

Voting Information

What You Will See on the Ballot

Proposition #1

Shall the Eastchester Union Free School District of the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York, adopt a budget for the school year 2024-2025 for the schools comprising said Eastchester Union Free School District, in the gross sum of \$105,692,491 and raise the necessary taxes required for said budget in one sum by tax upon the taxable property of the District?

Board of Education Candidates

Three (3) Board seats for a full, three-year team commencing on July 1, 2024. Each of the available Board seats will be held for a three-year term that will expire on June 30, 2027. 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 three (3) candidates:

- Kathryn Weiss
- Christie McCloskey
- Lorraine De La Parra
- Christina Geagan
- Jessica Beach
- Jacqueline Di Marco

Information about the Board of Education candidates can be found in the Important Information section of our website at www.eufsdk12.org.

SCHOOL BUDGET ★ VOTE ★

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

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

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

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

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. 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 Thursday, May 16, 2024.

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. 4201, or by going to the website at www.eufsdk12.org. Look under the Budget Information section of the Business Department or the Absentee Ballot section of the Board of Education page.

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 21, 2024.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Matthew Fanelli, *President*
Christina Geagan, *Vice President*
Dr. Jacqueline DiMarco, *Secretary*
Christine Civitano-Lombardi, *Trustee*
Jill Cosentino, *Trustee*
Sean Fellin, *Trustee*
Laurie Giacobbe, *Trustee*
Robert Krukowski, *Trustee*
Christie McCloskey, *Trustee*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Ronald D. Valenti, Ph.D.

For more 2024-25 Budget Information, go to www.eufsdk12.org

2024-25 School Budget Notice			
OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$102,614,070	\$105,692,491	\$103,345,092
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$3,078,421	\$731,022
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.00%	0.71%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.10%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$79,308,000	\$81,655,399	
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)	\$79,308,000	\$81,655,399	\$79,308,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$3,645,202	\$4,171,949	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$79,918,430	\$77,483,452	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$79,308,000	\$77,483,450	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$610,430	\$2	
Administrative Component	\$10,984,012	\$9,983,337	\$9,983,337
Program Component	\$75,132,437	\$77,813,127	\$77,016,871
Capital Component	\$15,739,751	\$17,896,027	\$16,344,884

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** List of 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
Not applicable	

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

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ***

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
\$1,373

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 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 21, 2024 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.

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
White Plains, NY
Permit NO. 825



BUDGET 2024

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 the District Clerk at (914) 793-6130 ext. 4201**

Una versión en español de este boletín está disponible a solicitud en la Oficina del Secretario del Distrito. Comuníquese con la Secretario del Distrito al (914) 793-6130 ext. 4201

Dear Eastchester Community Members,

As a district superintendent, I've always headlined our school budget "For Our Children."

There is no other reason to work hard to craft a budget that serves our students' needs and expectations. No other reason to support a budget than to do what is right, and ethical for our children and grandchildren.

More than a set of numbers, percentages, estimates and calculations, our school budget is an educational plan—a vision for what our children need and deserve to become tomorrow's citizens who, in turn, will then provide for their children and grandchildren.

Here are five reasons to support our children's futures.

First, the budget treats you, the taxpayer, respectfully and fairly. Our 3% budget increase stands below inflation and ranks 24th in Westchester County. Our 2.96% tax levy increase remains below the New York State tax cap. Our average resident whose home is assessed at \$8,500 will pay approximately \$598 to support the budget—\$33 per month, \$1.10 per day.

Second, our educational plan extends our hugely successful FLES Spanish Program at Waverly to Grades 2-5 students at Anne Hutchinson and Greenvale, provides one additional position at Waverly for increased enrollment, and includes an additional Band/Orchestra teacher and Art Advisorships, creating a highway to the award-winning arts programs at EMS and EHS. Finally, we intend to strengthen our literacy effort by ensuring there is a literacy coach in each elementary school.

We have increased the participation of eighth graders in Algebra Regents from 40% to 70% this year. More students are being supported to succeed in Algebra R—a critical precursor for high school success. We plan to build on this success by expanding the opportunity to enroll in Earth Science Regents to more eighth graders next school year.

Likewise, our upperclass students must be encouraged to enroll in more AP courses and take more rigorous classes by increasing Regents sections

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget
\$105,692,491

Budget to Budget Increase
3.0%

Tax Levy Increase
2.96%

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

**Tuesday,
May 21, 2024
6:00am – 9:00pm**

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

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





Valedictorian, Salutatorian Reflect on Time in Eastchester

Over the last four years, Anselma Petrie and Lucy Mortensen have established themselves as two of the brightest academic stars at Eastchester High School. Last month, their hard work was officially recognized, as it was announced that Petrie and Mortensen had been named Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively, for the EHS Class of 2024.

