

Special Budget Issue 2016-2017

No Increase in School Tax Levy for Proposed Budget, but 60 Percent Approval Required

On Tuesday, May 17, voters in the New Paltz Central School District will go to the polls to participate in the annual school budget vote and election of Board of Education members. This year's ballot will also include a second proposition for the purchase of four large school buses and one car that would be used for transportation runs of up to three students. These vehicle purchases are part of the District's strategic bus replacement plan (see page 6 for more details).

The \$57 million proposal does not include any budget-driven program cuts, and actually enhances some learning opportunities without increasing the tax levy. The tax levy is the total amount of all of the monies collected from all

THIS YEAR'S PROPOSED BUDGET REFLECTS NO INCREASE IN THE TAX LEVY.

of the property taxpayers in the district. The restoration of State Aid that was formerly being withheld through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), along with an increase in Transportation Aid, Building Aid, and Excess Cost Aid, generated sufficient revenue to offset the 3.4 percent change in the budget. The Board of Education also discontinued its membership in the New York State School Boards Association. The elimination of this expense saved the District approximately \$10,000, which allowed additional program restorations without increasing the tax levy.

Supermajority Voter Approval Necessary

Although the budget does not require an increase in the tax levy, a 60 percent voter approval is required. New Paltz was one of about 80 school districts in New York State whose tax levy limit formula generated a negative tax levy figure. For New Paltz, this figure represented a 1.07 percent levy decrease, which would have required \$425,000 of budget reductions. Under the rules of the tax levy limit legislation, to exceed this number (even though there would be no increase in the tax levy), a 60 percent voter approval is required.

When New York State adopted the levy limit legislation in 2012, no one envisioned circumstances in which the formula generated a negative number. In fact, under contingency rules, a district that fails to gain voter approval on its

budget after two attempts is required to adopt a budget that contains a maximum zero percent levy increase. This means that this year's levy increase is the same in both the proposed budget and a contingency budget.

However, under a contingency budget, local control over the types of expenses the District can make is lost. In this year's case, meeting the contingency guidelines would mean the District could not purchase any band instruments, computer hardware, or other equipment.

Staffing Changes for 2016-2017

Change	Reason
+1.0 English as a New Language (ENL) Teacher	New unfunded mandate
+0.3 Physical Education Teacher	To address an increase in class size at the High School
+6.0 Teacher Aides	Increased student need as identified in Individual Education Plans (IEP) for Special Education
-0.1 Treasurer	Less need
-0.2 Occupational Therapist Assistant	Reduced student need as identified in IEPs
+0.4 Secondary Teacher	Restoring 0.2 in both the Middle and High School to lower class size
+0.2 Elementary Foreign Language Teacher	Restoring Grade 1-2 program to every other day
Teacher of Visually Impaired	Position now being filled through BOCES program
BOCES Technology Director and Technology Integration Specialist	Restructuring personnel to support internal Director of Technology position

Superintendent of Schools
Maria C. Rice

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NPHS Presents

Fiddler on the Roof

This past March, the New Paltz High School Drama Club presented four performances of the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. The production featured 63 cast members, and was supported by a technical crew of 16 students and an orchestra of 12, including 10 local music teachers and two student musicians.

Based on stories by Sholom Aleichem and set in the small Russian village of Anatevka in 1905, the plot centers on Tevye, the village milkman and father of five daughters, who attempts to avoid the outside influences which affect his family's lives and strives to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions.

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More About the Budget on Pages 4-7

2 STEAM Learning Flourishes at New Paltz Elementary Schools

Coding Now Being Taught at Duzine and Lenape

Students at Duzine and Lenape Elementary Schools are deepening their understanding of computer science thanks to a new coding program being taught in Grades K-5.



From left: Sage Rochetti, Fiona Walsh, and their classmates from Ann Sheldon's Grade 5 class at Lenape Elementary School work on a coding lesson in the computer lab.

Using an online curriculum developed by Code.org, a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, the young students are able to explore the exciting world of computing at no cost to the District. The courses blend self-guided and self-paced tutorials with "unplugged" activities that require no computer at all.

