

AMAGANSETT SCHOOL NEWS

MAY 2025

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Amagansett School District residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Amagansett School. This brochure contains information about the school district budget, its three propositions, the Amagansett School Board election and the Amagansett Free Library budget request.

The Board of Education established four goals for the development of the 2025-2026 budget: preserve balanced budget while supporting academic excellence and expanding resources for students and staff; maintain fiscal awareness through effective communications, operations, and responsible resource management for long term sustainability; sustain school facilities to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of all students and staff; and maintain a tax levy that effectively supports goals one through three. The proposed expenditure budget is a 4.52% or \$608,138 increase over the prior year. The increase in expenditures supports all the goals of the Amagansett Board of Education. In order to support the expenditures, increase in proposed tax levy increase is 4.01% or \$476,450 over the prior year. The proposed tax levy falls at the tax levy cap of 4.01%; therefore, approval of the budget requires a simple majority vote of those voting.

The 2025-26 budget meets the Board's goal to maintain programs and support services for Pre-K through 6th graders at Amagansett School. These include early childhood education and extended school day and school year programs, which have been emphasized and valued at both the state and federal levels. Art, music, foreign language, STEM, physical education, and social emotional learning (SEL) programs complement our strong academics.

In addition to the budget proposition, this year, there are three other propositions on the ballot 1) to approve a five-year tuition agreement for students to attend East Hampton Union Free School District 2) to utilize the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a school bus and 3) asking voters to authorize a new Capital Reserve Fund. Details on all propositions can be found within this newsletter.

Our Board of Education is committed to maintain time-honored and community supported traditions, while providing resources to prepare students for success in the rapidly changing world. To review evidence of our students' achievement and the strength of our programs please see the *NY State School Report Card* data at www.aufsd.org.

During budget development, we held the line or reduced expenditures wherever feasible. Major increases are due primarily to salary changes, contractual obligations, the addition of bond indebtedness, and health insurance premiums.

By way of example, under the proposed budget, using a tentative assessment rate, as provided by the Town of East Hampton, homeowners with property having an assessed value of 6,000 will experience an increase in school taxes of \$86.58 per year or \$7.21 per month if assessment rates do not change. If the proposed budget is not approved by a simple majority, the Board of Education may elect to re-submit a proposed budget to the voters, but only once. If the budget is not approved by the second vote, the District must operate under a contingent budget. That means there can be no increase in the tax levy above the previous year, as well as other limitations. The result would require a reduction in expenditures of \$476,450 and therefore, elimination or reduction of programs, services, staff, and facility projects.

Please contact me at 631-267-3572 or mrodgers@aufsd.org if you have questions. Thank you for your careful consideration of the proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Rodgers

Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE Tuesday, May 20, 2025 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

AMAGANSETT U.F.S.D. VOTING FACTS

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Amagansett School Gym

VOTER REGISTRATION

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Amagansett School

SCHOOL BUDGET

Authorization for expenditures of \$14,048,403

LIBRARY BUDGET

Authorization for Tax levy of \$1,522,095

BOARD ELECTIONS Term of Office:

Two Seats Available: 7/01/2025 - 6/30/2028 Candidates: Kristen V. Peterson Wayne Gauger Joseph Karpinski

BALLOT PROPOSITION

Approval of Tuition Agreement with East Hampton Union Free School District for the period July 1, 2025—June 30, 2030

BALLOT PROPOSITION

Authorizing Expenditure of Funds from the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades" Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a new school bus in an amount not to exceed \$162.887

BALLOT PROPOSITION

Approval for the Creation of the 2025 Capital Reserve Fund (details listed within)



AMAGANSETT SCHOOL NEWS

BUDGET SUMMARY

	BUDGET 2024-2025	PROPOSED 2025-2026	CHANGE
Total Expenditures	13,440,265	14,048,403	4.52%
Total Estimated School Tax Levy	11,870,013	12,346,463	7.77%
Amagansett School Grades 1 - 12 Enrollment	154	144	-6.49%
Consumer Price Index			2.95%
ESTIMATED ASSESSED VALUATION ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX RATE	\$32,207,503 36.85/100	\$32,238,077 38.30/100	\$30,547 0.09% 1.45/100 3.93%

EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET	PROPOSED	CHANGE
	2024-2025	2025-2026	
Administration			
Board of Education	51,485	30,100	(21,385)
Central Administration	333,470	319,110	(14,360)
Financial	306,484	297,914	(8,570)
Staff, Central Services & Special Items	545,114	652,319	107,205
Employee Benefits	340,019	322,219	(17,800)
Total Administration	\$1,576,572	\$1,621,662	\$45,090
Program			
Teaching Regular School	4,998,131	5,353,345	355,214
Special Education	2,063,502	1,808,998	(254,504)
Special School	86,500	93,000	6,500
Pupil Services	456,667	414,284	(42,383)
Instructional Media	234,169	260,046	25,877
Transportation	365,044	349,250	(15,794)
Employee Benefits	2,394,431	2,593,543	199,112
Other Transfers	22,500	17,500	(5,000)
Total Program	\$10,598,444	\$10,889,966	\$269,022
Capital			
Building & Grounds	920,581	1,025,068	104,487
Employee Benefits	162,168	191,090	28,922
Debt Service	0	160,617	160,617
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	10,000	10,000	0
Transfer to Capital	150,000	150,000	0
Total Capital [*]	\$1,265,249	\$1,536,775	\$294,026
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET	\$13,440,265	\$14,048,403	\$608,138
<u>R</u>	EVENUES		
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	CHANGE
	2024-2025	2025-2026	
Building Aid	3,350	0	(3,350)
State Aid	318,829	403,514	84,685
Textbooks, Software & Library Aid	11,882	11,951	69
PILOT and Miscellaneous	151,397	153,425	2,028
Fund Balance Applied	924,794	841,050	(83,744)
Retirement Contribution Reserve Appropriated	140,000	197,000	57,000

0

20,000

11,870,013

\$13,440,265

75,000

20,000

12,346,463

\$14,048,403

75,000

476,450

\$608,138

TRS Contribution Reserve Appropriated

Workers Comp Reserve Appropriated

TOTAL REVENUE FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Tax Levy

PROPOSED 2025 - 2026 BUDGET

BUDGET	PROPOSED	CHANGE
2024-2025	2025-2026	

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Includes supplies/materials for board meetings, school board conferences, the annual district meeting, legal notices, District Clerk salary and expenses.

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CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Includes salaries for the Superintendent and support staff, supplies/equipment, district copier expenses, workshops, meetings & conference expenses and central office membership dues.

Salaries	316,970	304,760	(12,210)
Equipment & Supplies	1,000	850	(150)
Contractual & Other	15,500	13,500	(2,000)
TOTAL CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	334,470	319,110	(14,360)

FINANCE & LEGAL

Includes salaries, supplies/equipment for the Treasurer, Business Official, Claims Auditor and Independent Auditor's fees, postage, BOCES services, school attorney's fees, and publishing costs for newsletters, budget brochures, etc.

Salaries	182,000	180,250	(1,750)
Equipment & Supplies	2,500	2,500	Ó
Contractual & Other	249,681	384,835	135,154
TOTAL FINANCE & LEGAL	434,181	567,585	133,404

CENTRAL SERVICES

Operation of the physical plant including custodians, utility bills, supplies/equipment to maintain the buildings and grounds, health and safety, routine maintenance projects, and central data processing services.

safety, fourthe maintenance projects, and central	data processing services.		
Salaries	298,748	352,138	53,390
Equipment & Supplies	87,000	90,000	3,000
Contractual & Other	661,113	711,736	50,623
TOTAL CENTRAL SERVICES	1,046,861	1,153,874	107,013

SPECIAL ITEMS

Includes the district's insurance coverage and mandated BOCES administrative charges. *Note: Does not include health and dental insurance premiums.

"Note: Does not include health and dental insurance	premiums.		
Insurance*	70,000	90,000	20,000
Association Dues	5,000	5,000	0
BOCES Administrative Costs	119,225	125,077	5,852
TOTAL SPECIAL ITEMS	194,225	220,077	25,852

INSTRUCTION/TEACHING

Provides for expenses related to teaching and instruction for the PreK-6th grade program including teacher & teaching assistant salaries, supplies, equipment, textbooks, curriculum development and supervision, staff development, participation in instructional programs, tuition, BOCES services, conference attendance, field trips, and salaries for substitute teachers.

2,714,707	3,208,464	493,757
119,600	115,000	(4,600)
67,000	67,000	0
336,041	348,925	12,884
1,856,512	1,647,000	(209,512)
5,093,860	5,386,389	292,529
	2,714,707 119,600 67,000 336,041 1,856,512	119,600 115,000 67,000 67,000 336,041 348,925 1,856,512 1,647,000

PROPOSED 2025 - 2026 BUDGET CONTINUED BUDGET PROPOSED CHANGE 2024-2025 2025-2026

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Provides for out of District Special Education tuition, all services for students with disabilities (local and BOCES), mandated academic
intervention services, summer program, School Library Media and computer programs, hardware and software, attendance, school nurse, school
physician, psychological services, after school programs and co-curricular activities.