According to Petrie, last month’s announcement was a satisfying coda to her high school career, one which—while not completely unexpected—was still a thrilling moment. “Even though it wasn’t something I was necessarily thinking about all the time, there was a lot of anticipation, and it was really gratifying to learn that I was going to be valedictorian because it validated all the years of hard work that I’ve put in,” said Petrie. “After all the long nights I’ve spent studying, it’s so nice to have that concrete example of what that means.”

But while Petrie and Mortensen have enjoyed much academic success through the years, the seniors admit that they learned as much about themselves from their struggles as they did from their triumphs.

Petrie cited AP Chemistry as one of her most “daunting” classes while Mortensen said her AP Literature course proved to be an eye-opener. But it was the challenge presented in those high-level offerings that proved to be true character-building exercises, said Mortensen.

“I’ve always loved reading, but I feel like through that class, I’ve learned how to appreciate it even more,” she said. “The joy that comes from accomplishing something that is difficult and taking rigorous classes taught me how to keep on persevering because it makes the end result so much more gratifying.”

Petrie and Mortensen also credit their time in Eastchester’s elementary schools—both students attended Greenvale—with sparking the flame of curiosity that has been a constant over the course of their academic careers.

The duo cited their fourth grade teacher, Bobbi Borkin as having a major impact in their studies at a formative age.

“I think Ms. Borkin and my third grade teacher Ms. Dillulio really helped to foster a work ethic in me, always encouraging me to be my best,” said Petrie.

“I credit Ms. Borkin for being a teacher who saw potential in me and cultivated that,” added Mortensen. “There was a group of us that would meet with her for lunch the next year, and to have a teacher that saw a group of girls who wanted to cultivate their love for knowledge was really important for me.”

But for all the scholastic success the duo have had throughout



Salutatorian Lucy Mortensen (left) with Valedictorian Anselma Petrie (right)

their time in Eastchester, Petrie and Mortensen are quick to acknowledge that not all of the important moments of their academic journeys were limited to their time in the classroom. Both students were heavily involved in extra-curricular activities throughout their time at Eastchester, and believe that navigating their multiple responsibilities ended up providing valuable life lessons.

“You really just have to focus on priorities; when you have so much on your plate, you have to determine what’s the most important or pressing need for you in that situation,” said Petrie, who captained the varsity tennis team in each of her four years as a high schooler. “Time-management wasn’t always my strength in high school, there were a lot of late nights for sure, but, I think it’s good preparation for college.”

Now, as the EHS Class of 2024 looks ahead to graduation, Petrie and Mortensen are confident that the lessons this cohort has learned over the last 12 years will continue to provide inspiration well into adulthood.

“I think definitely the friendships I made along the way are something that are going to stay with me,” said Petrie. “The bonds that you make with the people around you can lift you up, and those can last you the rest of your life.”

“Eastchester is a place that cultivates connections and brings people together rather than divides them,” added Mortensen. “And I hope to make an impact like that somewhere in the future.”

2024-2025 Revenue Summary

REVENUE CATEGORY	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET	2023-24 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$81,655,401	\$79,308,000	\$2,347,401	3.0%
Other Revenues	\$5,595,605	\$4,856,715	\$738,890	15.2%
State Aid	\$16,116,485	\$16,116,485	\$0	0.0%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$2,325,000	\$2,332,870	\$(7,870)	-0.3%
GRAND TOTALS	\$105,692,491	\$102,614,070	\$3,078,421	3.0%

2024-25 Expenditure Summary

BUDGET CATEGORY	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET	2023-24 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Administration/Operations	\$12,383,128	\$11,907,318	\$475,810	4.0%
Instruction	\$58,225,765	\$56,496,874	\$1,728,891	3.1%
Transportation	\$4,909,744	\$4,552,846	\$356,898	7.8%
Employee Benefits	\$24,622,355	\$23,271,681	\$1,350,674	5.8%
Debt Service	\$5,351,499	\$4,485,351	\$866,148	19.3%
Transfers to Other Funds	\$200,000	\$1,900,000	\$(1,700,000)	-89.5%
GRAND TOTALS	\$105,692,491	\$102,614,070	\$3,078,421	3.0%

Transportation

The transportation budget includes approximately \$1,375,000 for out-of-district home-to school transportation to special education placements and nonpublic schools, which is based upon the School District’s current usage of such transportation, and upon the School District as part of the BEPT Consortium, awarding five (5) year contracts (September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028, including summers) for these transportation services to Royal Coach Lines, Inc. The rates for each subsequent year shall be the rates of the immediately preceding year increased by three percent (3%). The approval of this budget will constitute continuation of the approval for the Board of Education to enter into five-year contracts with Royal Coach for out of district home-to-school transportation and for summer transportation to special education placements and to nonpublic schools.