Michelle Martoni, the District's assistant superintendent for educational programs, explained that the courses, which are taught every other week, align with District learning standards and help reinforce concepts and skills taught

in other subject areas including math, science, and English language arts. "This program is providing an opportunity for students to strengthen important skills such as critical thinking and problem solving," Martoni said. "These are skills that are typically more challenging to develop at a young age." "It's also teaching students to be more independent and helping them build a foundation that will better prepare them for future learning," added technology director Tracey Shaffer, who has been instrumental in getting the coding program off the ground.



Students from Joseph Haas' computer science class at New Paltz High School help Grade 2 students at Duzine Elementary School participate in Hour of Code.

To help kick things off, Grade 2 students at Duzine and Grade 4 students at Lenape took part in Hour of Code, a global campaign designed to help demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. During the activity on December 10 and 11, students from Joseph Haas' computer science classes at New Paltz High School visited the computer labs to work with the younger learners on various coding activities.

"It was great to see the interaction between the older students and the younger students," Duzine Principal Debra Hogencamp said of the event. "The excitement was felt throughout the whole school." Coding is considered a pilot program right now, but based on the reaction of the students and teachers, Martoni is hopeful that it will continue next year and possibly expand to the Middle School.

"We're all very impressed with the program so far and the best part is, there is no additional cost. We're simply taking advantage of existing resources," she said.

After learning about the areas the two engineers specialize in and viewing a video on harnessing the energy of the wind, the class broke into groups and was tasked with creating their own turbines made from CDs, straws, notecards, and tape. Their success was measured by a fan and an energy meter that registered how well their turbines caught the wind and gained momentum.

"STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is so important for our children as they go forward in their educational career. Engineers Day is a wonderful experience for the students at Lenape. They get excited about working on problems given to them by working professionals as they practice their skills in science, technology, art, and mathematics," said Sheldon. "The students learn about the process engineers use to solve everyday problems in a 'hands-on' manner."

Said student Sage Rochetti about the performance of her group's turbine, "I learned that surface area is important, because without enough surface area it won't go fast enough."

Grade 5 students in Ann Sheldon's class celebrated Engineers Day in April by learning about wind energy, engineering design, teamwork, and problem solving during a visit from IBM Senior Software Engineers John Lemek and Tom Hawkins.

Lenape Students Learn about Energy and Electricity from Local Professionals

Michael Otis, an instructor in the Engineering Programs department at SUNY New Paltz, visited his daughter Katelyn's Grade 4 classroom at Lenape Elementary School recently to teach her and her classmates about the exciting world of energy and electricity.

Otis, along with Dr. Reena Dahl, an electrical engineer and assistant professor at SUNY New Paltz, spoke to students in Trina Naclerio and Deborah Martin's integrated co-teach class about what energy is and why we need it. They also discussed the various forms of energy (electrical, heat, potential, chemical, atomic, and kinetic) and the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy and alternating current and direct current electricity.

"We need energy to do work and to play," Otis said. "We also need energy for lighting, for heating, and for cooking. We need energy to live."

A hands-on component to the visit came later, when the students got to build simple circuits using a battery, wire, bulb, and switch.

The Grade 4 teachers were thankful to Otis and Dahle for giving their students real-world examples that helped reinforce concepts that they had already learned in class, as well as some that will be coming up later. The lesson also helped support the New Paltz Central School District's ongoing commitment to strengthening Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) education.

"Having Mr. Otis and Dr. Dahle share their vast knowledge helped our students understand the practical applications of energy and electricity," Naclerio said. "The collaboration provided a hands-on opportunity while encouraging an interest in the engineering field and future technologies."



Ileana Cheruiyot (left) and Katelyn Otis, Grade 4 students in Trina Naclerio and Deborah Martin's integrated co-teach class at Lenape Elementary School, collaborate to build a simple circuit following a special presentation by Katelyn's father, engineer and SUNY New Paltz instructor Michael Otis.