Salaries	1,571,345	1,431,182	(140,163)
Equipment & Supplies	157,400	177,900	20,500
Textbooks	10,000	10,000	0
Contractual & Other	501,134	502,746	1,612
Tuition	600,959	454,500	(146,459)
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS	2,840,838	2,576,328	(264,510)

TRANSPORTATION

Includes all cost of transportation for students K-12. Items included are bus driver salaries, operation and maintenance costs of buses, and transportation contracts with private contractors for transportation to BOCES classes and non-public schools.

Salaries	215,747	232,747	17,000
Equipment & Supplies	11,000	11,000	0
Contractual & Other	138,297	105,503	(32,794)
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	365,044	349,250	(15,794)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Includes costs for the state mandated census of all children in the district.

Salaries	1,183	721	(462)
Equipment & Supplies	0	0	Ó
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,183	721	(462)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Includes health and dental insurance, workers' compensation, disability insurance, social security and retirement costs for all district employees.

employees.			
Teachers' Retirement	382,500	378,259	(4,241)
Employees' Retirement	175,000	197,000	22,000
Social Security	390,618	433,393	42,775
Workers' Comp.	20,000	20,000	0
Unemployment & Disability Ins.	38,000	38,800	800
Health & Dental Ins.	1,886,100	2,032,000	145,900
Other Employee Benefits	4,400	7,400	3,000
TOTAL EMPLÔYEE BENEFITS	2,896,618	3,106,052	210,234

DEBT SERVICE

Includes interest for borrowing in anticipation of the receipt of taxes and principal and interest debt payments, if any.

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Principal		(0 85,000	85,000
Interest		(0 75,617	75,617
Tax Anticipation Note		10,000	0 10,000	0
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		10,000	0 170,617	160,617

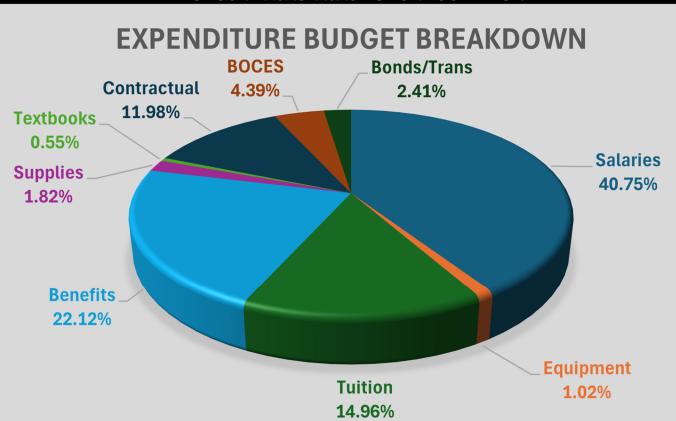
INTERFUND TRANSFER

Includes purchase of buses, vehicles, equipment, renovation and other repair/improvement projects for the buildings.

Transfer to Capital Fund	150,000	150,000	0
Other Transfers	22,500	17,500	(5,000)
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFER	172,500	167,5000	(5,000)

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$13,440,265 \$14,048,403 \$608,138

PROPOSED 2025–2026 BUDGET CONTINUED





BALLOT PROPOSITION TO APPROVE A MULTI-YEAR TUITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMAGANSETT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE EAST HAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall the agreement with the East Hampton Union Free School District for the education of the Amagansett District students in grade 7 through 12 for a term of five years beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2030 be approved and ratified effective July 1, 2025 pursuant to Section 2040 of the New York State Education Law.

VOTER INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ON THE TUITION AGREEMENT PROPOSITION

Why does Amagansett pay tuition to the East Hampton School District?

The Amagansett School District is responsible for the education of ALL children who reside in the district, both elementary and secondary age children. Since we do not have a secondary program, our 7th through 12th grade students attend East Hampton Middle School and High School. Amagansett pays tuition to the East Hampton School District for each of our 7th through 12th grade students.

Why do we need to vote on this tuition agreement?

Voter approval is required for multi-year tuition agreements. If approved, the agreement will be in effect through June 30, 2030.

What is the Seneca Falls formula?

The Seneca Falls rate is a formula used by the New York State Education Department to determine the **maximum** amount of tuition a public school district can charge its "sending" districts. The formula is based on the receiving district's (East Hampton) actual operating expenditures with considerations to the district's size, wealth, state aid, and teachers salaries. The formula determines rates by instruction category (general ed or special ed) and by grade levels (K-6 and 7-12).

