

Board of Education

2026-2027

Preparing for the Annual Budgetary Process

Presentation #1

Preliminary Tax Cap Calculation &
Other Key Metrics

An Initial Conversation

February 10, 2026

Kenneth R. Bossert, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

John J. O'Keefe, Deputy Superintendent

Brian C. Ernst, School Business Administrator



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Budget Timeline

- **March 11, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 2**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
- **March 24, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 3**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
- **April 21, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 4 and Formal Budget Adoption**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
- **May 5, 2026 – Official Budget Hearing**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
- **May 19, 2026 – Annual Election and Budget Vote**
 - ✦ 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM at E.M. Baker, Lakeville, Saddle Rock, or South High School

Residents who are unsure of their polling location can use the online Poll Place Finder tool on the District website (www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/voting) or call the District Clerk on school days from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM (516-441-4007)



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Guiding Principles

Budget development is a collaborative process focused on supporting the District's Mission Statement:

- ★ *“The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become lifelong learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.”*

Additionally, we are dedicated to maintaining our:

- ★ Excellent *“Return on Investment”*
- ★ Long tradition of *“High Achievement”*
- ★ History of *“Sound Fiscal Management”*
- ★ Commitment to *“Continuous Improvement”*

“The Race for Excellence has No Finish Line”



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

2025-2026 Budget Recap

Voter Approved Budget: \$289,998,600

➤ **\$8,003,100 Budget-to-Budget Increase**

❖ **2.84% Budget-to-Budget Increase**

▪ **3.05% Tax Levy Increase**

- ★ Tax Cap Compliant
- ★ Fiscally Responsible
- ★ Supports Programmatic Needs
- ★ Social and Emotional Supports for all Students
- ★ Maintains Optimal Class Sizes Across all Grades



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Preparing for 2026-2027

An Update on Fund Balance and Reserves...

Great Neck's Fund Balance & Reserves	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025
Employee Retirement System Reserve	\$ 21,802,919	\$ 26,081,299	\$ 24,083,495	\$ 21,452,315
Teacher Retirement System - ERS Sub Reserve	\$ 4,012,098	\$ 4,238,547	\$ 2,608,089	\$ 2,592,270
Unemployment Reserve	\$ 2,409,143	\$ 2,505,509	\$ 2,605,729	\$ 2,685,570
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$ 13,015,090	\$ 15,235,694	\$ 17,027,363	\$ 16,558,458
Workers' Compensation Reserve	\$ 12,432,060	\$ 11,829,342	\$ 11,016,939	\$ 10,448,754
Capital Reserve - 2024	N/A	N/A	\$ 9,223,536	\$ 5,470,985
Assigned Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,980,834	\$ 499,911	\$ 670,998	\$ 1,299,780
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 8,614,076	\$ 4,175,007	\$ 4,099,419	\$ 3,912,113
Unassigned Fund Balance*	\$ 10,457,308	\$ 10,885,415	\$ 11,279,820	\$ 11,599,944
Nonspendable - Prepays/LT Receivables	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87,362	\$ 89,724
Total Fund Balance/Reserves	\$ 74,723,528	\$ 75,450,724	\$ 82,702,750	\$ 76,109,913

In total, the voters authorized utilization of **\$12,990,000** from fund balance and reserves as a revenue source for the 2025-2026 school year budget

* Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,912,113
* TRS Reserve	2,300,000
* ERS Reserve	4,167,887
* Workers' Compensation Reserve	1,400,000
* Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	1,150,000
* Unemployment Reserve	60,000

\$12,990,000



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

*Unassigned Fund Balance represents the District's "Rainy Day" resources. It equates to 4% of the budget, or about 14 days of operating revenue.