Lenape Students Celebrate Engineers Day

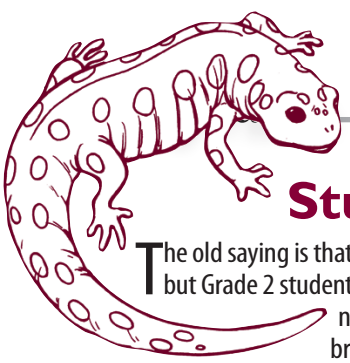


IBM engineers John Lemek (left) and Tom Hawkins test a wind turbine created by Ann Sheldon's Grade 5 students.

Grade 5 students in Ann Sheldon's class celebrated Engineers Day in April by learning about wind energy, engineering design, teamwork, and problem solving during a visit from IBM Senior Software Engineers John Lemek and Tom Hawkins.

success was measured by a fan and an energy meter that registered how well their turbines caught the wind and gained momentum.

"STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering,



Students Go Outside for Hands-On Learning

The old saying is that April showers bring May flowers, but Grade 2 students at Duzine Elementary School now know that March showers bring frogs and salamanders.

Recent assignments were so intriguing that students barely noticed that science, reading, and writing were an integral part of the lessons. In fact, the students got an up-close look at the wildlife living right in their school's backyard thanks to a visit from educator and naturalist Julie Seyfert-Lillis.

Throughout the two-day period, groups joined Seyfert-Lillis as they explored the Mill Brook Preserve that is adjacent to the school's property to search for spotted salamander eggs. The exercise tied into their curriculum on amphibians, insects, and reptiles. Seyfert-Lillis told the students that amphibians are

good because they help to keep the insect population down. During their trek to the preserve's wetlands and a beaver pond, teacher Janice Doherty's class discovered "scat," otherwise known as droppings of carnivorous mammals, as well as feathers of a dead bird, and tree fungus.

After the students reached their destinations, Seyfert-Lillis made her way into the water to gather the jelly-like salamander eggs that she explained were laid in the water. Once the eggs hatched, the young would have gills that would then develop into lungs in adulthood—or "go full circle" in the lifecycle process.

"This is a chance for the students to see what is happening in the real world," Doherty says, adding that using the local, natural surroundings as the context for learning helps to further engage the youngsters.



Gigi Cusanno and her teacher Janice Doherty take a closer look at bird feathers.



Educator and naturalist Julie Seyfert-Lillis shows Janice Doherty's Grade 2 students salamander eggs they found during their recent hike on the Mill Brook Preserve property.



Students measure plants in the "Green Classroom" and record their findings during the annual Garden Festival.

Duzine Students Celebrate Earth Day with Garden Festival

Thanks to hard work and planning on the part of the Green Classroom Committee, Duzine Elementary School

students were able to focus on environmental education on April 21—the day before Earth Day. The outdoor "Green Classroom" was chock full of activities designed to connect the K-2 students to

nature and a sustainable food system, as well as to increase their awareness of environmental issues.

Students reaped the rewards of last year's planting season with the sights and tastes of organic produce from their school's garden while they honed their mapping, geography, and scientific observation skills using rulers, measuring tape, and clipboards to document their findings.

A Recycle Relay Race emphasized the importance of the "Three Rs": Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. The eco-friendly competition encouraged the students to be active and healthy while acting as environmental stewards by reducing waste and pollution, and repurposing items that are no longer needed.



Duzine students are treated to a sampling of fresh asparagus from the school garden.

"With the festivals and the garden, we are trying to encourage cross-curricular relations so that students are seeing seamless connections in the world," says Green Classroom Committee Chair and Grade 1 teacher Matthew Elkin.



Middle School Drama Club Performs THE LITTLE MERMAID, JR.



The NPMS Drama Club took to the stage for four performances of The Little Mermaid, Jr. in February.

The Little Mermaid Voice Actor Surprises Middle School Drama Club

Samuel E. Wright, a theatre actor, voice actor, and singer who is best known as the voice of Sebastian in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, paid a surprise visit to New Paltz Middle School (NPMS) in February, where he met with the cast of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* as they prepared to take the stage for their performance.



Samuel E. Wright (center) chats with Grade 7 student Queen Irving, who played Sebastian in the Middle School's adaptation of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, and Principal Wiesenthal.

