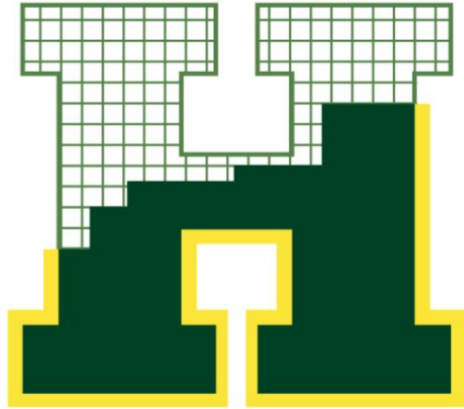


PTSA/SEPTA Sponsored

Superintendent's Budget/Bond Forum

April 30, 2025





HASTINGS

Budget

May 20, 2025

Budget at a Glance

- **Budget to Budget Change – 4.73%**
- **Legal Tax Levy Cap Growth Limit – 3.66%**
- **Proposed Tax Rate Increase – (3.83%)***

***Proposed tax rate is negative because of the increased assessed value. Using the levy change is a more accurate way to reflect increase in taxes.**



Budget Overview

| APPROPRIATIONS | ADOPTED BUDGET 2024/25 | ESTIMATED END OF YEAR 2024/25 | PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2025/26 | BUDGET CHANGE | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| General Support | \$5,828,003 | \$6,227,327 | \$5,994,119 | \$166,116 | 2.85% |
| Instruction | \$34,898,855 | \$34,272,730 | \$36,409,637 | \$1,510,782 | 4.33% |
| Pupil Transportation | \$1,849,870 | \$1,785,000 | \$1,987,920 | \$138,050 | 7.46% |
| Undistributed | \$17,069,149 | \$16,874,560 | \$18,074,312 | \$1,005,163 | 5.89% |
| TOTAL | \$59,645,877 | \$59,159,617 | \$62,465,988 | \$2,820,111 | |
| % BUDGET CHANGE | | | | 4.73% | |
| REVENUES | ADOPTED BUDGET 2024/25 | ESTIMATED END OF YEAR 2024/25 | PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2025/26 | BUDGET CHANGE | |
| State Aid | \$8,078,000 | \$8,525,000 | \$8,548,530 | \$470,530 | 5.82% |
| Misc. Receipts | \$1,862,500 | \$2,325,000 | \$2,080,500 | \$218,000 | 11.70% |
| Appropriated Balance | \$554,843 | \$554,843 | \$400,000 | (\$154,843) | (27.91%) |
| Retirement Reserve | \$850,000 | \$850,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$150,000 | 17.65% |
| Reserve for Tax Certiorari | \$115,000 | \$115,000 | \$215,000 | \$100,000 | 86.96% |
| Transfer from Capital Reserve | \$0 | \$0 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | 0.00% |
| Property Taxes | \$48,185,534 | \$48,185,534 | \$49,946,958 | \$1,761,424 | 3.66% |
| Total Receipts | \$59,645,877 | \$60,555,377 | \$62,465,988 | \$2,820,111 | 4.73% |
| % TAX LEVY CHANGE | | | | 3.66% | |
| Assessed Valuation | \$2,458,373,691 | | \$2,649,661,076 * | \$191,287,385 | |
| Tax Rate | \$19.60 | | \$18.85 | -\$0.75 | |
| Tax Rate Change | | | | -3.83% | |

*Assessed valuation is subject to change.



