

HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Letter from the Board of Education

Dear Haldane Community,

With the approval of the Capital Project Bond Referendum and the appointment of our new superintendent, this has been an exciting year for Haldane. On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, voters will have the opportunity to vote on three District budget proposals that will support Haldane as it continues to do great things, two Board of Education trustee positions, and a fourth proposal to support our local library. This newsletter provides valuable information on each of the propositions, as well as biographies for the trustee candidates.

continued inside

2025-2026 School Budget At A Glance

Haldane Proposition I

School Budget:	\$30,154,390
Budget to Budget Increase:	3.24%
Tax Levy Increase:	2.80%
Below Tax Cap:	0.58%

Haldane Proposition II

School Bus Purchase:	\$205,000
Tax Neutral	

Haldane Proposition III

Capital Reserve Fund Amendments Tax Neutral

Increase Facilities Improvement
Reserve by \$3,000,000

Haldane Board of Education

Trustee Seats 2 Three-Year Terms

Butterfield Library Proposition IV

Annual Budget:	\$98,150
	Separate from Haldane School Budget

PLEASE VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 7:00AM - 9:00PM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY



HALDANE

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

continued

Proposition I seeks approval for the District’s proposed 2025-26 budget. As described on page 3, the proposed budget will expand existing programs in important ways, including launching the new Pre-Kindergarten program, installing classroom air conditioners in part of the Main Building, and increasing field trip funding. The budget reflects a 2.8% tax levy increase, below the 3.38% allowed by the state this year.

Proposition II proposes the purchase of a 65-passenger school bus. As the District prepares to transition to electric buses—by applying for grants to offset higher costs and investigating the necessary charging infrastructure—it remains essential to provide safe and reliable transportation for students. Please see page 4 for details on this purchase and our sustainability efforts. Importantly, this proposition will not raise taxes, as the new debt will replace expiring debt obligations.

Proposition III asks the community to approve an increase in the District’s reserve fund for facilities repairs and improvements. As page 5 describes, this proposition will not impact taxes because contributions to the reserve will come from surplus funds at the end of each school year. Strengthening this reserve reflects prudent financial planning and helps ensure long-term stability for the District.

Even though Butterfield Library is not part of the Haldane Central School District, New York State Education Law allows libraries to seek voter approval for funding increases through school district ballots.

Proposition IV reflects Butterfield Library’s request for additional funds from taxpayers. To learn why the library is seeking this increase, visit the library’s website: www.butterfieldlibrary.org/2025-budget-vote-faq

We are grateful for the community’s support and excited about what lies ahead. Please vote on May 20. Our public schools build for a brighter future and bring our community together.

Sincerely,

The Haldane Board of Education

- Peggy Clements, Ph.D., President
- Maggie Valentine, Vice President
- Ezra Clementson, Trustee
- Michelle Kupper, Ph.D., Trustee
- Sean McNall, Trustee

TAX RATE IMPACT

This table illustrates the annual tax increase that residents can expect from Proposition I based on an estimated tax rate increase of 2.80%.

PROPERTY MARKET VALUE	ANNUAL TAX INCREASE
\$300,000	\$118
\$500,000	\$197
\$700,000	\$275
\$1,000,000	\$393

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The recommended budget maintains all existing programs and establishes funding to expand instructional and experiential opportunities for all students.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Increase the District's curriculum funding to adopt a core English Language Arts program aligned with the science of reading for Pre-K through Grade 5
- Launch a Pre-Kindergarten program
- Increase special education funding
- Implement software to manage student supports for Pre-K through Grade 12



STUDENT EXPERIENCES

- Increase the District's field trip funding
- Expand classroom air conditioning in the Main Building to comply with New York State's maximum room temperature regulations
- Provide athletic facilities improvements
- Upgrade the auditorium stage and performing arts equipment
- Conduct a district-wide transportation audit to identify opportunities for efficiency



BUDGET DOCUMENT

A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 school budget, as adopted by the Board of Education, is available at haldaneschool.org or by calling 845-265-9254, ext. 111.

UNDERSTANDING TH

PROPOSITION I: SCHOOL BUDGET

Shall the Haldane Central School District be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$30,154,390 during the 2025-2026 school year for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures by the Board of Education with such sum to be raised by levy of tax upon the taxable property of the school district?

PROPOSED BUDGET: \$30,154,390
BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE: 3.24%
TAX LEVY INCREASE: 2.80%
0.58% BELOW TAX CAP

What does this mean?

The District and the Board of Education made a concerted effort to design a budget within the allowable tax cap, which meets our goals and is responsible to the taxpayers who generously supported the Capital Referendum Project. All programs and staffing are preserved, and key projects will be implemented to enhance student experiences.

PROPOSITION II: SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE NO TAX IMPACT

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District at Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to pay the cost of the purchase of student transportation and maintenance vehicles, including incidental equipment and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$205,000, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued?

What does this mean?

The District purchases school buses and other necessary transportation and maintenance vehicles on a planned schedule. This budget includes the purchase of one diesel school bus, with no tax impact.

When will the District invest in electric buses?

The District has applied for grant funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). If awarded, these grants would provide close to \$1,268,000 toward the District's phase-in of four electric buses and the necessary infrastructure in the coming years.



