

The STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET STAYS AT TAX CAP AND CONTINUES TO RETAIN PROGRAMS

The Deer Park School District's proposed 2015-2016 budget of \$107,329,141 balances both fiscal and educational responsibilities while staying within the tax cap.

The district is fiscally sound and possesses healthy reserves, thereby enabling us to present the proposed tax levy increase at 1.64 percent. An addition of \$1.088 million in state aid over last year which includes the restoration of \$669,597 from the Gap Elimination Adjustment has also assisted in maintaining a fiscally prudent, cap-compliant budget that invests in our families' future without cutting programs or burdening the taxpayers.

Throughout the budget process, the district kept the needs of students in mind, ensuring the strength of its curriculum and the retention of all extracurricular and co-curricular programs, including sports and clubs. In technology, we are increasing offerings to prepare students for future careers and alternative pathways to graduation. For the English as a new language program, we will enhance critical programs to meet the state's upcoming implementation of new bilingual and ENL mandates requiring changes in instructional service time, parental notification and student support. Our district has reorganized the instructional program, aligning the ENL curriculum with ELA Common Core requirements, and family orientations and community nights as well as ENL support programs were all expanded to assist students as they develop their English language proficiency. Seeking to remain at the forefront of innovation and changes in educational methods, we are adding sections at the high school to better prepare students for Common Core math exams; Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry will all increase from a period to a period and a half. The community can be proud of this budget, knowing programs have been retained without exceeding the tax cap.

A report of the proposed 2015-2016 budget will be presented to the community at a public hearing in the district office on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 19 from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Deer Park High School.

Sincerely,

The Deer Park Board of Education

Eva J. Demyen, Superintendent of Schools

Marguerite Jimenez, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

This year's budget continues Deer Park's focus on capital improvements that will upgrade facilities and amenities across the district.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the district is proposing several capital projects, including asbestos abatement for floors at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School at a cost of \$360,000, and districtwide repointing of brickwork at \$70,000.

Per a Department of Health mandate, Deer Park will also install new manhole covers with alarms, districtwide, also at \$70,000.

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Deer Park High School

7 a.m.-9 p.m.



POINTS OF FALCON PRIDE

ACADEMICS

- Deer Park was named to the fifth annual AP District Honor Roll for the first time.
- A high school student was named 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program finalist; another was named a Commended Student.
- 77 students were named by the College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars, including six National AP Scholars, 14 AP Scholars with Distinction and seven AP Scholars with Honor.
- A high school senior won the 2015 Suffolk County Math Tournament.
- A high school student was nominated to attend the honors-only Congress of Future Science & Technology Leaders in Boston.
- Six JFK students represented the school at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Elementary School Science Fair.
- The New York DECA State Career Conference in Rochester yielded us three trophies.
- 55 high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- JQA students raised \$6,000 in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon.
- A high school student participated in the Poetry Out Loud regional competition at Stony Brook University.
- The high school marine sciences team won a sportsmanship award at the Bay Scallop Bowl at Stony Brook University.

ATHLETICS

- Senior student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent for collegiate play at schools including the University of Delaware, University of Connecticut, Pace University and Dowling College.
- The girls varsity tennis team finished the season as undefeated League IV champions.
- Several high school athletes earned All-County designation.
- The boys varsity soccer team was League IV champions.
- A Frost eighth-grader finished first on the varsity diving team.
- Football's prestigious Rob Burnett and Bob Collotta awards were won by a senior linebacker.
- The girls varsity soccer team earned the league's Sportsmanship Award and NSCAA Gold Sportsmanship Award.
- The JV volleyball team enjoyed an undefeated 13-0 season.
- The high school hosted its second annual track and field invitational.
- Seven fall teams earned the New York State Scholar/Athlete award.

ARTS

- The district was again named a Best Community for Music Education by NAMM Foundation.
- A senior performed with 2014 All-State Mixed Chorus at the NYSSMA Winter Conference Concert in Rochester.
- A high school student's artwork was selected for the Long Island's Best: Young Artists show at the Heckscher Museum.
- Four high school singers were chosen for 2014 All-County Mixed Chorus and NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Concert.
- 17 JFK students had their artwork displayed at the SCALA Children's Art Show at Babylon's Old Town Hall.
- The high school's International Thespian Society performed at the annual Theatre Night and hosted the district's first Cabaret Night.

Curriculum, Coaching, Core

- A new teacher coaching program has been implemented to coordinate professional development and curriculum writing projects, provide workshops and turnkey training, support teacher and parent curriculum resource development, and demonstrate model lessons. The initiative's collaborative approach provides targeted professional development based on teacher and student need, making technology shifts and upgrades easier to incorporate.
- The high school's new ELA and social studies research paper project is instructing more than 900 students in grades 9-11 on how to conduct research, using similar methodology across grades to harness the power of Google Docs in order to develop topics, evaluate sources, create outlines and write final drafts. This research process significantly enhances student learning, better preparing them for test taking and the rigors of college.
- The Foundations elementary-level spelling program provides a strong research-based approach to spelling and phonics, while in reading, Wilson Reading Interventions training is helping teachers to increase expertise and develop different student-specific levels of intervention. An overall districtwide emphasis on the writing process guides students through the phases of planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing in narrative, informational and persuasive writing modes.
- Math instructional strategies address the three key areas of fluency, problem-solving and concept development, using a systematic approach to improve mastery of new concepts.
- An inquiry-based approach in social studies brings together informational literature, videos, photos, art, maps and statistics to develop a deeper understanding of themes across history.
- Curricula continues to be aligned to the New York State Common Core, including ELA and math for grades pre-K through 11.

