.45% for Baldwin, coupled with the continued increase in unfunded mandates. However, a projected increase in state aid as presented in the governor's budget, revenue from the leasing of Milburn and Shubert Schools, and additional withdrawal from the fund balance and reserves have helped to offset the loss from the tax levy. The board and district administration have also looked at district expenses line by line to find greater efficiencies within the budget.

The budget will maintain the educational program and strengthens professional development and instructional technology to further support the education of our students. Please see the box to the right for additional budget highlights.

Please also read this special budget issue of The Baldwin Beat and ask questions at the Budget Hearing on May 4 or the PTA and community roadshow presentations so that you can make an informed vote on May 17.

Sincerely,

*The Baldwin School District
Board of Education*

Karyn Reid, President

Joel Press, Vice President

Annie Doresca

Mary Jo O'Hagan

Deborah Rebore

Highlights of the 2016-17 Budget

- **Additional** math instruction for sixth and seventh grades in the middle school.
- **Continues** college-level courses for college credit at Baldwin High School.
- **Continues** the Pre-Academy enrichment program at Baldwin Middle School.
- **Expands** the Bridge support program to grades 9 and 10.
- **Increases** instructional technology in the classroom.
- **Strengthens** professional development for instructional staff.
- **Maintains** Continuing Education as a self-sustaining program.
- **Funds** educational programs, including full-day kindergarten; middle and high school sports; middle and high school musicals; district intramurals; Sportsnite and Intramural Night; fourth grade instrumental music and Suzuki violin; Arts in Education funding (flow-through available to PTA); Saturday Night Alive; and NYSSMA majors.



Proposed Three-Part Budget*

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approved 2015-16 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2016-17 Budget</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>
77.46% of 2016-17 Budget	\$95,807,316	\$98,276,492	\$2,469,176
<u>Capital</u>			
12.37% of 2016-17 Budget	\$16,290,925	\$15,690,072	(\$600,853)
<u>Administration</u>			
10.17% of 2016-17 Budget	<u>\$12,335,552</u>	<u>\$12,908,592</u>	<u>\$573,040</u>
Total	\$124,433,793	\$126,875,156	\$2,441,363

*As presented in the February budget work sessions and required by education law

Revenue Profile**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Approved 2015-16 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2016-17 Budget</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>
All State Aid	\$25,218,230	\$28,779,967	\$3,561,737
Miscellaneous Sources	\$1,092,991	\$1,688,331	\$595,340
Appropriated Reserves	\$3,000,000	\$2,301,697	(\$698,303)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,108,622	\$2,500,000	(\$608,622)
PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes)***	1,294,104	1,294,104	0
Anticipated Property Tax	<u>\$90,719,846</u>	<u>\$90,311,057</u>	<u>(\$408,789)</u>
Total	\$124,433,793	\$126,875,156	\$2,441,363

**As presented in February budget work sessions.

***Pending litigation with Nassau County and LIPA concerning PILOT.

Key Factors Impacting Baldwin School District

- Continued loss of aid through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) over 5 years = **\$14.1 million.**
- Use of district reserves over 5 years = **\$14 million.**
- Use of fund balance over 5 years = **\$12.9 million.**
- The state aid portion of Baldwin's education has dropped from 28.38% to 22.29% over the last 25 years.
- State aid is projected to increase for next year, but it is not guaranteed.
- Electric bills continue to rise sharply.
- Unfunded state mandates = hundreds of thousands of dollars in unreimbursed costs.
- New state tax credit/freeze compromises every district's ability to pierce the tax cap.

Placing the 2016-17 Budget in Context

*The proposed budget for 2016-17 stays within the tax cap with a **tax levy decrease of -0.45%** and a **budget-to-budget increase of 1.96%** in order to sustain the educational programs and opportunities for Baldwin students.*

➔ Long Island Funding Facts

Long Island school districts do not receive their fair share through the state aid formula. Excluding New York City:

- Long Island accounts for 30% of the annual taxable sales in the state.
- Over 36% of state income taxes were paid for by Long Island residents.
- Yet, only 20% of state aid is directed to Long Island schools.