Hillside Elementary School – Creativity & Growth

- **Learning Environment**
 - Nurturing, inclusive, and student-centered
 - New facilities support flexible, engaging learning spaces
- **Creative Expression**
 - Strong focus on the arts (e.g., 4th Grade Musical, Night of the Arts)
 - Opportunities for students to showcase talent and individuality
- **Academic & Social-Emotional Support**
 - Personalized learning through MTSS
 - Counseling services and monthly wellness lessons
- **21st-Century Skills**
 - STEAM & Innovation Learning Commons (coding, robotics, collaboration)
 - Hands-on experiences that build critical thinking
- **Community & Growth**
 - Spaces like MPR and new student services wing enhance connection
 - Every child empowered to explore, grow, and succeed



Farragut Middle School – Growth & Improvement

FMS is entering an exciting chapter of growth and improvement, guided by the [January 2024 Action Plan](#). The new budget focuses on four key areas:

- **Class Size & Schedule Adjustments:**
 - Six sections per grade = smaller class sizes and smoother student progression.
 - Revised schedule minimizes missed classes for support services and increases teacher collaboration.
- **New Staff:**
 - Nine new teachers to support programs and student needs.
- **Enhanced Support Programs:**
 - Fully staffed MTSS in ELA and Math; new Math Enrichment (Grades 6-7).
 - Expanded Earth Science labs; new 5th-grade STEAM program.
 - New Financial Literacy class for all 8th graders.
- **New Offerings:**
 - Heritage Spanish (Grades 7-8), Exploring Equity course, Executive Functioning classes (Grades 6-7).
 - Strengthened Special Education co-teaching model.
 - Expanded Special Area courses (Art, Technology, FACS, Music, PE, Health, Library).

FMS is poised to continue its trajectory of growth and excellence. These exciting changes will benefit students immediately and create a dynamic school community for years to come.



Hastings High School – Supporting Excellence

- **Balancing Quality and Budget:**
 - Careful planning ensures high-quality education despite tight budgets.
- **Student Experience Maintained:**
 - Full range of AP courses and electives preserved (e.g., AP Psychology, Trial Law, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, AP European Studies).
 - Average class sizes remain under 20 students.
- **Staffing Strategy:**
 - Retirements addressed through internal redistribution and full-time hires.
- **Program Expansion:**
 - **Science Research Program** grows to include 10th graders.
 - Offers authentic, multi-year research experiences with college credit opportunities through SUNY Albany.
- **Commitment to Excellence:**
 - Continued focus on individualized attention, innovative programs, and academic excellence.



Special Education – Strategic Leadership & Program Enhancements

Leadership Commitment

- New leadership structure to promote coherence and excellence
- Jeanne Farruggio appointed Interim Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
- Maintained two Assistant Directors for Special Education for strong continuity

Program Enhancements

- Maintain two ICT sections per grade (K–5)
- Expand ICT sections in English from 2 to 3 at lower levels
- Add lab support for Earth Science in the Middle School
- Add consultant teacher at the High School to support Math and 10th–12th grade needs
- Establish a dedicated Testing Center for student accommodations
- Expand in-district programming to better serve students locally



Special Education – Strategic Leadership & Program Enhancements

Efficient Use of Resources

- Special education resources efficiently targeted to meet student needs
- Budget challenges not driven by Special Education
- Leadership restructuring achieved with over \$60,000 in budget savings

Ongoing Commitment

- Inclusive, student-centered practices
- Strong collaboration with families and professionals
- Focus on long-term growth and excellence



Athletics and Extracurricular Opportunities at Hastings

Athletics Participation:

- 435 students (Fall 2024), 273 students (Winter 2024), 275+ students registered (Spring 2025)

Athletic Program Highlights – Continuing:

- 55 athletic teams + Hudsonettes
- Full-time Athletic Trainer
- Hastings Ski Team now a regular team
- Athletic-based clubs (Weight Room, Ultimate Frisbee)
- Student leadership via Student Athletic Committee
- Targeted equipment and facility upgrades

Extracurricular Program Support:

- Continued support for a wide variety of extracurriculars across all three schools
- Theater program budgets increased by over 50% over the last two budget cycles
- Enhanced support to ensure optimal student experiences in theater participation





HASTINGS
Capital Bond
June 17, 2025



HASTINGS
Capital Bond
June 17, 2025

"Our schools are the heart of our community, a place where students learn, grow, and prepare for their futures. To ensure they have the best possible environment, we are proposing a capital bond that addresses three critical areas: essential building upgrades, athletic field improvements, and instructional space expansion."

