

Hastings Happenings



SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

Your Guide to the Hastings-on-Hudson School District Budget for 2019-2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Hastings Residents,

This year's vote on the annual school budget and the election of Board of Education trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 21. This year there are four people running for three seats. The four candidates are Alison Andrus, Nanesha Nuñez, Silvia Robles, and Doug Sundheim. Note that two of the three seats are full three-year terms. The third is a "short term," which will end June 30, 2020 (the remainder of the term vacated by Christina Mitchell), which will go to the candidate who comes in third.

In developing this year's budget, we strove to keep costs down and look for efficiencies that will put us in a strong financial position, while also reducing our usage of the reserve fund as a source for revenue. As we look to the future, one of our goals is to maintain the high level of educational services we offer, doing so within the State imposed tax levy cap.

We are fortunate to live in a community where education is a priority and the needs of our children are the driving force of our budgetary decisions. In planning staffing resources, that means that we are cognizant of the community's desire to maintain small class sizes. We are also diligent in providing the necessary resources to try to meet every child where they are at in their learning journey, both in special education and general education.

By finding some efficiencies, we were able to create two sections of ICT K-5 with reduced financial impact. We've also attempted to mitigate increased costs by using our TAs more efficiently. Utilizing a master scheduler for the entire district, we are creating a schedule to allow for a better use of our Teacher Assistants in the ICT classes. In doing so, it will result in reducing the need for 3 - 4 additional teacher assistants that would have been needed to be hired for the three new ICT classes that are necessary.

Other areas of change include the funding of a position at Hillside to provide Math support, the expanding of the role of the Diversity Coordinator by .4 FTE, an additional .6 FTE ENL districtwide, and increasing Reading Support by a .4 FTE.

Budget Highlights

Proposed Budget: **\$51,283,825**

\$21.13 per \$1,000 assessed value

Change from prior year: **\$0.09**

Budget to Budget increase: **1.51%**

Proposed Tax Rate Change: **0.43%**

continued on page 7

NYS STAR PROGRAM

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides homeowners with two types of exemptions that reduce their school tax bills. The Basic STAR exemption is available for owner-occupied primary residences for those with incomes below \$500,000 for STAR credit (\$250,000 or less for the STAR exemption). An Enhanced STAR exemption is available for those 65 or older, with incomes \$86,300 or less for 2019 benefits, or \$88,050 or less for 2020. Annual applications are required for the Enhanced STAR. A taxpayer who is eligible for the Enhanced STAR program may designate an adult third-party to receive an annual notice from the Town of Greenburgh regarding the filing deadline.

All applications must be filed with the Town of Greenburgh Assessor's office by May 1 for the following school year(s). Forms can be found online at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/forms/orpts/star.htm> or by calling the Assessor's Office at (914) 993-1520.

In contrast to recent years, when the exemptions have been shrinking, STAR will be increasing for the coming year. During the 2018-2019 school year, roughly 2,000 households in the district received STAR reductions. For those who applied, the average reduction in tax bills was \$2,024. For Village homeowners, the 2019-20 Basic and Enhanced STAR exemptions should be about \$1,865 and \$4,152 respectively.

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

**2019-20
Estimated Basic
STAR Savings
\$1,865**

BUDGET OVERVIEW

APPROPRIATIONS How the money will be spent:

	ADOPTED 2018-2019	PROPOSED 2019-2020	BUDGET CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$4,468,551	\$4,527,518	\$58,967
INSTRUCTION	\$31,268,192	\$32,034,426	\$766,234
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,792,235	\$1,498,660	-\$293,575
UNDISTRIBUTED	\$12,989,608	\$13,223,221	\$233,613
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$50,518,586	\$51,283,825	\$765,239

REVENUE Where the money comes from:

	ADOPTED 2018-2019	PROPOSED 2019-2020	BUDGET CHANGE
NEW YORK STATE AID	\$5,496,235	\$5,210,000	-\$286,235
MISC. RECEIPTS	\$972,000	\$1,180,000	\$208,000
APPROPRIATED BALANCE	\$2,100,000	\$1,700,000	-\$400,000
RETIREMENT RESERVE	\$750,000	\$450,000	-\$300,000
RESERVE FOR TAX CERTIORARI	\$350,000	\$200,000	-\$150,000
PROPERTY TAXES	\$40,850,351	\$42,543,825	\$1,693,474
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$50,518,586	\$51,283,825	\$765,239

ESTIMATED TAX RATE What it will cost:

It is estimated that the proposed school budget will increase property taxes by 0.43%, bringing the property tax rate to \$21.13 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Change from prior year: \$0.09

VOTING

Tuesday, May 21st

7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Cochran Gymnasium, HHS

In order to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- 18 years old as of May 21, 2019.
- A resident of the District for 30 days prior to May 21, 2019.
- Previously registered or have voted in either a School Election or a General Election held since 2014, or have registered to vote on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in the High School Lobby.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

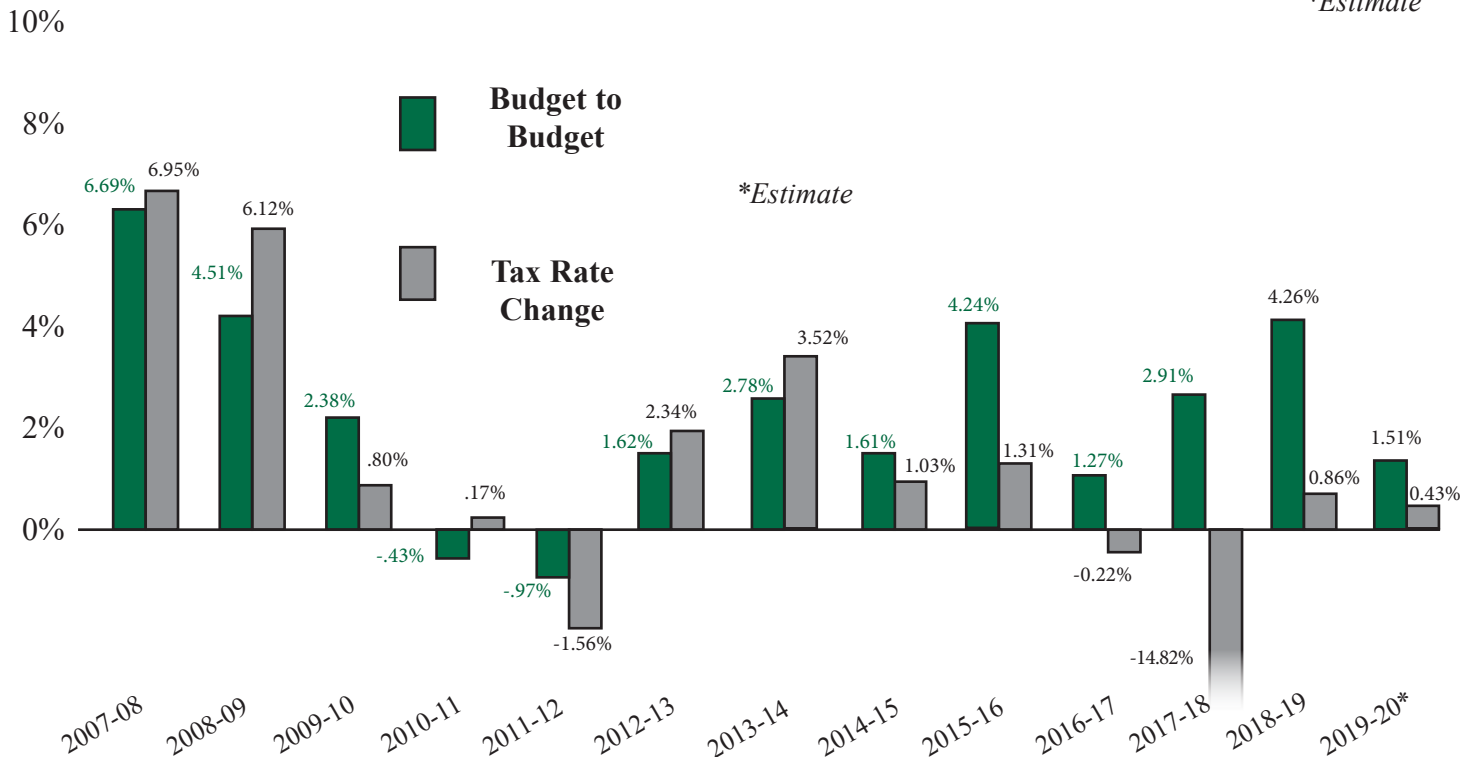
To request an absentee ballot, please contact the District Clerk, Jeanine Genauer at 478-6206.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on May 20, 2019.