➔ Cost-Saving and Revenue-Producing Measures in Baldwin

Baldwin School District has worked hard to find efficiencies within the budget. Some of the initiatives have included:

- Revenue from leasing of properties.
- Savings from rerouting of school buses.
- Increased in-district programming such as Hastings Academy and special education.
- Paperless high school and middle school report cards and progress reports.
- Working toward conversion from oil to natural gas for heating.
- Savings from the refinancing of serial bonds.
- Establishment of an elementary free and reduced lunch and breakfast program.

➔ Lower Cost Per Pupil

Highest	\$36,943
Average	\$27,638
BALDWIN	\$24,880
Lowest	\$22,149



Of the 41 K-12 school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District ranks *9th lowest* in per pupil spending, based on BOCES data from the 2014-15 school year.

➔ Lower Central Administration Expenses

Of all the school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District ranks *22nd lowest* in central administration expenses per pupil for the 2014-15 school year.

Budget Questions and Answers

What is the difference between the tax levy and the budget-to-budget increase?

The tax levy is the amount of money collected from taxpayers (after all other revenue sources such as state aid and tapping reserve balances are applied to the school budget). The more state aid, the lower the tax levy on residents. The budget-to-budget increase is the difference in the total budget from one year to the next.

Why is the cap on the tax levy even lower than last year?

The formula is based on several factors such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the current tax levy, capital levy, building aid and the allowable growth factor. Anything above a 2% increase in either the Teacher or Employee Retirement Systems can be claimed as an exemption for the following year. The tax cap is lower this year primarily because of a reduction in debt service. Therefore, the proposed cap for 2015-16 was 1.39% while the cap for 2016-17 is -0.45%.

What does a negative change in the tax cap mean?

A negative change in the tax cap results in an *actual decrease* in the tax levy that is lower than the year before by \$408,789. Voting down the budget would result in an increase in taxes.

What is Foundation Aid and why is it important to school districts?

The Foundation Aid formula was enacted by the state legislature in 2007 to create a more equitable formula for state funding by taking into account the needs of students, a school district's ability to pay, and regional cost differences in educating students. Due to the fiscal

crisis and ensuing state budget deficit, Foundation Aid has been frozen since 2009. The loss of Foundation Aid for schools, including Baldwin, is significant because it is the largest category of state aid and the incremental yearly increases over the last 8 years have been lost. For Baldwin, of the \$25 million in state aid last year, \$17 million was through Foundation Aid, which has remained static.

What is the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)?

The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was introduced in 2009-10 to reduce the state's budget deficit. This resulted in an unprecedented \$2.56 billion in statewide cut in aid. Over the last four years, it has been used to reduce state aid to school districts by \$7.38 billion. The GEA has resulted in a loss of \$14,017,820 for Baldwin School District over the last five years.

What is included in this budget?

While the budget is still a lean one to stay under the tax cap, central administration has continued to focus on keeping Baldwin's signature programs strong. This includes increased instructional technology districtwide and math instruction at the middle school along with expanding the career academy and bridge programs at the high school.

What about the stability of the district reserves?

While the district has drawn heavily from reserves to compensate for the loss of state aid, it has been done carefully and conservatively. However, continuing to draw from reserves is not sustainable long term.

Points of Pride from the Baldwin Schools 2015-16

New interactive Baldwin School District website and mobile app expands communication with parents and the community.

State-of-the-art TV studio at Baldwin High School serves as foundation for innovative New Media Career Academy.

Molloy-Baldwin K-16 "Collaboratory" for New Media and digital literacy and entrepreneurship featured in *Newsday*.

Seven Baldwin High School students selected through rigorous audition for the New York State Summer School for the Arts.

Six Baldwin High School students selected for the Career Opportunities in Accounting (COAP) program at Adelphi University.

Baldwin High School senior selected as one of 20 Scholar-Artists by the Long Island Arts Alliance for excellence in academics and arts.

Steele Elementary School and PTA named National PTA School of Excellence.

Baldwin High School only school to have Career Academy students participating on six teams in the Northwell Health Spark Challenge.

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Nassau County Championship while the Boys Varsity Basketball Team won the Long Island Championship.

Baldwin Middle School English as a New Language (ENL) teachers and students hosted Nassau County Anti-Bias Consortium.

Baldwin High School Wind Symphony invited to perform commissioned works at College Band Directors National Association Conference and will perform in a special concert at Adelphi University.

Baldwin High School student tied for first place in the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League Tournament.

The Baldwin High School Law Academy Mock Trial Team advanced to Level III of the regional competition for the New York State Mock Trial Tournament.

What Happens If the Budget Fails?

If the budget fails on **May 17**, the board could decide to:

1. Put up the **same budget** for a second vote on **June 21**,
2. Make **more reductions** in the budget for a second vote on **June 21**, or
3. Go directly to "contingency," a zero percent increase over last year's tax levy.



If the budget fails twice, by law the board must adopt a contingency budget, which would mean an increase of property taxes of \$408,789. This would also mean:

- Higher taxes for residents.
- No longer allowing community groups to use district facilities or fields without fees.
- District loses the ability to purchase equipment.

Trustees' Message

The Baldwin Public Library is transforming to stay ahead of trends while continuing to provide traditional services our community desires. The board's goal is to provide access to the resources residents want at the best possible value.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we are able to provide innovative collections, programs, and services for all, from children through seniors. Highlights include:

- Community members checked out over 233,000 items during the past year. More than 240,000 people visited the library in person, while over 100,000 visits were made to our website.
- Over 46,000 people signed up to use our public computers – an increase of 62% – while many more took advantage of our free Wi-Fi on their own devices.
- Our meeting spaces were used by community groups over 250 times in the past year.
- Programs and services are available for all ages. We offered over 1,100 programs in the past year that were attended by

more than 21,000 people.

- Our Museum Pass program allows your family to visit some of the finest institutions in our area at no cost. In the past year, we added a second pass for the Long Island Children's Museum, as well as passes for the Museum of Modern Art and the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium.
- Our new self-check kiosks provide a fast and convenient way to borrow materials and pay fines.
- Live Homework Help provides online assistance for kindergarteners through adult learners daily from 2-10 p.m. In-person assistance for elementary through high school students is available in our Homework Centers Monday-Thursday during the school year.
- Cooperative purchases of online services via the Nassau Library System results in a greater variety of resources available with a significant cost savings.
- Special materials are available exclusively for Baldwin residents, such as our Express Book collection and a

collection of eBooks through the OverDrive Advantage program.

The library's budget is presented to the voters at the same time as that of the school district. However, **the Baldwin Public Library is a distinct entity with its own budget that is presented as a separate proposition.**

The board of trustees is pleased to present a budget with a **tax levy increase of 0.13% (within the cap) and an overall budget increase of 0.02%.**

Again, we thank you for your support and encourage you and your whole family to take advantage of one of the best values you will ever get for your tax dollars.

Joseph J. Carroll, President
Carl Williams, Vice President
Ethell Smith, Secretary
Shireen Abed, Trustee
Kerry Schwenker, Trustee

EXPENDITURES			BUILDING AND GROUNDS			TOTAL BUDGET		
	2015-16	2016-17		2015-16	2016-17		2015-16	2016-17
7410 Library Materials			450 Light, Heat & Water	\$150,000	\$145,000	TOTAL BUDGET	\$4,254,565	\$4,255,571
410 Books	\$121,365	\$121,725	451 Custodial Supplies	17,000	15,000	Budget Increase	\$65,390	\$1,006
412 Audio-Visual - E-Books	16,350	20,000	452 Repairs & Alterations	130,000	100,000	Budget % Increase	1.56%	0.02%
412A Audio-Visual	37,500	37,500	454 Building Insurance	51,500	51,375	OPERATING BALANCE	\$394,837	\$636,898
413 Databases/Online Svcs.	39,275	39,400	469 Grounds Maintenance & Building Service			Committed to		
413B Periodicals	19,075	16,350	Contracts	97,100	97,300	Retirement Fund	-98,075	-90,713
415 Pamphlets/Maps	75	75		<u>\$445,600</u>	<u>\$408,675</u>		\$296,762	\$546,185
416 Binding	100	100				Contingency Fund	-100,000	-100,000
	\$233,740	\$235,150					\$196,762	\$446,185
OPERATING EXPENSES			ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			ANTICIPATED INCOME		
417 Film Rental/AV Lic.	\$1,000	\$1,000	437A Professional Fees	\$63,100	\$50,000	Interest	\$3,000	\$3,200
429 Cultural Programs/			437B Auditing	11,000	11,500	State Aid	8,629	9,131
Educational Services	42,400	50,421	437C Recording Secretary	100	100	Fines	35,100	33,700
430 Supplies	45,500	45,500	437D Legal & Classified Advertising	400	400	Miscellaneous Receipts	49,600	46,100
431 Telephone	4,000	4,000		\$74,600	\$62,000	Applied from Previous Budget	160,000	160,000
432 TWX/Data Phone	9,600	9,600					\$256,329	\$252,131
433 Postage	3,900	3,600	SALARIES			Real Property Tax Levy	\$3,998,236	\$4,003,440
434 Printing	7,700	7,600	141 Staff	\$2,122,750	\$2,193,150	Total Income	\$4,254,565	\$4,255,571
435 Workshops, Seminars & Conferences	12,000	16,000	142 Custodial	176,300	185,650			
438 Institutional Dues	2,100	2,200		\$2,299,050	\$2,378,800	Real Property Tax Levy	\$3,998,236	\$4,003,440
439 Equipment			9000 FIXED CHARGES			Tax Levy Increase	\$66,561	\$5,204
Maintenance	42,650	44,000	10.0 District Retirement	\$362,850	\$318,850	Tax Levy % Increase	1.69%	0.13%
439A ALIS Fees	37,500	35,225	30.8 Social Security/Medicare	170,125	175,300			
439B NLS Fees	24,900	24,900	30.9 NYS MTA Tax	7,575	--	Approved by resolution of the Board of Trustees at a meeting held February 17, 2016		
440 Processing Costs	5,000	4,000	40.8 Compensation Insurance	34,350	35,000			
	\$238,250	\$248,046	50.8 Unemployment Insurance	100	100			
FURNITURE & FIXTURES			55.8 Disability Insurance	1,225	1,200			
203 Equipment	\$15,000	\$10,000	60.8 Health Insurance	372,100	382,450			
	\$15,000	\$10,000		\$948,325	\$912,900			



Baldwin School District

960 Hastings Street
Baldwin, NY 11510-4758
www.baldwinschools.org
516-377-9200

Board of Education

Karyn Reid, **President**
Joel Press, **Vice President**
Annie Doresca
Mary Jo O'Hagan
Deborah Rebore

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Shari L. Camhi

Cristina Schmohl, *Newsletter Editor*

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Current Resident

2016-17: Building the Best Budget for Baldwin

BUDGET CALLS

Residents are encouraged to call Dr. Stephen Draper, Assistant Superintendent for Business, for information on the proposed 2016-17 budget at 377-9272.

BUDGET HEARING

The Annual District Meeting and Budget Hearing will be held on May 4 at the District Office at 8 p.m. After a presentation by the Baldwin Board of Education and the Baldwin Public Library Board of Trustees, there will be the opportunity for community input and questions.

Click on "Budget Information" at www.baldwinschools.org for materials from the budget work sessions and PTA presentations – as well as to email any budget questions you still may have



VOTE & ELECTION CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 20

PTA Candidates Forum
District Office
8 PM

Wednesday, May 4

District Meeting & Budget Hearing
District Office
8 PM

Tuesday, May 17

Election & Budget Vote
Baldwin High School
7 AM to 10 PM

On the Ballot

*School District Budget (Proposition 1)
Election of two trustees to the Board of Education (Trustees serve without compensation)*

*Baldwin Public Library Budget (Proposition 2)
Election of one trustee to the Library Board (Trustees serve without compensation)*

Voter Registration Information: Residents may register to vote in school district elections at the District Clerk's office or at any school building during school hours when school is in session. The last day to register is May 12. *You are already registered if you are registered for regular elections and have voted in the last four years.*

Absentee Ballots: Applications are available at the District Office. Applications received by mail and requests for applications received by phone will be mailed or made available for pick up. For further information, call the District Clerk at 377-9271.