# Budget MATTERS

SPRING 2019 COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Proposed 2019-20 Budget:

The Board of Education is pleased to present the spending proposal contained on the following pages for your consideration. On **Tuesday, May 21st, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM** voters will be presented with the 2019-20 Nyack School District Budget, adopted by our Board of Education, in the amount of $85,987,000, a 1.81% increase over the amount of the 2018-19 budget. It is noteworthy, that for each of the eight years that the NYS Tax Levy Cap Law has been in place, the Board of Education has developed a budget that has been at or below the maximum allowable tax levy limit. This year's proposed budget continues to support all current educational, arts, co-curricular and athletic programs. These include outstanding programs such as Engineering & Design, Hooked on Hook Mountain, AVID, Nyack Basics, as well as thirty courses that enable high school students to secure college credits across all disciplines. To support the growing social and emotional needs of our students, this budget proposal supports two full time school guidance counselors dedicated to our elementary schools.

Our voters are also being asked to consider an additional proposition that would provide funding to redesign our five school libraries. The renovations will maintain the tradition of the school library as the center of learning while creating flexible, multipurpose spaces to support group projects, collaboration, and creativity more aligned to the 21st century learner. The proposition allocates the expenditure of $5 million from the Capital Reserve Fund, which means that ***there is no additional cost to the taxpayer***.

We invite you to look inside the newsletter to read about key points and highlights featured in the 2019-20 School Budget and **be sure to make an informed vote on Tuesday, May 21st**.

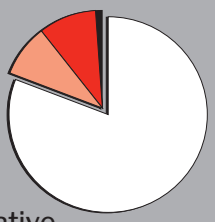
Respectfully,

James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent of Schools*

Michael Mark
*School Board President*

## BUDGET FAST FACTS

**Expenses:**



- **81.7%** Program
- **8.4%** Capital
- **9.5%** Administrative
- **0.4%** Building Improvements

**Revenue:**



- **83.3%** Tax Levy
- **13.8%** State Aid
- **2.9%** Other Revenue

**Budget:** ..... **$ 85,987,000**

**Budget to Budget Increase:** ..... **1.81%**

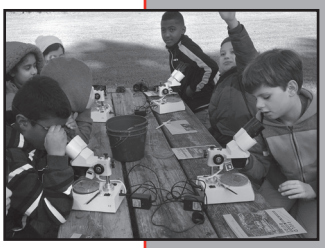
**Tax Levy Increase*** ..... **1.86%**

*Levy is the total revenue to be raised by taxes

The average tax rate will not be available until late August when town assessments are completed.









## 2019-20 BUDGET Development Goals

- **Comply with Tax Levy Cap**
- **Adhere to State/Federal Mandates***
- **Continue Cost Savings and Efficiency Measures**
- **Enhance School Security**
- **Maintain Educational Programs and Class Size Guidelines**
- **Support New Educational Initiatives**
- **Expand Instruction through Technology**

*Mandates are generally Unfunded/Underfunded

## BALANCING THE BUDGET

REVENUES MUST EQUAL EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Local Tax Levy | Instructional Programs |
| State Aid | Administration & Program Supervision |
| Other Miscellaneous Revenue | Facilities & Transportation |
| Fund Balance & Reserves | Capital Improvements |



**Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism**

WITH PRIDE

**In Nyack Public Schools, our students are demonstrating core competencies of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, compassion, content mastery and cultural awareness. As we reach toward equity with greater common commitment and aspire to cultivate a love of learning beyond the classroom, NPS students are *Achieving With Pride*:**

## NPS Graduates

96% of the Class of 2018 enrolled in post-secondary education

## 2019 National Merit and Achievement Awards

- **5 Commended Students: Lucinda Carroll, Una James, Ethan Kim, Dahlia Luongo, Dominique Varier**
- **National Hispanic Recognition Program: Ashley Morales**
- **2 National Merit Finalists: Lucy Jiao & Samuel Abers**

## Advanced Placement Scholars

- **Total AP Scholars: 123**
- AP Scholars with Honor: 35
- AP Scholars with Distinction: 39
- AP Classes offered at the high school: 19
- Average Score: 3.77