Maintaining Fiscal Stability

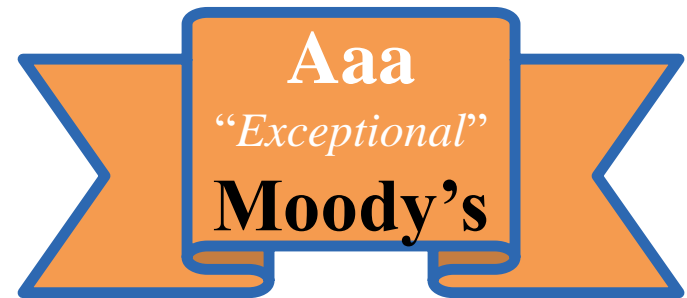
The State Comptroller’s Office (OSC) created the “**Fiscal Stress Monitoring System**” in 2013 to objectively identify issues with **budgetary solvency**.

In other words ... “The ability to generate enough revenue to meet expenditures.”

Annually, the system analyzes Great Neck’s financial information to determine a “**Stress Score**” from **0 – 100**.

The higher the score, the greater the level of fiscal stress.

Year	Great Neck's Designation	Score*
2025	No Designation	0.0
2024	No Designation	0.0
2023	No Designation	0.0
2022	No Designation	0.0
2021	No Designation	6.7
2020	No Designation	10.0
2019	No Designation	6.7
2018	No Designation	3.3
2017	No Designation	0.0
2016	No Designation	20.0
2015	No Designation	0.0
2014	No Designation	6.7
2013	No Designation	6.7



Office of the NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER	
NYS Comptroller THOMAS P. DINAPOLI	
*Point Range (0 to 100 Total Points)	
No Designation	0.0 - 24.9
Susceptible Fiscal Stress	25.0 - 44.9
Moderate Fiscal Stress	45.0 - 64.9
Significant Fiscal Stress 65 - 100	65.0 - 100



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Governor's State Aid Proposal

STATE AID CATEGORY	2025-26 ADOPTED STATE BUDGET	2025-26 MID-YEAR AID REVISION	2026-27 PROPOSED STATE BUDGET	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR ADOPTED
FOUNDATION AID	\$ 9,258,102	\$ 9,258,102	\$ 9,350,683	\$ 92,581
UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN *	\$ 1,334,724	\$ 662,863	\$ 1,050,000	\$ (284,724)
BOCES	\$ 1,518,906	\$ 1,539,624	\$ 1,876,478	\$ 357,572
HIGH COST EXCESS COST	\$ 512,910	\$ 177,194	\$ 114,095	\$ (398,815)
PRIVATE EXCESS COST	\$ 705,177	\$ 949,848	\$ 908,003	\$ 202,826
SOFTWARE, LIBRARY, TEXTBOOK	\$ 690,448	\$ 690,491	\$ 678,674	\$ (11,774)
TRANSPORTATION INCL SUMMER	\$ 832,406	\$ 824,378	\$ 877,067	\$ 44,661
BUILDING AID	\$ 624,928	\$ 686,355	\$ 677,032	\$ 52,104
HIGH TAX AID	\$ 452,843	\$ 452,843	\$ 452,843	\$ -
SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC EXCESS COST	\$ 33,711	\$ 33,711	\$ 33,711	\$ -
TOTAL AID	\$ 15,964,155	\$ 15,275,409	\$ 16,018,586	\$ 54,431
as of January 20, 2026			Change from Prior Year Adopted:	\$ 54,431
			Percent Increase:	0.34%

This proposal is preliminary and will be finalized with the adoption of the State Budget in early April

* *Universal Pre-Kindergarten Aid is not utilized as a revenue source in the General Fund budget*