Technology Evolves to Keep Pace with the Future

- An ongoing initiative continues to implement districtwide wireless access in each school building.
- Strengthening safety measures, all school buildings are now equipped with a SAVE Hotline, internal and external surveillance cameras, and ISONAS door access control.
- Expanding our computing resources, the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure program enables administrators and pilot teachers to remotely access a simplified version of their Deer Park desktop on any Internet-enabled device, the Raz-Kids web-based K-5 program allows students to use any Internet-enabled device to log in and read books, and Overdrive provides a web-based e-book reader for students at the high school, middle school and JFK, while the Barracuda web filter blocks access to inappropriate websites.
- Districtwide MacBook Air laptop cart upgrades provide access to the most current applications and a wealth of Internet resources, while Google Chromebook cart deployments in the high school and JFK ensure that each student has a device in front of them.
- For the ENL program, the Ellevation software program was acquired to assist with parental notifications and translations for children from as many as 28 different language backgrounds.
- A second green screen studio was installed at JFK, enabling teachers and students to create content, share knowledge and utilize videoconferencing.
- Cost-saving technologies in place districtwide include the Verdiem green IT initiative to reduce PC energy waste and emissions, the Equitrac system to manage and regulate printing, and recycling programs for ink and toner cartridges as well as obsolete or broken tools.

EXPENDITURES

2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2014-2015 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT			
BOE/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$66,631	\$68,933	3.45%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	305,327	318,302	4.25%
FINANCE	1,090,123	1,088,298	-0.17%
STAFF	525,803	549,262	4.46%
CENTRAL SERVICES	6,741,224	7,112,280	5.50%
SPECIAL ITEMS (BOCES, Insurance)	944,870	1,012,473	7.15%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$9,673,978	\$10,149,548	4.92%
INSTRUCTION			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,911,332	4,037,485	3.23%
TEACHING	32,320,842	33,554,106	3.82%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	13,096,046	13,052,885	-0.33%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	54,383	55,270	1.63%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	2,305,440	2,471,241	7.19%
PUPIL SERVICES	6,461,120	7,253,389	12.26%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$58,149,163	\$60,424,376	3.91%
TRANSPORTATION			
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$4,329,276	\$4,536,280	4.78%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$30,062,794	28,609,000	-4.84%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	660,000	625,000	-5.30%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$30,722,794	\$29,234,000	-4.85%
DEBT SERVICES			
TOTAL DEBT SERVICES	\$3,054,153	\$2,984,937	-2.27%
GRAND TOTALS	\$105,929,364	\$107,329,141	1.32%



ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2014-2015 BUDGET	2015-2016 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$4,256,525	\$4,345,402
LOCAL REVENUES	\$3,629,600	\$3,140,100
STATE AID TOTAL	\$26,440,030	\$27,528,461
USE OF RESERVES	\$1,079,023	\$701,607
FUND BALANCE	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
TAX LEVY	\$66,524,186	\$67,613,571
TOTAL REVENUES	\$105,929,364	\$107,329,141

2015-2016 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$107,329,141
Revenues	\$35,013,963
Use of Fund Balance	\$4,000,000
Use of Reserves.....	\$701,607
Tax Levy.....	\$67,613,571
Tax Levy % Increase	1.64%
Projected 2015-2016 Tax Rate.....	\$201.38
Present 2014-2015 Tax Rate.....	\$196.23
Tax Rate Increase	\$5.15
Estimated Tax Rate % Increase	2.62%

*****ECRWSS***
Postal Customer**

ON YOUR BALLOT

PROPOSITION II ELECTION OF THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

- Donna Marie Elliott (Incumbent) Robert Marino (Incumbent) Kristine Rosales (Incumbent)

FAQs

Q: What are a school district budget's main components?

A: There are two accounting segments that comprise the district budget – expenditures and revenues. Expenditures are calculated for instruction, central services, transportation and other categories listed in the “Expenditures” chart. The district derives revenue to fund expenditures from the tax levy, state aid, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from Suffolk County for businesses operating in Deer Park, interest on account balances, BOCES reimbursements and related services as seen on the “Estimated Revenues” chart. The budget must be structured to balance expenditures with anticipated revenues.

Q: What is the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate?

A: The tax levy is the amount of money the Board of Education requests from the Town of Babylon in order to balance the budget after state aid and other revenues are taken into consideration. The tax rate is not set by the Board of Education. The town assessor calculates the assessed valuation of the properties in the Town of Babylon from which the tax rate is calculated. It is important to note that the tax levy limit applies only to the school district's tax levy, not the tax rate or an individual tax bill.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 19, the budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July. If the Board opts not to have a second vote, it can immediately adopt a contingency budget, which would force the district to operate with a zero percent tax levy increase under the state's tax cap law. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district must, by law, adopt at zero percent.

BUDGET HEARING

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the district office boardroom located at 1881 Deer Park Ave.

VOTER INFORMATION

Voter Eligibility and Registration:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 19 budget vote and Board trustee election, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- 18 years of age or older (we encourage eligible students to exercise their right to vote).
- A resident of the Deer Park School District for 30 days prior to vote.
- Registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or registered with the school district.

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. Registration will be held on:

- Tuesday, May 5, Deer Park High School, 4-8 p.m.
- Thursday, May 7, May Moore Primary School, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Monday, May 11, John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, 4-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 13, Deer Park High School, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

For more information, or to obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact the district clerk at 631-274-4013 or visit the district's website, www.deerparkschools.org, to download a form.