Nyack Public Schools

Budget MATTERS

SPRING 2021 COMMUNITY UPDATE

Proposed 2021-22 Budget:

District Emerges from Challenging Year with Optimism and $0 Increase to the Tax Levy: NYACK-STRONG!

The Nyack Board of Education is proud to present a budget to our community that recognizes the unprecedented and challenging circumstances caused by the pandemic. Included in those challenges has been the economic hardship endured by our Nyack homeowners and businesses. In recognition of the current economic climate, the 2021-22 Nyack School District Budget adopted by our Board of Education of $91,388,000, ***is presented to our community with $0 increase to the tax levy***. The approved budget includes all the items necessary to maintain our schools including all current educational, performing arts, co-curricular and athletic programs. The budget proposal also enhances the District's ability to address the damaging impact COVID-19 has had on the academic and social emotional needs of our students with the additions of a full-time Elementary School Counselor and a Reading Specialist.

Our voters are also being asked to consider an additional proposition question that would provide funding to expand parking at the Middle School, increase cafeteria serving line efficiencies at the Middle School and a new entry drive and parking lot development at the High School. It is anticipated that each of these capital improvement projects will be eligible for New York State Building Aid at the District's ratio of approximately 43%. This proposition allocates the expenditure of $2 million from the Capital Reserve Fund of 2015, which means there is zero increase to the tax levy.

We invite you to look inside the newsletter to read about key points and highlights featured in the 2021-22 School Budget and we invite you to make an informed vote on **Tuesday, May 18th.**

Respectfully,

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

Michael Mark
School Board President

BUDGET FAST FACTS

Expenses:



- **80.1%** Program
- **7.8%** Capital
- **9.6%** Administrative
- **2.5%** Building Improvements

Revenue:



- **79.9%** Tax Levy
- **14.8%** State Aid
- **3.3%** Fund Balance and Reserves
- **2.0%** Other Revenue

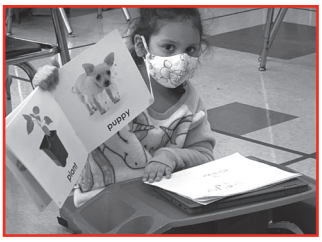
Budget: ..... **$ 91,388,000**

Budget to Budget Increase: **0.78%**

Tax Levy Increase* **0%**

*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.









2021-22 BUDGET Development Goals

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

*Mandates are generally Unfunded/Underfunded

BALANCING THE BUDGET

REVENUES = 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

Despite the challenges and changes faced by our students, families and staff throughout this year, Nyack Schools thrive WITH PRIDE:

NPS Graduates

- Graduation Rate is 92% for the Class of 2020
- 94% of the class enrolled in post-secondary education

2021 National Merit and Achievement Awards

- **4 Commended Students identified for National Merit Scholarships: *William Eisen, Ella Stevens, Lula Talenfeld, Jonathon Yohannan***

Advanced Placement Scholars

- **Total AP Scholars: 98**
- AP Scholars: 45
- AP Scholars with Honor: 25
- AP Scholars with Distinction: 51
- National AP Scholar: 9
- AP courses at NHS: 19

Dual Enrollment Program at NHS

- **Over 300 students took over 600 courses for a combined total of 2045 college credits**





Curriculum & Instruction Spotlight

- ***NEW*** Social Studies Curriculum: Facing History and Ourselves, grades 6-12
- ***NEW*** Race Conscious Pedagogy staff PD/training, grades K-5
- ***NEW*** Culturally Responsive curriculum audit
- A collaboration: 1st Annual Rockland County Virtual Diversity Job Fair
- **Our students are learning & thriving**



ENL & Bilingual Department Spotlight

- The theme for this year: "Being bilingual is our superpower"
- 17 languages in addition to English spoken by families in the district

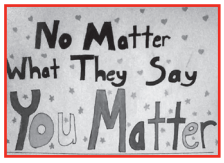
Guidance Department Spotlight

- RCC-sponsored Black Achievement Award recipients: *24 students in 6th/8th grade; 21 students in 10th/12th grade*
- RCC-sponsored Hispanic Heritage Award recipients: *18 students in 8th grade; 20 students in 10th/12th grade*
- Cultures of Nyack -elementary schools explored differences and similarities
- AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination): 95 students
- Virtual NYU Admissions visit for MS students
- *"Second Step"* daily Socio Emotional Learning (SEL): All classes, K-5
- Virtual Career Day: Grades 6-8
- *"Nyack Student-to-Grad Connection"* Alumni Give Back program, featuring recent alumnus speaking to Juniors/class of 2022 about their college experience



New MS and HS Libraries

- Our libraries have been transformed into Global Learning Commons. Take a virtual tour!