Projected Tax Bill Impact

NOTE: This projection assumes no change in the taxable assessed values. A change in assessment as calculated by the Town of Eastchester may cause changes to individual tax bills. Reduced assessments may raise the tax rate where conversely increased assessments may reduce the tax rate. Final rates are set by the Town of Eastchester in August.

	AVERAGE				
ASSESSED VALUE	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$11,000	\$13,000
2023-2024 School Tax Bill*	\$7,899	\$11,059	\$13,428	\$17,378	\$20,537
Estimated 2024-2025 Tax Bill*	\$8,133	\$11,386	\$13,826	\$17,892	\$21,145
CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	\$234	\$327	\$398	\$514	\$608

*Does not include STAR impact.

2023-2024 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,579.80
Estimated 2024-2025 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$1,626.56

★ **VOTE May 21, 2024 6:00am – 9:00pm** ★

District Eyes Foreign Language in Elementary School Expansion

If it seems as though the halls of Waverly have a more “global” feel this year, that is completely by design. In September, the EUTFSD launched a K-1 Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) program, a unique and innovative curriculum that has Eastchester’s youngest learners developing their Spanish language skills while fostering a broader worldview by being exposed to other cultures, norms and customs.

If the adopted 2024-2025 budget passes on May 21, the district plans to expand the program to all elementary students, hiring two additional FLES teachers to handle global language instruction for Grades 2-5 at Anne Hutchinson and Greenvale.

Waverly Assistant Principal Eleana De Luna said that it is not unusual to see students taking every opportunity to show off their new global language skills in the hallways, something that demonstrates how quickly the youngsters have embraced this new style of learning.

“There’s been a lot of excitement around the FLES program, a lot of joy,” said De Luna. “The children are so eager to come up and tell you what they’re learning, whether it’s ‘buenos dias’ or ‘hola,’ and the fact that they feel safe enough to take those risks in order to fully embrace the experience is nice to see.”

Waverly students receive 105 minutes of FLES instruction in the six-day cycle—although Waverly Principal Dr. Vidya Bhat notes that several parents have inquired about taking advantage of enrichment opportunities to get more instruction time in the fledgling program this year.

“I think many parents are looking at this as the kind of opportunity you would see in a private school,” said Bhat. “Parents are saying that their children come home so excited about FLES that



Waverly FLES teacher Claudia O’Riley works with young students in the classroom. Next year, the district will look to expand the popular FLES program to include Grades 2-5.

they want to know how they can get even more FLES instruction.”

She added that while language skills are a major part of the FLES curriculum, the program is designed to help youngsters become more well-rounded students in general and something that would certainly continue as the FLES program is expanded to include Grades 2-5.

“The children aren’t only making connections in terms of conversational language; I’ve also noticed that, particularly in the social studies curriculum, they’re able to tie in these global connections,” said Bhat. “Seeing them make those connections across content areas is awesome.”

As students continue their FLES education, added De Luna, the study of two languages may well have a transformative impact on their academic journeys.

“When we think about our students’ foundational skills, to see them be able to expand those skills in a secondary language is a wonderful thing,” said De Luna. “Moving forward, as students develop more reading and writing skills in their primary language, their study of a second will be strengthened by comparing what they’re learning in class, which is a great opportunity for them.”

Letter from the Superintendent

Continued from page 1

and reducing non-Regents offerings.

The budget includes an additional school counselor to support career transitions for our students and strengthen our assistance to special needs pupils and lower the overall counselor/student ratio.

We also plan to expand The Writing Revolution to all K-12 pupils. TWR is a systemic interdisciplinary framework that trains students in writing skills across all subject areas, focusing on basic skills in the younger grades and introducing more complex skills as the students progress through their academic careers.

The budget also supports 21st century Smart Boards and computers in all classrooms, Grades K-12. Additionally, we built a three-year plan to upgrade our network infrastructure throughout the district.

Finally, this budget will continue to fund Phase 3 of our Capital Project, providing sufficient monies to meet principal and interest payments.

Yes, it’s a lot. But our children deserve our best efforts.

Together, we can make it happen!

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Valenti

Ronald D. Valenti, Ph.D.
Superintendent