## Dual Enrollment Program at NHS

- **199 students** took one or more college courses
- **421 classes** were included in Art, English, Math, Science, Social Studies & World Language
- **A combined total of 1,418 college credits** were received

## World Language Pride

- **19 HS Seniors will acquire a NYS Seal of Biliteracy**, recognizing their accomplishment in being bilingual, bicultural & biliterate
- **Ryan Mack & Christopher Chin's Spanish 2 project of a Virtual Reality Tour of Costa Rica was featured by Google**

## STEM/Science Recognition

■ **78th Annual Regeneron Talent Research Competition "Top 300 Scholar" - Lucy Jiao** was named for her project entitled: *Strain analysis of Al on a variety of semiconductors for clean superconductor-semiconductor interfaces.*

■ **Greater Capital Region Science and Engineering Fair (GCRSEF):**

- **Lucy Jiao** - Honorable Mention, STANYS Science Congress; Finalist, Walter Eppenstein Astronomy/Physics Award
- **Lea Spatz** - Dudley Observatory Award; *Characteristics of Active Galactic Nuclei in SDSS galaxies*
- **Madison Speakman** - ASM (American Society for Microbiology) Award; *Prevalence of Borrelia & Bartonella in Ixodes scapularis ticks in an epidemic region*
- **Annabelle Bangs** - US Air Force Award; *Trends & Influencers of Aerosol Optical Depth and PM 2.5 from 2007-2017*

■ **Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS)**

- Lucy Jiao placed 2ndin the Chemistry/Engineering field and spoke at the State competition in Albany

## Visual Arts Showcased

- May, 2019 marks the 90th Hilltop Gallery Exhibit, where students' works of art are proudly displayed in the District's Administration Building
- Over 100 NMS & NHS students participated in the Annual Halloween Window Painting with 53 businesses hosting
- A $90,000 donation for new lighting installed at NHS DaVinci Center's film studio was received from Arri, Inc.
- A departmental study highlighted multicultural resources and artists that are taught across art electives

## English Department Merits

- ***Dimensions***, Nyack High School's Literary and Art Magazine, awarded Certificate of Excellence by The National Council of Teachers of English for the third consecutive year
- 29 students submitted original writings to local and national publications and to elected officials

## Social Studies Highlights

- NHS Mock Trial Team, Rockland County Championship for the second consecutive year
- **NHS Senior, Sam Abers, received a perfect score on the U.S. History AP Exam (1 of 16 students in the U.S.)**
- **Ethan Lawrence, 6th grader, winner of NMS National Geographic Spelling Bee, participated in State championship**
- NHS American History students created children's books highlighting the multiple perspectives surrounding Thanksgiving and read their stories to VCE 4th graders.
- NEW "What Would You Fight For?" interdisciplinary Capstone project for NMS students, focused on issues like homelessness, the environment, mental health, and technology.

## Music Department High Notes

■ **Competitions:**

**36 NMS/NHS students were accepted and performed in the 2019 RCMEA Junior All County Festival**

**39 NMS/Elementary students attended the 2019 RCMEA Intermediate All County Festival**

**16 NHS students placed in the HS All State Festival**

**6 NHS Students accepted into the NYSSMA All-State Ensembles**

- **Luca Osborne (Violin)**
- **Adam McKee (Cello)**
- **Aalia Crouch (Violin - Alternate)**
- **Sam Abers (Trombone)**
- **Hunter Pullen (Saxophone - Alternate)**
- **Coby Petricone-Berg (Jazz Alto-Saxophone**

■ **NHS Trip to Philidelphia scored**

- **2 Silver Ratings** for Jazz Ensemble & Treble Choir Quintet
- **3 Gold Ratings** for Wind Ensemble, Contemporary Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra
- **4 Maestro Awards - Sam Abers for Trombone Solo, Joshua Moreau for Piano Solo/Accompanist, Hunter Pullen for Saxophone Solo, Emmy Udry for Trumpet Solo**

**NHS Red Storm Marching Band competed in NYSFBC SS3 Competition in Syracuse. Ensembles placed in Top 10!**

■ **Noteworthy:**

- Red Storm Marching Band performed for the Mario Cuomo Bridge Eastbound Span Opening Ceremony
- Coby Petricone-Berg, selected for the NAFME All Eastern Jazz Ensemble and named in the 2019 Young Arts National Competition
- Liberty Elementary 4th Grade Chorus, invited to performed at the State Capital in Albany for Music in our Schools Month
- The Jimerson Strings Festival celebrated over 300 string students performing together in an all-District concert