Equity, Diversity and Innovation Spotlight

- Objectives, strategies and measurable outcomes have been established for all students to succeed through a ***NEW*** **District Strategic Plan for Educational Excellence Through Racial Equity**
- District-wide Mattering Campaign, ongoing

Visual Arts Thrive



- "The Quarantine Journals" features works by students in Ms. Deirdre Kenna's classes. The collection is a time capsule documenting three months of students' thoughts, reactions, and experiences during the strictest part of New York's pandemic lock down.

Music Thrives

- ***NEW*** Nyack Music Department YouTube channel for community-wide enjoyment
- Aleksi Zaretsky: 2020 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Music Honor Ensembles *(national, virtual performance)*
- Performances in virtual All County, All State; and All National Music Festivals
- Special Guest Sam Waymon performance and assembly *(virtual/all grades K-5)*
- The Red Storm is back supporting our RedHawks football team this spring!





Athletics Thrive

- Volleyball League Champions and Regional Runner Up
- Football League Champions and Regional Runner Up
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams to date 18 of 20 teams: ***Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Swim, Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Boys Swim, Wrestling, Girls Fencing, Boys Fencing, Girls Winter Track, Boys Winter Track, Girls Basketball, Ice Hockey, Girls Bowling, Boys Bowling***
- Volleyball League Player of the Year – ***Angelina Breganti***
- Rockland County Female Skier of the Season – ***Alyssa Lundberg***
- Rockland County Male Skier of the Year – ***Max Longhi***
- All League Athletes, (to date): 21
- All Section Athletes: 6
- All County Athletes: 7
- 2021 Graduating Athletes Committed to Play in College to date: 8

District Communications • www.nyackschools.org

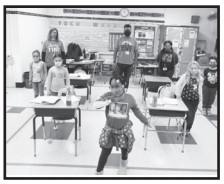
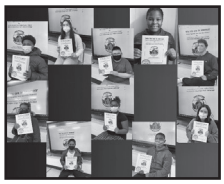
@nyack_schools
@nyackschools
@nyackschools

- PR/Communications Office: Lretallack@nyackschools.org (845) 353-7013

Like! Follow! Share!

BUDGET Q&A

2021-22 BUDGET INFORMATION

Q: How does NYS Budget impact District revenues?

A: Districts across NY State are challenged to create balanced budgets amidst the tax levy cap, broken promises for aid, and mandates. In this extraordinary year, Nyack Schools has emerged with careful consideration and cautious optimism:

- **State Mandates** – Within the past unprecedented year, the response to COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a heavy load of additional State-imposed mandates and required preemptive safety measures to be taken by districts. Despite ongoing and significant challenges to the district budget, Nyack Schools continue to meet these mandates.

- **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. **The Nyack BOE has adopted a budget that is responsive to the current economic climate and *will result in a $0 increase to the tax levy*.**

- **Foundation Aid** – Since the funding formula was enacted nearly 15 years ago, the State has been unable to meet its statutory commitment to Nyack. This 'empty promise' has resulted in the loss of approximately $48M to the Nyack School District over that period of time. This year, due to the efforts of our NY State elected officials, Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski, Jr. and their colleagues, the Nyack School District has received the 22% Foundation Aid increase this year. While we still are not fully funded, the State has made a statutory commitment to the District being fully funded in the next 3 years.

Q: What are the key initiatives in this budget?

- Provide tax relief through 0% increase to the tax levy for community stakeholders
- Assist and support all staff and students with the recovery from the impact of COVID-19 by addressing issues of learning loss among students
- Focus on Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL): Addition of a full-time Elementary Guidance Counselor, ensuring 1 per school
- Address academic learning needs: Addition of a full-time Reading Specialist to provide targeted Dyslexia support to students
- Capital Improvement Project: Hilltop Building renovation that will house the Rockland BOCES CTEC program
- Continue tradition of fulfilling primary budget development goals, cost-savings and efficiency measures

Q: How does the District's budget support equitable outcomes that benefit all students?