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

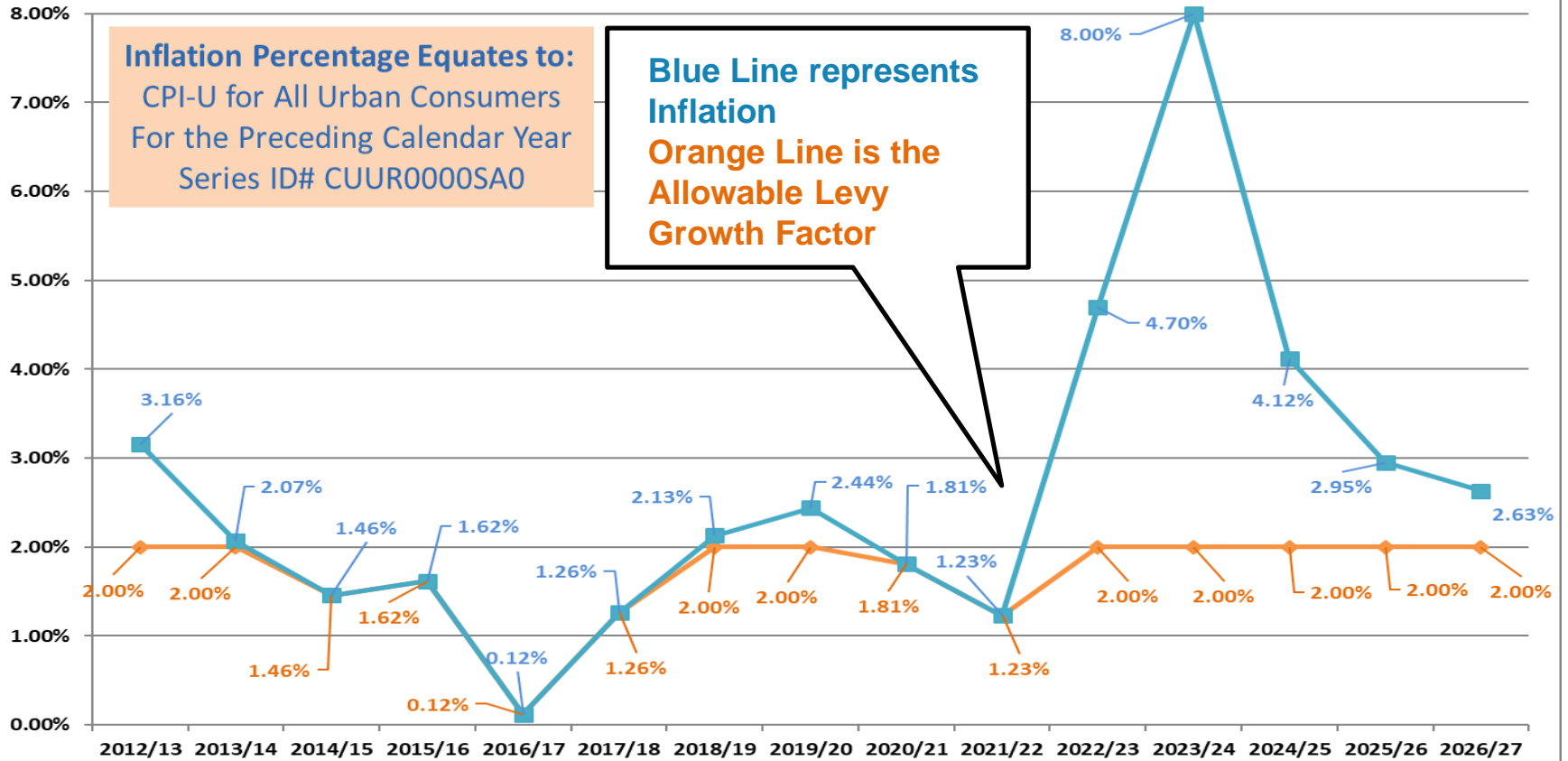
Why does the projected increase differ so much from what is reported by NYS or the media?