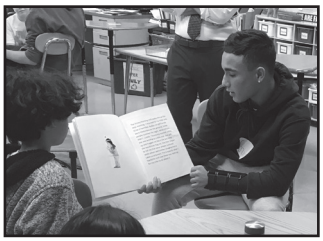
## Sports Awards & Honors

**Fall & Winter Sports League Championships:** Volleyball League Champs and Section Finalist, Girls Tennis League Champs, Girls Swimming League Champs, Fencing Section One Champions Girls Foil

*continued on page 4*

BUDGET Q&A

# 2019-20 BUDGET INFORMATION





## How does the NY State Budget impact District revenues?

Districts across NY State are challenged to create balanced budgets and are restricted in their ability to generate revenue amidst the tax levy cap, broken promises for aid, and mandates that are underfunded or unfunded:

- **NYS Tax Levy Cap** – The Tax Cap Legislation, which limits the amount of taxes to be raised by the District, began in the 2012-13 School Year. The levy limit is calculated with a complex formula (it is not a 2% cap) and provides little or no mandate relief. **Nyack's 2019-20 tax levy cap has been established at 1.86%**.
- **Foundation Aid** - General State Aid promised to districts but never fulfilled continues to cause financial stress.
  - has had an accumulated **LOSS of $37.1M** for Nyack Schools over the past 13 years
  - is at **$5.1M LESS** than the formula promises for Nyack's 2019-20 budget
- **State Mandates** - Presents ongoing and significant challenges to district budgets each year.

## How has the District been fiscally responsive to these challenges?

The District continually reviews ways to reduce expenses and has made consistent reductions over the years while maintaining programs. Important cost-saving measures include:

- Cooperative collective bargaining with the unions
- Management of Reserve Funds
- Lease of the Old High School with BOCES
- BOCES and Shared Services ie: Purchasing Consortiums
- Joint Insurance Pools *(NYSIR, Worker's Compensation)*
- Contracted Services *(cleaning, grounds, food service)*
- Integrated Technology & Innovation Efficiencies
- Grants, such as OCADA's Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant
- Donations from community partners, such as InspireNyack

## Does the District collaborate with elected State officials?

**"Bullet Aid" provided by State Assembly Members Jaffe and Zebrowski, and State Senator Carlucci continues to support valued District programs:**

- Alternative to Suspension Program, NMS & NHS
- MS Youth Mentorship Program, **"SOAR"**
- Alternative High School at Hilltop, **"Fresh Start"**
- Summer Kindergarten Readiness Intervention
- After school community-based home work clubs at Waldron Terrace
- 5th Grade Summer Transition Program, **"Efficacy Institute"**

## Why does the District have a Capital Reserve Fund?

In recent years, the District, foreseeing difficult times, created several Reserve funds. Like a "rainy day fund," a Reserve is money the District sets aside that may be used to plan for the future. Careful planning and use of the Reserves have reduced annual budgeting to pay for certain costs, such as NYS retirement rates, court-ordered tax certioraris, and capital improvements. ***Use of funds in a Capital Reserve requires voter authorization.***

## What is the purpose of the Capital Reserve Proposition on this Ballot?

Last year, voters authorized the expansion of the existing Capital Reserve by $5M for the purposes of upgrading instructional space. NY State mandates that voters must also approve the expenditure of $5M, which will allow the District to utilize the funds for the stated purpose of library and technology lab renovations. The second proposition on this year's ballot provides the necessary authorization to expend these funds. ***Approval of this proposition adds no additional cost to the taxpayer.***








*Architectural renderings of proposed renovations to the middle and high school libraries*

# 2019-20 KEY BUDGET INITIATIVES

## What are the key initiatives in this budget?

In alignment with the District vision, the following instructional initiatives, programs, curriculum and professional development reflect a commitment to advance learning opportunities in an increasingly changing world so that all students can succeed with equity, innovation and optimism:

- **YEAR 2 - Nyack Basics**
  - In partnership with Harvard Univ. Basics
  - Kindergarten Readines for all students
  - All children reading on level by Grade 3
  - Community-based campaign & coalition
- **YEAR 2 - 1:1 Digital Initative**
  - Chromebooks for 8th Grade & incoming 6th Grade
  - Laptops for incoming 9th Grade
- **Envisioning Equity**
  - Administrative leadership training
  - Root-cause analysis of disparities
  - Undoing Racism Workshop for all staff
  - Courageous Conversations in each school
- **NEW for the Elementary Schools**
  - Hiring 2 Full Time Guidance Counselors
  - Socio-Emotional Learning Curriculum
  - STEMscopes, Year 5 Implementation
  - Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Year 4 Implementation
  - Hook Mountain Curriculum with Outdoor Science Alliance
  - K-5 Social Studies Inquiries
  - Expanding Makerspaces to all 3 elementary schools
- **NEW for the Secondary Schools**
  - PLTW (STEM), Year 5 Implementation
  - Biomedical Science Innovation course
  - Social Studies Capstone Projects: *Engineering Design & - Development, Medical Interventions*
  - AP Computer Science Principles
  - AVID Electives expanded to 7th and 10th grade
  - Expanded College Level Dual Enrollment Program
    - 2 new courses with STAC (St. Thomas Aquinas College): Personal Financial Management, Business Law
    - Total of 33 courses in collaboration with RCC, SUNY Albany and STAC
- **Building Improvements**
  - Install NEW fire alarm system at Hilltop Administration Building
  - Reconfiguration of HS Generator to accommodate Red Cross Emergency Shelter requirements
  - Liberty Elementary School floor project for asbestos floor tile removal and replacement

WITH PRIDE

*continued from page 2*

**NYS Scholar Athlete Teams:**

**Winter NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams** - Boys Swimming, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Fencing, Boys Fencing, Girls Track, Boys Track, Girls Bowling, Wrestling

**Fall NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award Winners** Volleyball, Girls Tennis', Girls Swimming, Field Hockey, Girls Soccer, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Boys Soccer

***Journal News* Scholar Athletes:** Ieva Griffin for Volleyball, Dahlia Luongo for Girls Tennis, Lucy Jaio for Fencing, Morgan MacCartney for Lacrosse

**Noteworthy:**

- 37 Fall All League Athletes
- 10 Fall All Section Athletes
- 18 Winter All League Athletes
- 5 Winter All Section Athletes Valerie Nilan, named
- Conference II and Rockland County Player of the year in Volleyball, Valerie Nilan
- Rockland County and Section One Coach of The Year for Volleyball, Christian Collazo
- Rockland County Skier of the Year for a 2nd Consecutive, Max Longhi
- Nyack High School named NYSPHSAA School of Excellence for 2nd Consecutive Year
- Nyack Athletics Named Best Athletic Venue in Lower Hudson Valley by LoHud/ USA Today Network

A District-wide consortium for **"Envisioning Equity"** involved the participation of all NPS staff in the March 2019 Superintendent's Conference Day, as part of an ongoing challenge to deepen collective understanding and effectuate systemic change.






Envisioning Equity Community Forum with Dr. Montesano and Joyce James
Nyack Center @ 7pm

**SAVE THE DATE:** THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

# BUDGET NOTICE *(This Budget Notice format is required by New York State law.)*

| Nyack School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | $ 84,460,000 | $ 85,987,000 | $ 84,332,100 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year | | $ 1,527,000 | $ (127,900) |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 1.81% | (.15)% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 2.44% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | $ 70,344,181 | $ 71,649,081 | |
| 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) | $ 70,344,181 | $ 71,649,081 | $ 70,344,181 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | $ 1,716,778 | $ 1,311,031 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | $ 68,627,403 | $ 70,338,050 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | $ 68,627,403 | $ 70,338,050 | |
| I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | $ 0 | $ 0 | |
| Administrative Component | $ 8,026,518 | $ 8,191,482 | $ 8,033,829 |
| Program Component | $ 68,481,830 | $ 70,282,135 | $ 68,929,490 |
| Capital Component | $ 7,951,652 | $ 7,513,383 | $ 7,368,781 |