A: Nyack Schools budget has not only established fiscal responsibility but demonstrated sustainability that stands the test of time. BOE approval and school community support provides a strong foundation that fosters the overarching vision for equity, innovation and optimism.

The stated mission of the District's budget is to ensure the educational program has resources to provide a well-rounded, equitable educational experience to all students. The budget is designed to align with the district's commitment to embed in each student the seven core competencies that foster success on a global platform and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime: **Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Compassion, Content Mastery, Cultural Awareness**

Q: What are some innovative ways this proposed budget provides for funding facilities improvements?

- **$940,000 in Middle School Site Improvements**
  - Expand parking facilities and improve traffic flow through the campus; especially needed as the adjacent property will no longer be utilized for student drop-off and pick-up
- **$160,000 Middle School Cafeteria Service**
  - Improve functionality for students and food service workers
- **$2.2M High School Site Improvements**
  - Funds will support creation of an environmentally sustainable parking area adjacent to the athletic fields and improve High School campus roadway
- **$970,000 (NEW) Hilltop Professional Development/Conference Center**
  - Conversion of former college leased fitness center into a professional development conference site for the District

Q: Does the District collaborate with elected officials?

A: Nyack Schools BOE and administration believe in building partnership and advocacy for the benefit of our students and schools. This year, the District specifically thanks ***NY State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick*** and ***NY State Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski, Jr.*** for their hard work in addressing the longstanding Foundation Aid issue.

Q: Why does the District have a Capital Reserve Fund?

A: 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.

Q: What is the purpose of the Capital Reserve (2nd) Proposition on this Ballot?

A: The reason for the second proposition on the ballot is to authorize use of funds from the Capital Reserve. Because NY State mandates that all use of Capital Reserve Funds requires voter authorization, voters must ***approve*** the requested expenditure of $2M from the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund. Authorization would allow expansion of needed parking at the Middle School, cafeteria serving line improvements at Nyack Middle School and entry drive and parking lot development at Nyack High School. **Approval of this proposition *adds no additional cost to the taxpayer*.**

WITH PRIDE

ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT:

District Extends a Hearty Welcome to New Superintendent



The Nyack Public Schools Board of Education culminated its comprehensive search for a new Superintendent of Schools with the appointment on April 19 of Mr. Eudes S. Budhai, effective July 1, 2021. The Nyack Board felt compelled to act sooner than was anticipated in order to take advantage of the opportunity to appoint an outstanding leader during a challenging year of change. The profile put forth by the school community was readily apparent and embodied in Mr. Budhai according to Michael Mark, BOE President:

"After receiving comprehensive input from the community, the Board set out last fall to find an experienced and collaborative educator, a visible and approachable listener and communicator, a dynamic and transparent decision maker, and a forward thinking, courageous, and equity-focused leader. We believe we have found all that and more in Mr. Budhai,"

The search began in September, facilitated by consultants of School Leadership, LLC, who oversaw the search for our current superintendent, Dr. James Montesano, ten years ago. The search process included a community-wide survey provided in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole; focus groups provided via zoom with staff, students, parents/guardians and community members; and input sessions involving a cross section of community stakeholders. The search profile compiled was used to recruit and screen candidates. The BOE conducted interviews with semi-finalists and held further interviews with 3 finalists before reaching a decision.

> **"Thank you, Nyack UFSD, for the opportunity to serve as your next Superintendent of Schools. I am honored and looking forward to building on the existing great work and enhancing the opportunities for our community, families, staff and our scholars."**

Mr. Budhai brings a wealth of experience and a demonstrated track record of equity and excellence regarding student achievement, fiscal management and family engagement. He is an alumnus of the Fiorello La Guardia High School of Music and Performing Arts in New York City, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the City University of New York, holds a Master's of Science from St. John's University and a professional diploma in Supervision and Administration from Queens College, CUNY. He completed the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard University and expects to receive his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. John's University. Mr. Budhai has served the Westbury School District as an administrator and superintendent over the past 11 years; prior to that, he was an educator in Mount Vernon and New York City where he began his career. Notably, he is fluent in Spanish and a nationally recognized expert on racial equity and inclusion.

With plans to be an active member in the community, Mr. Budhai affirmed an immediate connection to the Nyack school community stating: *"Thank you, Nyack UFSD, for the opportunity to serve as your next Superintendent of Schools. I am honored and looking forward to building on the existing great work and enhancing the opportunities for our community, families, staff and our scholars."*

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 2020-21 School Year**	**Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year**	**Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year***
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$ 90,684,000	$ 91,388,000	$ 88,575,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		$ 704,000	$ (2,109,000)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.78%	(2.30)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$ 73,020,260	$ 73,020,260	
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)	$ 73,020,260	$ 73,020,260	$ 73,020,260
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$ 1,194,513	$ 888,858	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$ 71,825,747	$ 72,131,402	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$ 71,825,747	$ 72,131,402	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)*	$ 0	$ 0	
Administrative Component	$ 8,504,746	$ 8,759,631	$ 8,599,631
Program Component	$ 72,001,819	$ 73,214,674	$ 72,831,674
Capital Component	$ 10,177,435	$ 9,413,695	$ 7,143,695

*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 3.1% to comply with the law.

DESCRIPTION	**Amount**
Proposition to expend monies from the Capital Reserve Fund 2015 in the amount of $2M to redevelop the 366 N. Highland Avenue property and make site improvements to the existing Nyack High School for the purpose of constructing a new parking lot and reconfiguring the entry/exit driveway at Nyack High School.	No Budget or Tax Levy Impact

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]:	$ 1,227

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 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 18, 2021 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: Hilltop, Depew Manor, 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)

KAREN HUGHES

- 23 year resident
- Software Engineer
- 1 NHS graduate
- 1 NHS student

JOHN DUVAL

- 4 year resident
- Ed. Workforce Development Consultant
- 1 NMS student
- 2 elementary students

DAMON BENDER

- 17 year resident
- Tax & Risk Management Consultant
- 1 NHS student
- 1 NMS student
- 1 elementary student

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 18, 2021 • 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 $ 91,388,000 during the 2021-22 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition Seeking Authorization for Expenditures from the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund

The Nyack Union Free School District has taken title to the premises located at 366 N. Highland Avenue (a/k/a 366 Route 9W), Upper Nyack, New York as approved by the District's voters on January 22, 2021. Having now done so, shall the Board of Education of the School District be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed $2,000,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund 2015 to redevelop the 366 N. Highland Avenue property and make site improvements to the existing Nyack High School property for the purpose of constructing a new parking lot and reconfiguring the entry/exit driveway at Nyack High School, which will include demolition of the existing commercial buildings/structures, site improvements, utility improvements, revised campus entrance(s)/exit(s), interior alterations to the High School, associated work, and related costs, including but not limited to the costs of professional services for this project? **See Candidates for Trustee Positions** (page 5)

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 with the Board of Elections (638-5172) online through the NYS DMV website: https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application; or at the District Hilltop Office (353-7015) until Wednesday, May 12.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

This is for those eligible to vote who cannot vote in person on May 18, 2021. Applications are available from the District Clerk (353-7015) at the Hilltop Building.

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

13A Dickinson Avenue
Nyack, New York 10960

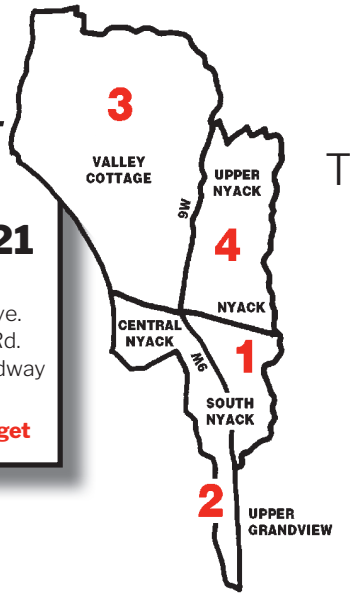
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Monsey, NY
Permit #6013

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

VOTE:
Tuesday, May 18, 2021

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