- Their calculations do not consider the nearly \$700K mid-year reduction we received in the current year

Allowable Levy Growth Factor

This is the component publicized as the “2% Cap”

Allowable Levy Growth Factor vs Inflation



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Challenges to Budgeting

➤ The 2% Tax Levy Limit Legislation (“2% Tax Cap”)

- ❖ Although, the **cost of inflation was 2.63%** this past year, the **Allowable Levy Growth Factor is limited to 2.0%**
 - ❑ Over the past five years inflation has averaged 4.48% annually, with a cumulative total increase of 22.40%
 - ❑ Over these same five years the primary levy calculation has been constrained to a cumulative total increase of only 10%

➤ Additionally, there are numerous mandates and expenses related to students, staff, and operations over which the District has no control

Examples include:

- ❖ Special Education Mandates
- ❖ McKinney-Vento Act Related Costs
- ❖ Auditing and Financial Compliance
- ❖ Pension and Retirement Contributions – TRS/ERS
- ❖ Academic Supports for English Language Learners (ELL)
- ❖ Employee & Retiree Health Insurance Premium Increases



Proposed Use of Capital Reserve

For the Board of Education's Consideration:

A recommendation from Administration to the Board of Education to authorize a proposition to appear on the May 19th ballot to ask the voters to allow utilization of the **Capital Reserve Fund – 2024** as follows:

- **Phase II:** Installation of a synthetic playing field surface on the South Campus with storm drainage improvements, as well as several other site improvements, including:
 - Resurfacing of the running track and installation of new track & field events
 - Expansion of existing new grandstand with addition of 500 seats
 - Installation of a dark sky compliant playing field lighting system
 - Electrical service for athletic lighting and new building
 - Installation of new scoreboard

ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$ 4,945,000 *

* This estimated total represents about half the cost for all the proposed improvements being recommended for the South Campus

- Approximately \$5.05M to be allocated in the General Fund budget, and will include:
 - New bathroom facility, with concession stand, and athletic storage
 - Various driveway, footpath, and ADA parking improvements
 - Necessary sanitary system, as well as extensive site drainage improvements



Athletic Field Improvements SHS

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Why is the field improvement project being called Phase II?**
 - Voters approved similar improvements at North Middle School in May 2025 (Phase I).
 - This project is awaiting a building permit by the NYSED and we anticipate construction beginning at the end of this school year, with a completion in September 2026.
 - If voters approve the Phase II project for 2026/27, it is anticipated that this project would follow a similar timeline to Phase I and be completed in September 2027.
- **How would the total project be funded?**
 - The primary field related work would be funded utilizing existing funds in the Capital Reserve, at **no additional cost** to the taxpayers.
 - ✓ Approval of the proposition **does not** increase the tax levy.
 - The site improvement work to be funded within the General Fund budget, while maintaining a Tax Cap compliant levy.
- **What is the total estimated cost of all the proposed improvements?**
 - \$ 9,995,000 for all the proposed athletic field and site improvements.
 - ✓ \$4,945,000 to be funded from the Capital Reserve
 - ✓ \$5,050,000 to be funded from the General Fund budget

} **No borrowing / No interest**

 - ❖ The project will generate approximately **\$625,600 in Building Aid**, once the project is completed, payable over a fifteen year period.
- **What are the next steps?**
 - Prior to April 20th, the Board of Education must consider if they will authorize Administration to place these proposed projects on the May 19th ballot.



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

The “2% Tax Cap”

Reminder: It is not a Property Tax Increase Cap,
and it is typically not 2%

- In fact, it is only one component of the formula controlling the allowable increase to the Tax Levy
- Tax Cap formula factors include:
 - ✦ **Tax Base Growth Factor** (this year 1.0078)
 - ✦ **Allowable Levy Growth Factor**
 - Lesser of **2.00%** or CPI-U, which was **2.63%** in 2025
 - ✦ **PILOTS** (Payments in Lieu of Taxes)
 - ✦ **Capital Tax Levy** (Includes: Capital Projects, Building Aid & Debt Payments)
 - ✦ **TRS and/or ERS Exclusions** (NONE for 2026/27)



