Board of Education Budget Session #1

2025-2026 Budget Development

November 13, 2024

Tonight's Agenda

- 2025-2026 Budget Development Timeline
- Fund Balance and Schedule of Reserves
- Retirement Contributions
- Health Insurance Rates
- Considerations for the 2025-2026 Budget
- Budget Considerations Beyond 2025-2026

2025-2026 Budget Development Timeline

DATE	SESSION	TIME	LOCATION
November 13, 2024	BOE Budget Session	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
January 8, 2025	BOE Budget Session	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
February 5, 2025	BOE Budget Session	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
March 12, 2025	BOE Budget Session	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
March 20, 2025	BOE Budget Session	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
March 25, 2025	Public Budget Forum	6:30 PM	WEC Auditorium
April 9, 2025	BOE Adopts Proposed Budget	6:45 PM	WEC Auditorium
May 7, 2025	Annual Budget Hearing	6:45 PM	WEC Auditorium
May 20, 2025	Budget Vote	7:00 AM - 10:00 PM	WEC Auditorium

Fund Balance

Fund balance is comprised of revenues received in excess of amounts estimated and expenditures that are less than the total amount of appropriations.

Important for several reasons:

- Funds unbudgeted expenses, state aid, & revenue shortfalls
- Reduces borrowing costs and provides cash flow
- Improves credit rating
- Can be used as a funding source for budget

Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024

- Unappropriated fund balance is limited by §1318 of the Real Property Tax Law to an amount equal to 4% of the 2024-2025 budget = $5,539,788

- Remaining fund balance at June 30th used to fund reserve accounts

Schedule of Reserves

Reserve Accounts- June 30, 2024	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24	2023-24	2023-24
	Balance	Interest	Transfer/Use	FB Allocation	Final
Long Range Capital Reserve Fund	$ 3,208,237	$ 371,731	$ -	$ -	$ 3,579,968
Long Range Capital Reserve Fund #2*			$ 7,000,000	$ 3,000,000	$ 10,000,000
EBALR	$ 1,427,270	$ 18,360			$ 1,445,630
Liability Insurance Reserve	$ 2,714,740	$ 34,922	$ (348,342)	$ 3,001,245	$ 5,402,565
Property Loss Insurance Reserve	$ 1,918,092	$ 24,674	$ -	$ 2,500,000	$ 4,442,766
Repair Reserve Athletic	$ 4,912,889	$ 63,633	$ (2,077,138)	$ 425,000	$ 3,324,383
Repair Reserve Non-Athletic	$ 4,980,296	$ 63,633	$ -	$ 425,000	$ 5,468,928
Retirement Contribution Reserve ERS	$ 23,647,045	$ 304,194	$ -	$ -	$ 23,951,239
Retirement Contribution Reserve TRS	$ 5,018,598	$ 64,559	$ -	$ -	$ 5,083,157
Unemployment Insurance Reserve	$ 3,990,497	$ 51,333	$ -	$ 145,921	$ 4,187,751
Workers Compensation Reserve	$ 11,205,068	$ 144,141	$ (7,000,000)	$ -	$ 4,349,209
	$ 63,022,732	**$ 1,141,179**	**$ (2,425,480)**	**$ 9,497,166**	**$ 71,235,597**

Fund Balance Management

- We may need to utilize the Workers' Compensation Reserve in order to fund some of the workers' comp expenditures.

- In 2023-24, the BOE authorized the transfer of $7,000,000 to Capital Reserve Fund #2, thus bringing the WC Reserve in line with anticipated limits.

Retirement Contributions: Employees' Retirement System

- Contribution rates for the 2025-26 fiscal year were announced on August 31

- Estimated average employer contribution rate will increase from 15.3% to 16.4% of payroll

Retirement Contributions: Teachers' Retirement System

Fall 2026: Will collect contributions based on 2025-2026 school year. We anticipate receiving this rate by January 2025.

To Be Collected (Fall of)	ECR	Applicable to (School Year)
2025	10.00%	2024-25
2024	10.11%	2023-24
2023	9.76%	2022-23
2022	10.29%	2021-22
2021	9.80%	2020-21
2020	9.53%	2019-20
2019	8.86%	2018-19
2018	10.62%	2017-18
2017	9.80%	2016-17
2016	11.72%	2015-16

NYSHIP Health Insurance Premiums

Yearly Premiums		
Year	**Family**	**Individual**
2015	$21,706	$9,660
2016	$23,114	$10,188
2017	$25,927	$11,332
2018	$28,177	$12,179
2019	$28,953	$12,514
2020	$28,650	$12,381
2021	$29,426	$12,898
2022	$33,164	$14,353
2023	$37,590	$15,920
2024	$40,405	$17,348
2025	TBD January 2025	

Recommendations for the 2025-2026 Budget

1) EBALR – we now have several contracts that allow for the payment of unused sick/vacation

   a) EBALR can be used to pay for these (difficult to budget!)
   b) It is not permissible to fund from our existing EBALR reserve due to BOE action taken in June 2017

2) Pass a resolution to re-establish the use of the EBALR and permit future funding

3) Capital Reserve – We have $10,000,000 allocated in Capital Reserve #2

Recommendations for the 2025-2026 Budget Part 1

Recommend utilizing $6,000,000 transfer to capital in 2025-26:

- Transfer to capital in 2024-25 was $4 million
- In 2024-25, $2,000,000 was allocated to Debt Service (also capital)

Note: Failure to continue the same total of $6,000,000 for the 2025-2026 capital budget will negatively impact State Aid and the tax rate.

Recommendations for the 2025-2026 Budget
Part 2: Recommendations for Transfer to Capital

PROJECTS	ESTIMATED COSTS
HES – BOILER REPLACEMENTS (2)	$1,500,000
HHS & WMS – MORTON BUILDING INSTALLATIONS	$1,500,000
DISTRICT-WIDE SITEWORK	$1,000,000
HES, OES, & FECC - ADA PLAYGROUND ADDITIONS (3)	$750,000
HHS – TENNIS COURT LIGHTING INSTALLATION (5)	$570,620
DISTRICT-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	$500,000
DISTRICT-WIDE SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS – DOOR REPLACEMENTS (Initial Expenditure)	$179,380
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	$6,000,000

Recommendations for the 2025-2026 Budget Part 3

Proposition #2

Prior Capital Reserve Authorization ($3,500,000 from May 2025)

- Athletic Fields- Middle School

Proposition #3

Authorization for use of $4,000,000 of $10,000,000 Capital Reserve #2

- Security Upgrades District-Wide
- One Button Lockdown System carried by staff
- Door upgrades for electronic lockdown
- Electric and Intercom upgrades

Considerations for the 2025-2026 Budget Woodmere Middle School

- Extending the day at Woodmere Middle School to 9 periods:
  - Provide more opportunities for students
  - Prepare students for the transition to high school by enhancing schedules and creating an earlier start time
  - Bussing costs would increase approximately $470,000
  - Impact on staffing is an estimated reduction of 2 teacher FTEs and an increase in the Business Chairperson position from a 9-12 to a 6-12

School Lunch Software

Current Software: RevTrak

- Sept. Fee 2024-25 = $984.76 (Annual $11,817)
- No availability for parent access (must call in)
- Adequate for payment and tracking

Recommended Software: My School Bucks

- Estimated Sept. Fee = $1,336 (Annual $16,032)
- Parents can access portal at any time
- Track funds available and spent
- Track student purchases in real-time
- Adequate for payment and tracking
- Can transition in March 2025

Board Items to Cost Out

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Thank you!



Questions?