BUDGET HISTORY

School Year	Budget	Budget-to-Budget	Tax Rate Change	Tax Rate per \$1,000
2007-08	\$39,936,564	6.69%	6.95%	\$691.70
2008-09	\$41,633,422	4.51%	6.12%	\$734.01
2009-10	\$42,624,795	2.38%	0.80%	\$739.89
2010-11	\$42,441,795	-0.43%	0.17%	\$741.12
2011-12	\$42,028,394	-0.97%	-1.25%	\$731.86
2012-13	\$42,708,466	1.62%	2.34%	\$748.96
2013-14	\$42,895,492	2.78%	3.52%	\$775.34
2014-15	\$44,601,912	1.61%	1.03%	\$783.31
2015-16	\$46,493,447	4.24%	1.31%	\$793.55
2016-17	\$47,082,130	1.27%	-0.22%	\$791.78
2017-18	\$48,454,314	2.91%	-14.82%	\$20.86
2018-19	\$50,518,586	4.26%	0.86%	\$21.04
2019-20	\$51,283,825	1.51%	0.43%*	\$21.13

*Estimate



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- 2020 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 50,518,586	\$51,283,825	\$49,590,351										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$765,239	-\$928,235										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.51 %	-1.84%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$40,850,351	\$42,543,825											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable													
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **													
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy													
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$40,850,351	\$42,543,825	\$40,850,351										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$114,232	\$403,277											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$41,025,074	\$42,345,548											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	40,736,119	\$42,140,548											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$288,955	\$205,000											
Administrative Component	\$4,578,939	\$4,664,870	\$4,464,870										
Program Component	\$41,645,906	\$42,205,287	\$40,711,813										
Capital Component	\$4,293,741	\$4,413,668	\$4,413,668										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in administrative expenditures, program expenditures, equipment, and overtime. 													
<p>** List 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)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount								
Description	Amount												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$1,865

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Hastings on Hudson school district, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Hastings High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Hastings High School Cochran Gym, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Schedule of RESERVE FUNDS

RESERVE TYPE	RESERVE NAME	RESERVE DESCRIPTION *	3/31/19 ACTUAL BALANCE	6/30/19 ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE	INTENDED USE OF THE RESERVE IN 2019-20
Capital	Reserve For Capital	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	\$825,000	\$1,200,000	Security Enhancements, Sidewalks, Elevator Replacement
Repair	Reserve For Repairs	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.	\$200,000	\$200,000	None
Workers' Compensation		To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.			
Unemployment Insurance		To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.			
Reserve for Tax Reduction		For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.			
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	Reserve For Debt	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.	\$20,257	\$20,257	None
Insurance		To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.			
Property Loss		To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.			
Liability		To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.			
Tax Certiorari	Reserve For Tax Certiorari	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements	\$1,111,238	\$950,000	To lower Tax Levy and pay Tax Certiorari Judgments.
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries		To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	Reserve For Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	\$283,356	\$275,000	Vacation payout for employees terminating service.
Retirement Contribution	Reserve For Retirement System Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$1,304,863	\$1,200,000	To pay ERS liabilities.
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		For unpaid taxes due certain city school districts not reimbursed by their city/county until the following fiscal year.			
Other Reserve	Reserve For Retirement System Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS.)		\$200,000	To pay TRS liabilities.

We encourage you to review the enclosed material; the full budget is available on the District website at <http://www.hohschools.org>. Printed copies are available in each of the school offices, the Community Center, Village Hall, and Library. Please be in touch if you have questions—board members and the Superintendent are always available and our contact information can be found on the back page of this leaflet. Finally, we encourage you to remain engaged with the schools and come out to vote on Tuesday, May 21st at the high school's Cochran Gym.

We thank the many people within the district who helped to develop this budget, particularly our District Business Officer Maureen Caraballo and her staff.

Sincerely,

Members of the Board of Education

	ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	% CHANGE
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$50,518,586	\$51,283,925	1.51%
Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	\$40,850,351	\$42,543,825	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$40,850,351	\$42,543,825	4.15%
Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$114,232	\$403,277	
School Tax Levy Limit , Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	\$41,025,074	\$42,345,548	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions	\$40,736,119	\$42,140,548	
Difference: (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	\$288,955	\$205,000	
Public School Enrollment	1,712	\$1,736	1.40%
Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
¹ Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest. ² Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements. ³ For 2018-19, includes any carryover from 2018-19 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.			
	ACTUAL 2018-19	ESTIMATED 2019-20	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,980,819	\$4,100,000	
Assigned Appropriate Fund Balance	\$2,100,000	\$1,700,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$1,672,970	\$2,050,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.31%	4.00%	

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Cochran Gymnasium Hastings High School

VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE

Hastings Happenings

NEWSLETTER OF THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UFSD

Charles T. Wilson, Ed.D.,
Interim Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Cochran Gymnasium
Hastings High School

VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE

**SI QUIERE UNA TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DE ESTE BOLETÍN,
POR FAVOR LLAME AL 914-478-6206**