What are the details of the tuition agreement?

The tuition agreement stipulates that the Amagansett School District will pay the East Hampton School District a rate per student less than the amount determined by the "Non-Resident *Seneca Falls* Formula Tuition Rates." The savings on these rates is estimated to be about 27% for general ed and 3% for special ed in year one. In years 2 through 4 of the agreement there is an annual increase of 1.8% each year and year 5 calls for a 2% increase for each rate.

What happens if this resolution is rejected by voters?

Approval by voters is required for Amagansett to pay the lower tuition rate to East Hampton. If the resolution is not approved, East Hampton would be legally entitled to charge the full *Seneca Falls* formula rate. In such case, it is estimated that the tuition cost to the Amagansett School District over the time period would increase by more than two million dollars.

Questions?

Please contact Superintendent Michael Rodgers with any questions about the proposition at 631-267-3572 or at mrodgers@aufsd.org

BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE "2015 RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES" CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO PURCHASE A NEW SCHOOL BUS FOR THE AMAGANSETT SCHOOL

This year the Amagansett Board of Education seeks voter approval to authorize the District to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$162,887 from the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades" Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a new school bus for the Amagansett School. The proposition as it will appear on the voting machine on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM is as follows:

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend the sum of One Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$162,887) from the previously established "2015 Renovations and Upgrades" Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new school bus for the Amagansett School.

VOTER INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ON THE PROPOSITION

Why does the school need a new school bus?

The district's oldest, large bus has begun developing issues and has begun to show its age. There are signs of deterioration on the under carriage. Although the bus does pass Department of Transportation (DOT) inspections, professional recommendations are to purchase a new school bus as repairs will be very costly and are not recommended for a bus of this age.

What will the cost be?

If voter approved, the school district will be purchasing a bus off of New York State Contract. This will ensure the district is receiving the best possible price on a new school bus. The most recent quote received is for \$162,887.

Where will the money come from?

No new appropriations will be needed. In 2015, voters approved the creation of a "2015 Renovations and Upgrades" Capital Reserve. The creation of this reserve included bus purchases. This is a separate account in which the district may accumulate funds over a period of time to pay for costly capital improvement projects or equipment purchases, including busses. The available funds in the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades Capital Reserve" are sufficient to cover the costs associated with purchasing a new school bus.

If the money is in the "2015 Renovations and Upgrades" Capital Reserve, why is a proposition necessary?

Pursuant to section 3651 of the Education Law expending money from a capital reserve fund requires voter approval.

Questions?

Please contact Superintendent Michael Rodgers with any questions about the proposition at 631-267-3572 or at mrodgers@aufsd.org

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPITAL RESERVE

BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR THE CREATION OF THE 2025 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

This year the Amagansett Board of Education seeks voter approval to authorize the District to create a new Capital Reserve in accordance with Education Law Section 3651. In 2015, voters approved a similar Capital Reserve Fund. Voters have also approved the use of that reserve over the subsequent years of creation. The reserve has substantially been spent and authorization is needed to create new capital reserve. The proposition as it will appear on the voting machine on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM is as follows:

Shall the Board of Education, pursuant to Education Law section 3651, be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund known as the "2025 Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of making the following District-wide capital improvements and purchases: energy conservation or efficiency renovations and upgrades including implementation of solar energy generation upgrades, electrical infrastructure upgrades including upgrades and improvements to increase the electrical service capacity and installation of vehicle charging stations for electric buses, building monitoring system upgrades, plumbing renovations and/or upgrades, electrical renovations and/ or upgrades, lighting upgrades, site renovations and/or reconstruction, picnic area renovations and/or upgrades and related site work, landscaping, athletic field renovations and/or reconstruction, playground renovations and/ or upgrades, paving renovations and/or upgrades to parking lots, sidewalk renovations, curbing renovations and/ or upgrades, roadways and grounds, masonry or concrete renovations and/or replacements, fire alarm upgrades, alarm system and/or security system upgrades, interior finishes, toilet room renovations, computer/technology upgrades including IT networking systems and communications systems, purchase and installation of up-to-date instructional and administrative technology systems including without limitation computer hardware and software, purchase of District vehicles, trucks and trailers, purchase of electric buses and associated equipment and installation, purchase and installation of equipment enabling the District to reduce its use of fossil fuels including without limitations equipment utilizing alternative fuels including propane, etc., furnishings and equipment, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto. The maximum amount of the 2025 Capital Reserve Fund shall be Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000), plus interest thereto. The probable term shall be ten (10) years; the funds are to be transferred from the unassigned fund balance remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed \$400,000 from the 2024-2025 budget and thereafter in an annual amount not more than \$400,000 for each remaining year of the probable term. Upon the establishment and funding of said reserve, the Superintendent of Schools or her designee shall be directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the "2025 Capital Reserve Fund."