Debt Service Payable

Date	Principal	Interest	Total P+I
06/30/2027	\$ 2,670,000	\$ 1,634,025	\$ 4,304,025
06/30/2028	\$ 2,805,000	\$ 1,500,525	\$ 4,305,525
06/30/2029	\$ 2,940,000	\$ 1,360,275	\$ 4,300,275
06/30/2030	\$ 3,070,000	\$ 1,234,625	\$ 4,304,625
06/30/2031	\$ 3,190,000	\$ 1,109,025	\$ 4,299,025
06/30/2032	\$ 3,320,000	\$ 981,425	\$ 4,301,425
06/30/2033	\$ 3,440,000	\$ 859,725	\$ 4,299,725
06/30/2034	\$ 3,560,000	\$ 739,825	\$ 4,299,825
06/30/2035	\$ 3,675,000	\$ 620,825	\$ 4,295,825
06/30/2036	\$ 3,775,000	\$ 524,438	\$ 4,299,438
06/30/2037	\$ 3,880,000	\$ 422,644	\$ 4,302,644
06/30/2038	\$ 3,975,000	\$ 317,881	\$ 4,292,881
06/30/2039	\$ 4,085,000	\$ 206,819	\$ 4,291,819
06/30/2040	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 92,544	\$ 1,817,544
06/30/2041	\$ 1,160,000	\$ 49,200	\$ 1,209,200
06/30/2042	\$ 440,000	\$ 17,600	\$ 457,600
Total	\$ 47,710,000	\$ 11,671,400	\$ 59,381,400

As a reminder, the community authorized a Bond Referendum on May 16, 2017

Bond Issuances Related to 2017 Bond Proposition	
2019 Bonds	\$ 31,220,000
2020 Bonds	\$ 8,535,000
2021 Bonds	\$ 11,210,000
2022 Bonds	\$ 6,221,000
TOTAL	\$ 57,186,000

The Capital Tax Levy

Variables That Impact the District's Capital Tax Levy

- ✓ New Capital Projects
- ✓ Debt Service Payable
- ✓ School Bus Purchases
- ✓ Changes in Building & Transportation Equipment Aid

2026/27 Proposed Capital Expenditures:

- **Various Projects District-Wide** **11,903,000**
 - District Administration's recommendation with guidance from our Architect and Engineering firms. Items being proposed include:
 - ❖ South High - Athletic complex and site improvements, rebuild main exterior staircase, renovate two lobby toilet rooms
 - ❖ EM Baker - Replace VAT flooring in up to 16 classrooms and adjoining corridors, replace various ceilings and lighting in south wing on second floor
 - ❖ Grace Avenue / Senior Center - Phase II window replacement
 - ❖ North Middle School - Basement corridor ceiling abatement/replacement, lighting upgrades, remove gym partition wall and install athletic curtain, renovate two fieldhouse toilet rooms and provide exterior access
 - ❖ North High - Replacement of student hallway lockers
 - ❖ Lakeville - Renovate two cafeteria toilet rooms, replace two rooftop HVAC units in 1998 wing
 - ❖ Districtwide - Remove obsolete oil tanks from SHS, NMS, Lakeville, and Parkville
- **Four School Buses - Three 30-Passenger and One-Handicapped** **455,000**

\$12,358,000



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Projected 2026/27 Tax Levy*

2025/2026 Tax Levy	\$ 244,222,078
* Tax Base Growth Factor (1.0078)	1,904,932
* Allowable Levy Growth (2.00%)	4,740,214
* TRS/ERS Exclusions (NONE)	0
* Change in PILOTS <small>(PILOTS Estimated to <u>INCREASE</u> in 2026/27 by \$650K. This <u>DECREASES</u> the Levy by \$650K. This variable can change <u>annually</u>.)</small>	(-650,539)
* <u>Change in Capital Tax Levy</u>	<u>1,429,247</u>
* <u>2026/2027 Potential Tax Levy</u>	<u>\$251,645,932</u>

This Represents a \$7,423,854 or a **3.04%** increase to the Tax Levy and is

Within the “2% Tax Cap” formula calculation - Only requiring a **Simple Majority Vote**

*The Capital Tax Levy, and therefore the Tax Levy, are still subject to change once finalized State Building Aid numbers are released and if there are changes to proposed Capital Expenditures.