E 2025-2026 BALLOT

PROPOSITION III: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AMENDMENTS NO TAX IMPACT

Shall the Haldane Central School District be authorized to increase the maximum amount of the “Facilities Improvement Reserve Fund” established in 2018, to defray the cost of construction and reconstruction of School District buildings and facilities, by the amount of \$3,000,000 (plus accrued interest and investment earnings thereon), and to extend the duration of the Reserve Fund for an additional term of 10 years; the source of funding to be unexpended assigned fund balance in the general fund at the end of each fiscal year and/or funds transferred from other existing reserves, and/or other legal funds available to the District?”

What does this mean?

Historically, the District maintained a Capital Reserve Fund of \$1,000,000 for facilities upgrades and emergency repairs. In November 2024, the community approved the allocation of this \$1,000,000 in reserve funding toward the Capital Project. The District is now asking the community to approve an increase to the reserve fund up to \$3,000,000 over a 10-year period. This change would not increase taxes.

PROPOSITION IV: BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

“Shall the Haldane Central School District, Putnam County, New York, be authorized to levy taxes in the amount of \$98,150 for the annual support of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, Cold Spring, New York, and pay over such monies to the trustees of the Julia L. Butterfield Library for library services during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each year thereafter?”

What does this mean?

The Butterfield Library proposition is not a component of the Haldane Central School District budget. Public school districts are required to include library propositions on the annual ballot, when requested by their local library. This is the library’s first request for a budget increase in ten years. If approved, \$98,150 will go to the library. More information is available at butterfieldlibrary.org



GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES

The ballot includes two Board of Education Trustee seats for terms from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Ezra Clementson and Sean McNall are each running for re-election.

EZRA CLEMENTSON



Ezra Clementson and his wife Aria (Haldane Class of 2000) raise their two children in Nelsonville and have watched them thrive at Haldane. Over the past 3 years on Haldane's Board, Ezra consistently advocated for public schools while supporting opportunities for all learners. With over 20 years of experience in NY secondary public education, as well as 6 years as a faculty union president, Ezra provides a valuable voice on the Board. A steadfast advocate for public education and the Haldane Community, as well as a current coach for the Philipstown Soccer Club, Ezra hopes to continue the progress at Haldane and looks forward to another term on the Board.

SEAN McNALL



Sean McNall is a two-term member of the Haldane Central School District Board of Education, having served as both President and Vice President during his tenure. A Cold Spring resident for over ten years, Sean is the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education at Hudson Valley Shakespeare, and has spent more than two decades building programs that support student growth, literacy, creativity, and access to meaningful learning experiences in the performing arts.

On the Board, Sean has championed transparency, long-term planning, and inclusive practices that reflect the needs of all learners. He believes strong public schools are built on open communication, community trust, and a commitment to helping every student thrive. Sean lives in Nelsonville with his wife and their son, who attends Haldane Middle School.

Still have questions about the 2025-2026 school budget?

Contact the Haldane Board of Education at board@haldaneschool.org

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 29,209,030	\$ 30,154,390	\$ 29,516,707
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 945,360	\$ 307,677
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.24 %	1.05%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 22,774,395	\$ 23,412,078	
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	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 22,774,395	\$ 23,412,078	\$ 22,774,395
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 901,662	\$ 968,247	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 21,872,733	\$ 22,576,071	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 21,872,733	\$ 22,443,831	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 132,240	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,579,680	\$ 3,652,162	\$ 3,574,929
Program Component	\$ 21,884,398	\$ 22,570,492	\$ 22,093,188
Capital Component	\$ 3,744,952	\$ 3,931,736	\$ 3,848,590

Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law and under Tax Cap Legislation, a budget that is defeated twice will require a limit of 0.00% on the tax levy increase. This requirement would cause a reduction of \$637,683 to the 2025-26 budget. These reductions may include: equipment purchases, infrastructure repairs, community use of the building and grounds, and certain student supplies. The magnitude of the required reductions, however, would require significant cuts to other program areas.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount. These propositions do not impact the tax levy.

Description	Amount
Proposition II: Student Transportation and Maintenance Vehicles	\$ 205,000
Proposition III: Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 0

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	
Town of Fishkill	\$570
Town of Philipstown	\$666
Town of Putnam Valley	\$678

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Haldane Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York, will be held at the Haldane Elementary Library in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
15 CRAIGSIDE DRIVE
COLD SPRING, NY 10516

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 1621

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON

ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Please vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between 7:00am and 9:00pm in the Haldane Elementary School Library. Parking is available at the north end of the Main Building in the Bell Lot. Enter via the Elementary School doors.

WHO CAN VOTE?

You must be a registered voter in order to vote. If you voted in a Haldane Central School District, Putnam County, or national election within the past four years, you are registered. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older, and a resident of the Haldane Central School District for at least 30 days. Voters may register on any school day before May 15, 2025 between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM at Haldane's District Office.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTER BALLOTS

Applications for absentee and early voter ballots may be obtained at haldaneschool.org or by emailing mshields@haldaneschool.org. In-person requests may be made at the District Office, Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Applications must be received at the District Office by 4:00pm on May 19, 2025 if the ballot is to be handed to the voter. Absentee and early voter ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00pm on May 20, 2025.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peggy Clements, Ph.D., President

Maggie Valentine, Vice President

Ezra Clementson, Trustee

Michelle Kupper, Ph.D., Trustee

Sean McNall, Trustee

Carl L. Albano, Interim Superintendent of Schools