The following information describes the purposes and legal requirements related to capital reserve funds and outlines the specifics of the above Amagansett ballot proposition to create a 2025 Capital Reserve Fund.

VOTER INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ON THE PROPOSITION

What is a reserve fund?

A reserve fund is an account established by a school district to finance the cost of a variety of major anticipated future expenses of the district. Reserve funds can help with short-term needs, long-term projects, and unexpected costs.

What is a Capital reserve fund?

Education Law Section 3651 permits a board of education to establish capital reserve funds in which a district can accumulate funds over a period of time for specific costly capital improvement projects.

What are the advantages of creating capital reserve funds?

Rather than including major capital projects in a single year's budget or incurring the costs of bonding projects, a district can, with voter approval, use accrued capital reserve funds to fund such projects. These accrued funds can be placed in interest bearing accounts. The District can avoid having to pay interest on borrowed monies.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPITAL RESERVE CONTINUED

What are the legal requirements for establishing and using capital reserve funds?

Voter authorization is required for both the establishment of the reserve AND to allow payments from the fund. A majority of authorized voters would need to approve creating the capital reserve fund. During the duration of the fund, a majority of voters would also have to approve specific expenditures from the fund; for example, to purchase and install solar panels.

What are the details of the proposed Energy and Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund?

The proposal, developed with the advice of the district accountant, architect, and legal firms, calls for a reserve fund of up to \$4,000,000 for a duration over ten years. The specific allowable projects are listed in the proposition. The initial transfer to the fund would be no more than \$400,000 drawn from any surplus in the General Fund of the District as of June 30, 2025. Contributions thereafter would not exceed \$400,000 in any year.

The amount of surplus in the General Fund as of June 30, 2025 will not be known until several weeks after the close of the current fiscal year. Accordingly, the District cannot, at this time, predict with certainty whether the amount of the initial transfer to the capital reserve fund will be \$400,000 or a lesser amount.

What happens if the ballot proposition for the capital reserve fund is not approved by the voters?

In the absence of a capital reserve fund, the projects described for this reserve will need to be funded by annual budget appropriations or by the issue and sale of bonded indebtedness, or a combination thereof. An annual appropriation could give rise to a significant increase in the District budget for the year in which the project is undertaken. If a project is funded by bonded indebtedness, the District will incur transaction costs associated with such financing, and will be obligated to make annual payments of principal and interest until the indebtedness is repaid; such transition costs and interest payments represent an additional cost for the project and would not be incurred if the necessary funds could be drawn from a capital reserve fund.

Ouestions?

Please contact Superintendent Michael Rodgers with any questions about the proposition at 631-267-3572 or at mrodgers@aufsd.org





AMAGANSETT SCHOOL NEWS

P. O. Box 7062 Amagansett, NY 11930-7062





Amagansett Board of Education

Wayne Gauger, President Addie Slater-Davison, Vice President Kristen V. Peterson, Member Dawn Rana-Brophy, Member Robin Jahoda. Member

Michael Rodgers, Superintendent of Schools

Jennifer Miller, District Clerk Thomas Mager, District Treasurer Boxholder Amagansett, NY 11930

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET 2025-2026

VOTING INFORMATION:

A VOTER MUST BE:

- 1. 18 years of age.
- 2. A U.S. citizen.
- 3. A district resident for at least 30 days prior to May 20, 2025.
- 4. A registered voter.

TO VOTE YOU:

- 1. Do not have to own property.
- 2. Do not have to be a parent or have children in the school.

Newsletter and Ballot available in Spanish, please email districtclerk@aufsd.org or visit www.aufsd.org

Boletín de Noticias y Votación disponible en Español, favor de enviar correo electrónico a districtclerk@aufsd.org o visite www.aufsd.org

PROOF OF RESIDENCY:

- 1. The physical address on your:
 - a. NYS driver's license.
 - b. NYS income tax forms.
 - c. Current utility bill.
 - d. Current lease.
 - e. Current paycheck stub.
 - f. Public assistance documentation.
 - g. Voter registration card.

LEGAL RESIDENCY IS NOT:

- 1. A temporary address even if you have lived there 30 or more consecutive days before May 20, 2025.
- 2. Related to whether you pay property taxes in the school district.