~Maureen Caraballo, Business Official



Capital Bond Referendum – Three Parts

Bond Proposition #1 – District-Wide Infrastructure Improvements

(\$11,254,780)

This proposition proposes critical upgrades across district facilities, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and masonry work. The focus is on replacing outdated equipment and systems, enhancing building performance, and addressing infrastructure deficiencies to extend the life and efficiency of our schools.

Bond Proposition #2 – Instructional Space and Accessibility Enhancements

(\$19,049,465)

Contingent upon the approval of Proposition #1, this measure supports the expansion and modernization of the Farragut Middle School/High School complex. Key components include constructing new classrooms and special education spaces, 1 cafeteria renovations and relocation, a redesigned main entrance, and compliance upgrades to meet current accessibility and safety codes.



Capital Bond Referendum – Three Parts

Bond Proposition #3 – Athletic and Recreational Facilities at Burke Estate (\$8,171,250)

Contingent upon the approval of both Proposition #1 and Proposition #2, this proposition funds improvements at the Burke Estate. Planned work includes the installation of a synthetic turf field, construction of a synthetic turf softball field, bleachers and dugouts, as well as site grading, irrigation, drainage, and retaining wall upgrades. These bond propositions represent a comprehensive investment plan developed through community feedback and facilities assessments. They are structured to be fiscally responsible while addressing urgent and long-term needs across the district.

The community will have the opportunity to vote on each proposition individually, with Propositions #2 and #3 dependent on the approval of the prior propositions, ensuring a responsible and phased implementation.



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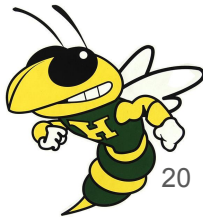
Proposed Architectural Rendering - Farragut Entry



PBDW ARCHITECTS

REVISED SCHEME - FARRAGUT ENTRY
FRONT VIEW

SCALE:



Proposed Architectural Renderings - Cafeteria Renovations & Instructional Space



TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOCKERS: 46

WASHINGTON WING - THIRD FLOOR



Instructional Space Benefits from Cafeteria Relocation & Renovations

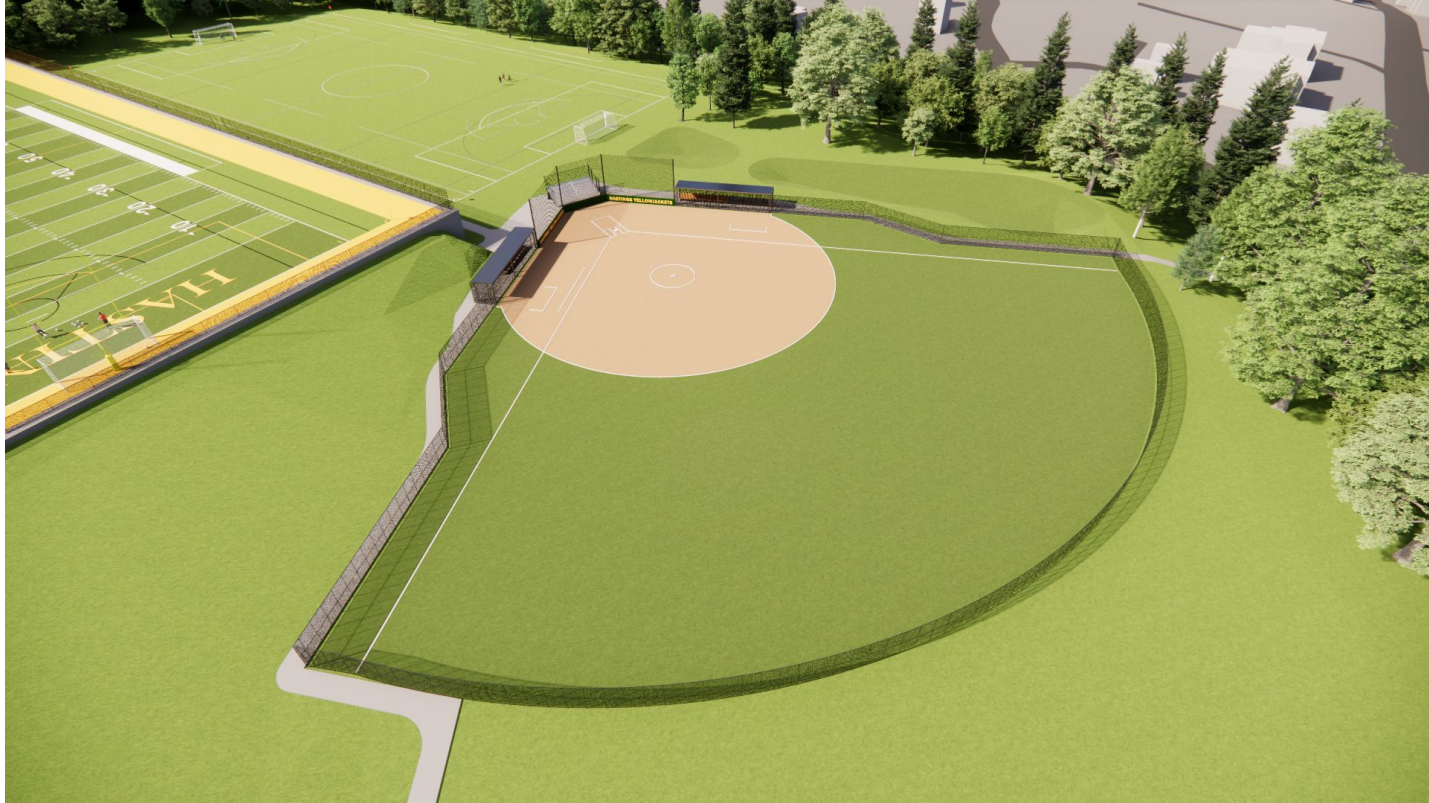
Relocating the cafeteria at FMS & HHS is a smart, student-centered solution to long-standing space and circulation challenges. The current cafeteria is too small, outdated, and poorly located, limiting dining time and occupying space needed for classrooms. The new, larger cafeteria in the central Courtyard will unlock five modern classrooms and two additional instructional spaces, ease a 20% instructional space shortage, and improve student flow. With better access, natural light, and adjacency to the play yard, this project creates a vibrant hub for both middle and high school students—advancing the school’s vision for a more efficient and future-ready campus.



Proposed Rendering - Synthetic Turf Multi-Purpose Field



Proposed Rendering - Synthetic Turf Softball Field



What is in the bond proposal?

- 1) Renovation of the current cafeteria to create 5-6 Middle School classrooms
- 2) Construction of a new, larger cafeteria in the unused courtyard
- 3) Critical building system and building envelope repairs/replacements
- 4) Addition of an ADA-compliant and secure entryway
- 5) Conversion of two grass fields to two turf fields (out of seven fields)



Why is the bond prioritizing this work?

Farragut Middle School: Urgent Facility Needs

- **Severe Overcrowding:** Same student population as Hastings High School, but 40% less space.
- **Inadequate Classrooms:**
 - 19 of 24 classrooms below NYS size standards.
 - Entire departments lack compliant rooms.
 - Shared spaces and increased class sizes limit learning and inclusive education.
 - Some classes canceled due to lack of space.
- **Special Education Shortfalls:**
 - SPED population nearly doubled.
 - Students forced to take tests in hallways due to lack of proper spaces.
- **Undersized Cafeteria:**
 - 50% smaller than State standards.
 - Overcrowding leads to students eating in stairwells, hallways, and libraries.
- **Deteriorating Infrastructure:**
 - Poor ventilation, lighting, and temperature control.
 - Frequent ceiling failures and costly repairs.



FMS has become hard to teach in, hard to learn in, and hard to lead

How do we know this?