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Other Resources to Explore

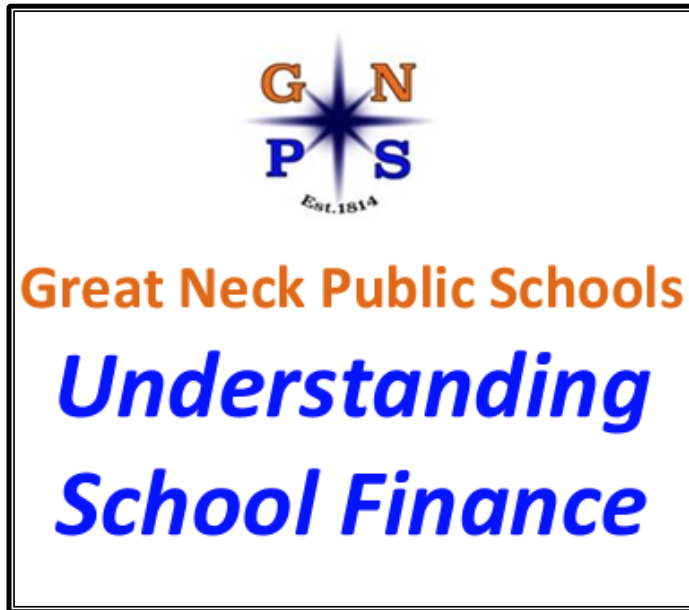
Please feel free to visit the

“2026-27 Budget Information”

page on the GNPS website for some helpful guides

www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget26-27

Here you will also find all budget materials and public presentations



GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
TERM	DEFINITION
ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)	Services provided to students who are at risk of not achieving the state learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and/or science.
ACCOUNTING	the process of recording financial transactions during a specific period, which usually spans 12 months.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION	Education to achieve citizenship, a high school diploma, or job training to become more marketable to prospective employers.
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)	A federal grant the learning loss experienced on account of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	The amount of fund balance and/or reserves used as a revenue source to fund the following years budget and/or outstanding purchase orders at year end.
APPROPRIATION	another term for an estimated expenditure.
ASSESSED VALUE	The fraction of market value real property is valued at and appears on the assessment roll by an assessing authority, such as the Nassau County Assessor.
ASSESSMENT ROLL	All of the taxable real property in an assessment jurisdiction.
ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE GREAT NECK EDUCATIONAL STAFF, INC. (SAGES)	The bargaining unit that represents the Great Neck Public Schools' principals, assistant principals, directors and supervisors.
AUDIT OPINIONS	The opinion an independent auditor arrives at after an examination of a district's financial records. The types of audit opinions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unmodified – the district's records are fairly stated in all material respects or that the district's financial figures and records can be relied upon to be correct.• Qualified – the district's records, except for the effect of any adjustment that might have been necessary to accurately perform auditing procedures, present fairly in all material respects the figures listed in the financial statements/reports.• Adverse – the district's records have some material issues.• Disclaimer – the district's records are not complete and/or accurate enough for an auditor to be able to form an opinion, therefore no opinion is given.



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

Continuing the Conversation...

The Remaining Presentations are Scheduled for:

- **March 11, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 2**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
 - **March 24, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 3**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
 - **April 21, 2026 – Budget Development Presentation # 4
and Formal Budget Adoption**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
 - **May 5, 2026 – Official Budget Hearing**
 - ✦ 7:30 PM at E.M. Baker Elementary School
-

Budget Vote & Trustee Election – Tuesday, May 19th

6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

E.M. Baker, Lakeville, Saddle Rock, or South High School



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness