



# Eastchester Eagle

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**A Spanish version of this newsletter is available upon request at the District Clerk's office. Please contact Jeanette Messina at (914) 793-6130 ext. 4211**

**Una versión en español de este boletín está disponible a solicitud en la Oficina del Secretario del Distrito. Comuníquese con Jeanette Messina al (914) 793-6130 ext. 4211**

## Dear Eastchester Community Members,

As our annual budget vote presents itself in 2021, we find ourselves in a much different world than in pre-pandemic years. I am so very proud of our administrators, faculty and staff members who continue to work tirelessly to serve the needs of students and families as we anticipate the waning of our current global health crisis.

Our proposed budget of \$92,332,00 remains compliant with the New York State Tax Cap and includes a partial restoration of previously promised state Foundation Aid for which our families have been consistently advocating. The 2021-22 budget proposal for your consideration would allow the District to fulfill these requests to meet the needs of our students:

- Restoration of the elementary library/media specialist
- Addition of two elementary school counselors and a 6-12 social worker
- Addition of one elementary English as a New Language teacher
- Purchase of additional Chromebooks, desktops and licenses
- Upgrading door access at the elementary schools
- Necessary facility repairs

In addition, we are asking voters to approve an additional proposition, the expenditure of the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$44,367, plus any interest earned, to partially fund the Eastchester Middle School Roof and Gymnasium Renovation Project. This project consists of the partial roof replacement, gymnasium renovations including the installation of ventilation and associated work.

Please review the budget details on our website [www.eufsd12.org](http://www.eufsd12.org). You will also be asked to vote for four members to serve on the Board of Education.

Yours in partnership,

Dr. Robert Glass, *Superintendent of Schools*

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget  
**\$92,332,000**

Budget to Budget Increase  
**3.94%**

Tax Levy Increase  
**2.02%**

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday,  
May 18, 2021  
6:00am – 9:00pm**

**Eastchester  
Middle School Gym  
(Enter on Lincoln Ave.)**

**Garth Road residents  
must vote at Eastchester  
Middle School**



## 2021-22 Revenue Summary

REVENUE CATEGORY	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$76,380,000	\$77,921,000	\$1,541,000	2.0%
Other Revenues	\$3,755,000	\$4,111,000	(\$356,000)	9.5%
State/Federal Aid	\$8,200,000	\$10,000,000	\$1,800,000	22.0%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	-40.0%
Transfer from Debt Service	-	-	-	-
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$88,835,000</b>	<b>\$92,332,000</b>	<b>\$3,497,000</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

## 2021-22 Expenditure Summary

BUDGET CATEGORY	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Administration	\$3,319,134	\$3,414,608	\$95,474	2.9%
Facilities/Operations/Security	\$6,725,557	\$6,695,966	(\$29,591)	-0.4%
Instruction	\$48,871,598	\$50,483,541	\$1,611,943	3.3%
Transportation	\$3,498,986	\$3,496,323	(\$2,663)	-0.1%
Employee Benefits	\$19,119,216	\$20,316,284	\$1,197,068	6.3%
Debt Service	\$5,600,509	\$5,325,278	\$275,231	-4.9%
Transfers to Other Funds	\$1,700,000	\$2,600,000	\$900,000	52.9%
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$88,835,000</b>	<b>\$92,332,000</b>	<b>\$3,497,000</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

## Projected Tax Bill Impact

**NOTE:** The budget to budget increase is \$3,497,000. The tax levy increase, which reflects the impact on a homeowner's tax bill, is 2.02%, which is tax cap compliant.

**NOTE:** This projection assumes a total static assessment base. A change in assessments as calculated by the Town of Eastchester may have an impact on this estimate of the tax impact. Lower assessments in the town may raise the tax rate. Final rates are set by the Town of Eastchester in August.

### AVERAGE

ASSESSED VALUE	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$8,900	\$11,000	\$13,000
2020-2021 School Tax Bill*	\$7,630	\$10,682	\$13,581	\$16,786	\$19,838
Estimated 2021-2022 Tax Bill*	\$7,785	\$10,899	\$13,857	\$17,127	\$20,241
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$155</b>	<b>\$217</b>	<b>\$276</b>	<b>\$341</b>	<b>\$403</b>

\*Does not include STAR impact.