- Student data we track
- Grades and test scores
- Parent concerns
- Behavioral issues
- Upstream teacher reports from the High School
- Revolving door of leadership turnover



Why We Need to Act Now

- **State Aid:** NYS reimburses 47% of project costs — a drop is imminent, which could cost Hastings residents millions more.
- **Growing Enrollment:** Middle School population has grown 25% since prior space decisions; further growth expected with new housing.
- **District Growth:** Hastings is one of few districts in Westchester/Putnam to grow over the last decade; crowding will worsen without action.
- **Investment Gap:** Hastings has invested \$30M less in schools than neighboring districts (Ardsley, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry) over the past 30 years.
- **Aging Facilities:** The Farragut Complex (95–120 years old) faces major, costly repairs if not addressed.



Testimonials:

BOE

Students

Faculty



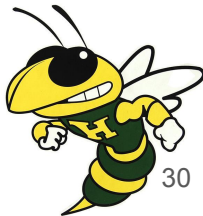


HASTINGS
Capital Bond
June 17, 2025

"I'm here today because I want to give Hastings residents perspective from a board member.

We are stewards of a system, and we try to maintain it and also leave it better than we found it. No bond is easy. No bond is cost free. But this bond would be a thoughtful commitment to our schools."

~Alexander DalPiaz, Board of Education President





HASTINGS
Capital Bond
June 17, 2025

“As the principal here at FMS, I can attest to the fact that this is truly a special school, a place filled with inquisitive and invested students along with high quality, dedicated staff members. However, the state of our facility does not match the quality of what takes place within its four walls.

The proposed bond referendum begins to address the many structural issues here at FMS, the instructional home for our adolescence here in Hastings.”

~Scott Wynne, Farragut Middle School Principal

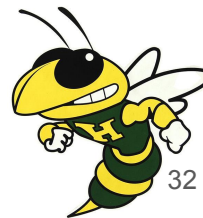




HASTINGS
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“My hope is that this bond will pass so that we can provide safe conditions for our students, as well as additional opportunities for more individualized and collaborative instruction for our students.”

~Melissa Shandroff, Science Teacher



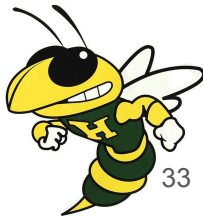


HASTINGS
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“Our existing baseball field will see major improvements, including new dugouts, a backstop, and better drainage to ensure optimal playing conditions.

A brand-new synthetic turf softball field will be constructed with designated dimensions and shared batting tunnels, offering our athletes a dedicated space to train and compete at their best.”

~Bobby Jennemann, HHS Student



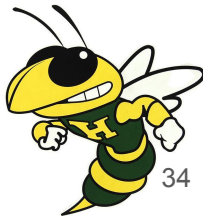


HASTINGS
Capital Bond
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“I have lived in Hastings for 40 years of my life. I've been a student in the Hastings School as a teacher and a coach. A turf field is just really something that should be part of a 21st century athletic program.

The kids would be proud of it. The coaches would be proud of it. We want to give our kids the best chance to succeed, and I think this is something that's really important for our Hastings community.”

~Joe Vaccaro, FMS Science Teacher

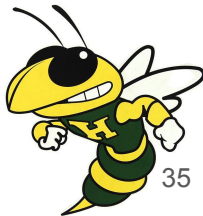




HASTINGS
Capital Bond
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“With your support we can make sure athletes across many sports get the resources they deserve. Turf fields aren’t just a luxury—they’re safer, they drain better, and they allow teams to keep playing when weather conditions are less than ideal. It is a consistent, reliable playing surface, free from the interruptions caused by weather. Turf also helps prevent injuries by offering better traction, reducing the wear and tear that natural grass fields can cause on athletes’ bodies.”

~Siri Rosenberg, HHS Student

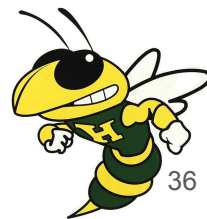




HASTINGS
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"This facility is a grand old facility, but it needs a lot of attention to this point. We need attention for instructional space, our fields, and our cafeteria. This Capital Bond is a chance for all of us to come together and support what's best for our children now and our children of the future."

~Superintendent Dr. William McKersie



Thank You!

Any questions?