*Under Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011, the District is not permitted to raise any funds above the tax levy for the current school year. This restriction will result in equipment and capital improvement reductions that are not permissible under a contingent budget. Accordingly, the proposed budget will be reduced by 1.9% to comply with the law.

| DESCRIPTION | Amount |
|---|---|
| Proposition to expend monies from the Capital Reserve Fund 2015 | No Budget or Tax Levy Impact |

| | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year |
|---|---|
| **Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]:** | $1,332 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Nyack Union Free School District , Rockland County, New York, will be held at four (4) locations in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm prevailing time in each location, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Locations: Depew Manor, Hilltop, Upper Nyack Elementary, Valley Cottage Elementary

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

# BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION (VOTE FOR TWO)

## MICHAEL MARK

- Serving 7th Term
- 34 year resident
- Professional Musician
- 2 NHS Graduates

## TERENCE ROCK

- Serving 2nd Term
- 19 year resident
- Sr. Director Sales Operations
- 1 NHS student; 1 NHS Graduate

There are two at-large Board positions on the ballot. Voters may cast two votes for Trustees who serve three-year terms. The top two vote-getters will take office July 1. Candidates drew lots for their order on the ballot.

VOTING

## ON THE BALLOT • Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • Polls Open 7am to 9pm

### Budget Proposition

SHALL the Board of Education of the Nyack UFSD, Towns of Orangetown and Clarkstown, be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed $85,987,000 during the 2019-20 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

### Proposition Seeking Authorization for Expenditures from the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund

SHALL the Board of Education of the Nyack Union Free School District be authorized to (1) expend an amount not to exceed $5,000,000 from the Nyack Union Free School District Capital Reserve Fund 2015 to undertake and perform (a) interior alterations and renovations of the libraries in Nyack High School, Nyack Middle School, Liberty Elementary School, Upper Nyack School and Valley Cottage School and (b) renovation of the technology laboratories of Nyack High School and Nyack Middle School, together with related costs associated with each of these projects and the costs for professional services for each of these projects?

**See Candidates for Trustee Positions** (page 5)

THE NYACKS • VALLEY COTTAGE
OCADA
Our Community Against Drug Abuse

OCADA's 8th Annual Community Party and Big Screen Movie in Memorial Park, Nyack @ 7pm

**SAVE THE DATE:** SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

Published by Nyack Public Schools in cooperation with the Rockland BOCES Communications Service.

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

A citizen, 18 or older who has lived in the District for at least 30 days, having voted in a school or general election in the past four years or having newly registered.

### REGISTERING

You can register at the Board of Elections (in New City, 638-5172) through the day of the vote, or in District Hilltop Office until Tuesday, May 14 (8am – 4pm).

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

This is for those eligible to vote who cannot vote in person on May 21, 2019. Applications are available from the District Clerk (353-7015) at the Hilltop Building.

Nyack Public Schools

**13A Dickinson Avenue**
**Nyack, New York 10960**

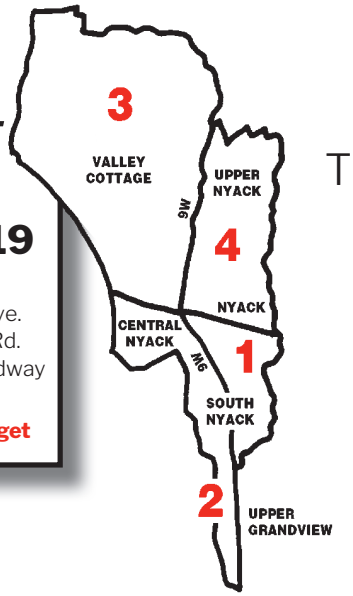
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## VOTE:
## Tuesday, May 21, 2019

**Poll 1:** Depew Manor: 60 Depew Ave.
**Poll 2:** Hilltop Building: 13A Dickinson Ave.
**Poll 3:** Valley Cottage School: 26 Lake Rd.
**Poll 4:** Upper Nyack School: 336 No. Broadway

**NEED YOUR VOTING LOCATION?**
**VISIT: www.nyackschools.org-click:budget**




## Be an informed voter:

Refer to www.nyackschools.org for budget details or contact lretallack@nyackschools.org/353-7013