<b>2020-2021 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation.....</b>	<b>\$1,525.99</b>
<b>2021-2022 Tax Rate Impact per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation .....</b>	<b>\$31.02</b>
<b>2021-2022 Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation .....</b>	<b>\$1,557.01</b>

★ **VOTE May 18, 2021 Poll Hours: 6:00am – 9:00pm** ★

# Voting Information

## What You Will See on the Ballot

### Proposition #1

Shall Eastchester Union Free School District of the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York adopt a budget for the school year 2021-2022 for the Schools comprising said Eastchester Union Free School District, in the gross sum of \$92,332,00 and raise the necessary taxes required for said budget in one sum by tax upon the taxable property of the District?

### Proposition #2

Should the Board of Education of Eastchester Union Free School District be authorized to expend the balance of the funds held in the existing Capital Reserve Fund, which balance as of June 30, 2020 was \$44,367, plus any interest earned on such balance until fully expended to fund, in part, the Eastchester Middle School Roof and Gym Renovation Project?

### Board of Education Candidates

Three (3) seats are for a full term of three (3) years each commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024 and one (1) seat is for a partial term of one (1) year commencing upon tabulation of the results and expiring on June 30, 2022. To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot, fill in the oval below or next to the name of the candidate.

Vote for up to four (4) candidates:

- Christie McCloskey
- Jonah Rizzo-Bleichman
- Christine Geagan
- Tara Conte
- Erin Murray
- Jacqueline DiMarco
- Andrew Savitt
- David Carforo

Information about the Board of Education candidates can be found in the Important Information section of our website at [www.eufsdk12.org](http://www.eufsdk12.org).

## Am I Eligible to Vote?

In order to vote in the district election, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States of America.
- A resident of the Eastchester School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.
- At least 18 years of age by the vote date.
- A registered voter with either the school district or with the County Board of Elections.

You are registered to vote if:

- You are on the Westchester County voter list AND have voted at least once during the last four years, OR
- You are registered with the school district.

## Registration Applications

### School District Voter Registration Applications

Applications for School District Voter Registration are available at the District Office and on the website at [www.eufsdk12.org](http://www.eufsdk12.org). This registration allows you to vote only in School District votes (Budget/BOE Trustee, Bond, or Referendum). Deadline for school district registration for the Annual Budget and Trustee Vote is Tuesday, May 13, 2021.

### Westchester County Voter Registration Applications

Qualified voters who register with Westchester County can vote in school district elections as well as other local and national elections. Registration applications are available locally at Eastchester Town Hall and Tuckahoe Village Hall. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.elections.ny.gov/> Call 1-800-FOR-VOTE for additional information.

## Absentee Ballots

**Obtaining an absentee ballot is a two-step process.**

An Application for an Absentee Ballot must be filed first with the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting the District Clerk's office at 580 White Plains Road, Eastchester, NY 10709; Phone: 793-6130, ext. 4211, or by going to the website at [www.eufsdk12.org](http://www.eufsdk12.org). Look under the Budget Information section of the Business Department.

### Deadlines

Applications must be obtained from the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by 5:00pm on the day before the election if the ballot is to be given personally to the voter. The completed ballot must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00pm on the voting day, May 18, 2021.

**SCHOOL BUDGET  
VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**Poll Hours: 6:00am - 9:00pm**

**Eastchester Middle School Gym  
(Enter on Lincoln Ave.)**

**Garth Road residents must vote at  
Eastchester Middle School**

# Eastchester Schools Focus on Social Emotional Learning To Support Students and Staff

*This is the second article in a two-part series highlighting the initiatives to support Social Emotional Learning in the Eastchester Union Free School District. In this edition, we take a closer look at the Eastchester Middle and High School programs.*

**Eastchester Middle School students** learn early on that they are not alone as they navigate the complexities of academics and relationships. One of the ways the school supports students is through Social Emotional Learning (SEL). As part of the curriculum, School Counselor Annie Schmitt presents Tools for Life's Challenges (TLC) classes to every middle school student. Each lesson focuses on a different topic, with most lessons based in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), a method to promote positive behaviors. TLC started three years ago under School Counselor Kristin Spillane who currently is on leave. Psychologists and school counselors provide DBT groups and individual counseling sessions to students, as needed, to support their social emotional health and provide students with strategies to successfully navigate the school environment and life.

"The purpose of TLC is to provide students with knowledge and skills to help them both socially and emotionally. Students learn and practice various skills that they can use at the middle school and for the rest of their lives," explained Schmitt.

During a lesson last month, students focused on healthy communication which involves listening and presenting ideas in a non-confrontational manner.

Students explained how they put TLC ideas into practice. "If you are really nervous about something or talking with a friend, (the skills) put you in the right place," said eighth grader Ariana Roland.

Her classmate Aidan Ruane found real-world applications to the lessons. "It is good to have life skills and this class is different from others. It prepares you not just for a job, but for life."

The COVID-19 pandemic has produced unique challenges during the school year, making SEL even more vital for students, families and staff members. In addition to TLC, the middle school guidance department continues to provide counseling for students on an individual basis both in-person and remotely. Eastchester Middle School administrators also created a positive atmosphere throughout the school year with homeroom BINGO games. The Student Leadership Council, under the direction of Josephine Logan and Adam Chertok organized contests and music requests during lunch.

At Eastchester High School, school psychologists have traditionally worked with students and families in need of support, and they increased their efforts during the pandemic.

"We reach out to students and families and find the best ways to support them," said Psychologist Gianna Fleischmann. "We have adopted a robust coaching and mentoring program so our long-term substitutes and teaching assistants can better serve remote students. We have also provided families with bereavement support services during these traumatic times."

Psychologists provide DBT groups and individual counseling sessions to students, as needed, to support their social emotional health and provide students with strategies to successfully navigate the school environment and life.

Classroom teachers also find ways to meet the emotional needs of students through self-reflection and journal writing about the effects of COVID. Many teachers also create breakout rooms in Google classrooms to provide a sense of normalcy in the classrooms.



*Eastchester Middle School Counselor Annie Schmitt presents a Tools for Life Challenges (TLC) lesson to students focused on communication.*

In the health classes, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) strategies are woven into the curriculum. An example of this is the practice of Mindfulness. These are strategies that can assist students coping with stress. The EHS Wellness Club meets remotely on Tuesdays to support this mission and the group recently created an online Calming Nest that provides outlets to students.

"The inspiration behind the Calming Nest stems from the belief that many students, considering the circumstances of the past year, have found themselves overwhelmed

balancing schoolwork, their social lives, and potential fear about themselves and their families," said senior Isabella Rizzo. "The Wellness Club believes that allowing time for yourself to focus on mindfulness activities is a great way to deal with this kind of stress, and the Calming Nest allows students to do just that."

A major component of a healthy learning environment is participation from families. The PTA Council formed a districtwide SEL Committee to complement school programs composed of Eastchester administrators, teachers, parents and school health professionals. Since September, the group has provided webinars to assist families as they navigate a gamut of emotions during COVID-19.

"The PTA Council Social Emotional Committee identifies the increasing role of the parents in the education of students this year. We want to support our children and teachers during this very stressful time," said SEL Committee Chairperson Angela Schultz. "We appreciate all the schools have done and our goal as a committee is to increase what we can offer and create a central location of resources for families and staff members to utilize as needed."

Lessons learned from the pandemic can be utilized by families and educators after the pandemic to form bonds and strengthen relationships.

## Greenvale's Anthony Rich Honored For Innovation

**The Eastchester School District congratulates Greenvale Technology teacher Anthony Rich, selected as a winner of the 2021 LHRIC Tell Award for Outstanding Innovative Teacher.**

Recipients of this prestigious award have demonstrated an outstanding, innovative or strategic approach to technology integration in their schools and/or district.

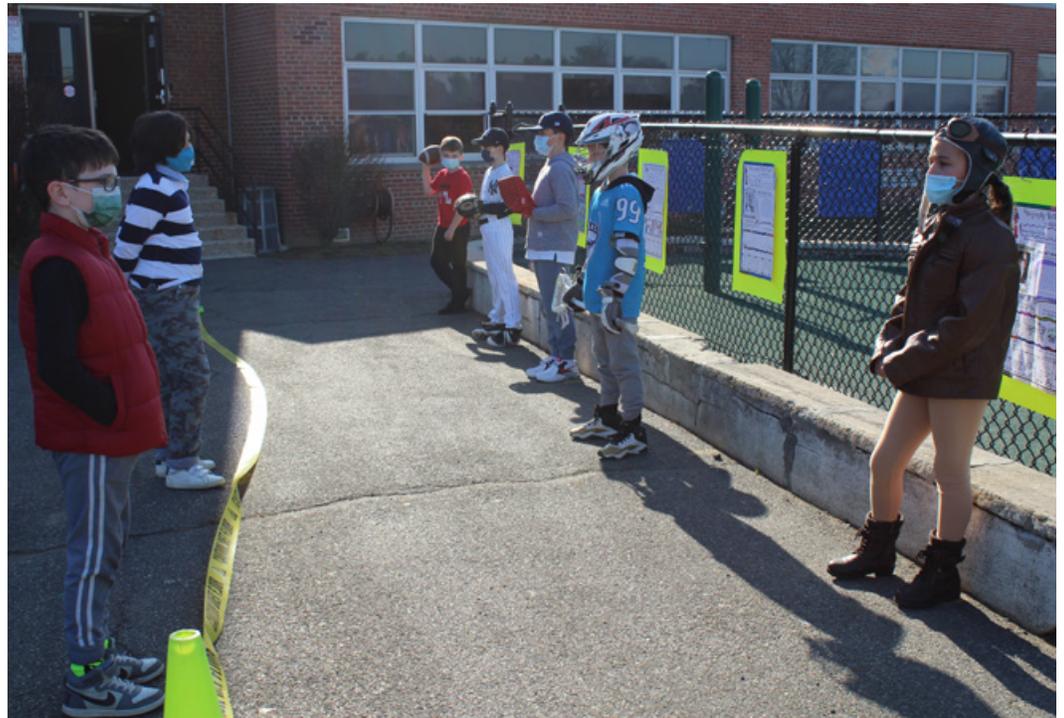
The TELL Award (Transforming Education through Leading and Learning) is a special celebration that occurs as part of the LHRIC Technology Leadership Institute, a series of high-level events designed to provide districts access to experts and vendors around instructional technology topics that are timely and relevant.

"Mr. Rich is an innovative and creative member of the teaching staff who always looks for new ways to incorporate instructional technology into the curriculum," said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Scott Wynne. "His expertise, passion for teaching, love of helping students explore new ways to use technology and dedication to Eastchester's on-going pursuit to immerse students in education of the highest caliber make him the quintessential recipient of this award. Congratulations, Mr. Rich!!"

The Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) honored Mr. Rich during a virtual ceremony in March.



*Greenvale Technology teacher Anthony Rich received the 2021 LHRIC Tell Award for Outstanding Innovative Teacher. Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) held a virtual awards ceremony in March honoring Rich.*



*Anastasia Stathos, a fourth grader at Anne Hutchinson, dressed as Betsy Ross as part of the school's Wax Museum project. Students researched historical figures and then told their stories to other students.*

**VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021 ★  
Poll Hours: 6:00am – 9:00pm ★**

# Eastchester Union Free School District Launches New Digital Tool to Promote Reading

**Eastchester students have a new way to access books this school year through a state-of-the-art digital system called SORA.** The online system gives the District access to ebooks and audiobooks in the Westchester Library System, as well as the BOCES Consortium collection curated by regional school librarians. In addition, it allows the District to create a library unique to the needs of our Eastchester community.

“Since launching in December, members of the Eastchester school community have opened 1,902 books,

and students and staff have logged approximately 1,600 hours of reading,” said K-12 Supervisor of Humanities Susan Chester. “Through the BOCES Consortium, we have access to more than 11,000 unique titles at all levels: juvenile, young adult, and adult. We have purchased content specifically for Eastchester students to access, as well as complete sets of books for fully remote students.”

Students simply log into SORA through their Classlink accounts or on the app itself using their school Google credentials. SORA is compatible with desktops, laptops, tablets and other devices.

The service has been invaluable during the pandemic since COVID restrictions prevent browsing in physical libraries. Chester noted, “Students who benefit from

listening to audiobooks can now borrow one without the costly price tag normally associated with this type of media. Faculty members can also investigate a book series digitally before investing in hard copies of books.”

Students in Michael Boyle’s AP European History class are using SORA as part of book clubs focused on the Russian Revolution.

“It is helpful to have SORA and not to carry a physical book that you could forget when you need it,” said senior Natasha Macarchuk. She also noted the convenience since

students are not using lockers this year. The online tool also allows students to make annotations and notes as they would with a physical book.

Eastchester High School librarian Nancy Brown and Middle School librarian Eleanor Schuster collaborated with Chester and the Technology Department to create an online system that reflects Eastchester and its needs.

“SORA does not take away from the school library, but instead complements it,” said Brown. “Students have suggested books that they want

to read, and I can quickly add them to the SORA system for easy access. Then I can purchase those titles for the physical library as well. The idea is to get books into the hands of students and keep them reading.”



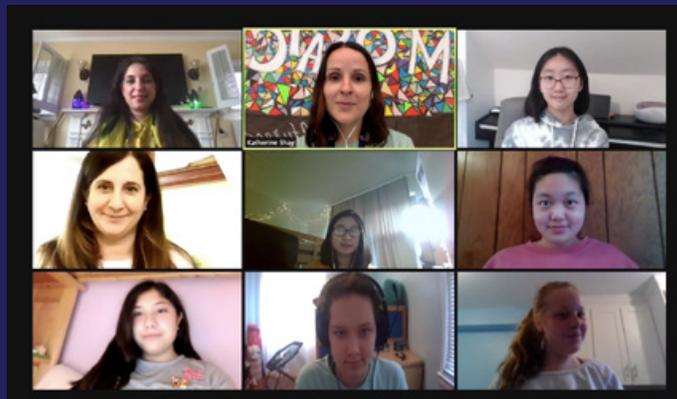
*Seniors Natasha Macarchuk and Brianna Rullo log onto SORA to access “The Last Days of the Romanovs” in their Eastchester High School AP European History class.*

## Eastchester Middle School Learns About the Celebration of Ramadan

**The Eastchester Middle School International Club** and club advisors Katherine Shay and Josephine Logan, learned about the celebration of Ramadan from a very special guest speaker. Rukhma Halim, the mother of Eastchester Middle School seventh grader Zinia Sajjad and Eastchester High School sophomore Rayyan Sajjad. She met with club members virtually and explained the significance of this holy month that took place this year from April 12 - May 12.

Students found out about the customs, origins and symbols relating to Ramadan. They also learned about the importance of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, prayer and how the celebration of Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month. In addition, students had a chance to practice some Urdu, Halim’s native language.

She shared personal family videos of past celebrations and ended the presentation with a fun question and answer period. Bohat shukriya, thank you very much, to Halim for taking the time to teach the club members about this celebration. Halim, an Economics professor at Fordham University, Pace University and Westchester Community College, has taught a similar lecture series at the Eastchester Public Library.





Senior Kayla Sandolo and her fellow students dust for fingerprints in their Forensic Science class lab. Teacher Erica Lockwood explains the concepts of crime scene investigation in this senior elective.

## Young Architects

Waverly kindergarten students became architects when they built structures from marshmallows and toothpicks. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) project taught the young designers how to form an idea and then work through obstacles.

“This project teaches students how to problem solve. They must test their own theories of how to make a structure stand up,” said teacher Jennifer Batz.

Student Giovanni Vinci said, “I just really like it because I like building and engineering. I had to think about it and then I started building the base.”



## Earth Day

Eastchester students celebrated Earth Day in many different ways. Fifth grade students at Greenvale discussed the importance of natural resources and how to preserve them. They spoke about negative influences like global warming and pollution and positive actions like using solar energy. Students then wrote poems and designed posters.



# Kids' Korner

**In each edition of Kids' Korner, we hear from an elementary school student who shares his/her experiences in the Eastchester School District. In this edition, Anne Hutchinson fifth grader Chase Corey tells us what H.E.A.R.T. means to him.**

Anne Hutchinson Elementary School has shaped me to not just be a better student but a better person with the H.E.A.R.T. philosophy. H.E.A.R.T. is a way of life and we are taught it from the day we enter the school. H.E.A.R.T. means to be helpful, engage and embrace learning, be responsible, be respectful, and be serious about safety. Following H.E.A.R.T. has prepared me for middle school. We learn that H.E.A.R.T. is not just something to check off on a list but skills that will be with us through life.

This year I am working remotely and I have learned to take risks and be resilient, especially in the work that I have achieved in Mrs. Lindsay Farley's class. She has shaped me to be ready for middle school because her assignments are fun and challenging. I have been excelling in her class and I feel this way because I was never good at math and science, but this year I have been better than before. Being fully remote has been difficult, but Mrs. Farley has made it so much fun and engaging. Her lessons and conferences always compliment my work and she gives me suggestions on how to improve. Mrs. Farley makes learning easier for me.



My favorite project in class was my Halloween S.T.E.A.M. project. I made a Halloween Candy Slide. It definitely brought out my creativity! The theme of the project was to give candy to children by staying six feet apart. We have completed many S.T.E.A.M. projects in class but this project was the best because it was fun to create and to share this with my classmates; I was able to bring smiles to the faces of trick-or-treaters on Halloween. This made the holiday extra special and safe for all who celebrated.

In closing, I would like to say that all the other teachers at Anne Hutchinson and Principal Dr. Keane have always taught me to be a better person in my life. I hope to come back to this school after graduation and volunteer for events or maybe be a reading buddy. I have loved being a mentor at Anne Hutchinson and I hope to continue these practices in Eastchester Middle School. This is why I will always miss Anne Hutchinson Elementary School.



**580 WHITE PLAINS ROAD  
EASTCHESTER, NY 10709  
(914) 793-6130**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- Robert Summer, *President*
- Judah Holstein, *Vice President*
- Erin Murray, *Secretary*
- Vito Catania, *Trustee*
- David Carforo, *Trustee*
- Tara Conte, *Trustee*
- Steve Projansky, *Trustee*
- Dr. Cheryl Smith, *Trustee*

**For more 2021-22 Budget Information, go to [www.eufsd12.org](http://www.eufsd12.org)**

## 2021-22 School Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$88,835,000	\$92,332,000	\$90,791,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$3,497,000	\$1,956,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.9%	2.2%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$76,380,000	\$77,921,000	
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	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$76,380,000</b>	<b>\$77,921,000</b>	<b>\$75,043,000</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$4,640,247	\$4,912,983	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$71,739,980	\$73,008,749	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$71,739,753	\$73,008,017	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$227	\$732	
Administrative Component	\$9,443,717	\$9,703,081	\$9,703,081
Program Component	\$64,352,918	\$66,871,159	\$66,871,159
Capital Component	\$15,038,365	\$15,747,759	\$14,216,759

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Under a contingency budget, which does not allow for any increase in the maximum allowable tax levy from the current year, the following items will be eliminated: the Transfer to Capital expenditure to renovate leaking roofs at the High School and Middle School, and the renovation of the Middle School gymnasiums, including the addition of ventilation, will be reduced by \$1,541,000, or eliminated completely. All outside groups must be charged the full cost of using the District's facilities.

\*\* 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
None	None

\*\*\*The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

**Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year**

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ***	\$1,386
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Eastchester Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Eastchester Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Eastchester Middle School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.