Wright, who provided the main vocals to "Under the Sea," which won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, also played the part of Mufasa in the original cast of *The Lion King* on Broadway. In 1993, he co-founded the Hudson Valley Conservatory, a performing arts school located in Walden, New York.

Wright answered questions about how he got the role of Sebastian and how it changed his life. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these kids," said NPMS Principal Dr. Richard Wiesenthal. "They will never forget this."



Samuel E. Wright poses with the cast of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*



Alternative Paths Help High School Students Achieve Success

Students at New Paltz High School are afforded the opportunity to travel various paths to meet their graduation requirements. Some students reach their goals through the traditional classroom model, some immerse themselves in advanced placement courses, and others find themselves wanting to experience a hands-on education in a career area related to their interests.

“Our District’s Guiding Principles call for us to focus on learning and success for all, as well as to empower and create success for each student,” says Superintendent Maria C. Rice. “These principles define our approach to providing diverse opportunities to meet student needs, interests, and abilities.”

NPHS student Augustus (Augie) Scoppa shared the story of his pathway to educational achievement during a recent meeting of school administrators and school board members from across Ulster County.

Augie says his success came when he enrolled in the Ulster BOCES Cisco Networking/Computer Repair Program and was inspired by the problem-solving component of the course.

“The hands-on learning environment suited me better than the traditional classroom,” he says. “I always liked computers and knew that I wanted to learn more about the different operating systems. What better way to do that than by taking them apart?”

Once he completed his first year in the two-year program, Augie realized exactly what he wants to do when he gets older, which is to become a Linux System Administrator for a large corporation (a career that has the earning power of between \$68,000 and \$96,000 annually). Through his Cisco program, he says he has learned what steps he needs to take to achieve his dream job. He has wasted no time working towards this goal either, and recently became a certified PC Pro Technician.

In the fall, Augie plans to study Network Administration at SUNY Ulster. After completing two years there, he would like to attend a four-year college. His hope is to eventually get his doctoral degree.

Besides staying on top of his academics, Augie is also the vice president of the Ulster BOCES chapter of SkillsUSA and the treasurer of the Ulster BOCES National Technical Honor Society.

Ulster BOCES Cisco Networking instructor Kathy Landers said Augie is a very driven student. “No matter what kind of challenges are thrown at Augie, he always rises to the occasion. I couldn’t be prouder,” she said.

Cisco Networking is one of 27 different programs that New Paltz students can participate in at Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center through a partnership with other schools in Ulster County. The programs are open to high school juniors and seniors.

“We are very proud of Augie and his classmates who are also pursuing their college and career goals at the Career & Technical Center,” added Rice.



NPHS and Ulster BOCES student Augustus Scoppa

Message from the Board of Education

Dear fellow community members:

It seems like each year our budget development process presents us with new and unique circumstances. This year is no exception.

On April 6, the Board adopted a proposed budget that does not increase the tax levy. Even though the budget carries a zero percent tax levy increase, we find ourselves in the unusual position of seeking a 60 percent supermajority voter approval.

New Paltz was one of approximately 80 school districts that have a negative tax levy limit calculation under the State’s tax levy limit formula for a simple majority budget approval. A low Consumer Price Index and the impact of PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements on our budget contributed to this year’s negative calculation.

Making the reductions needed to reach the (1.07) levy decrease would have resulted in \$425,000 of budget cuts that would have impacted student program levels. Instead, the Board chose to keep its focus on preserving our educational program and voted to seek a supermajority voter approval for a zero percent levy change.

Although there is no increase to the tax levy, voting is still very important. Since the levy exceeds the formula calculation, 60 percent voter approval is required. In addition, without voter approval after two attempts, a contingency budget is mandated. Contingency rules allow a zero percent increase in the levy, which the proposed budget already meets. However, when operating under a contingency budget, New York State also dictates that new band instruments, computer hardware, or other equipment purchases would be prohibited. Your participation lends your voice to the decision of how the budget is spent.

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, and students, we want to thank our community for participating in the important decisions that help chart the course of the New Paltz Central School District. We are very proud of our school district. Our students excel, our teachers and administrators are exceptional, and our support staff members are some of the most dedicated you will find. Our community values education and keeps informed and involved. This creates an educational environment that allows students to thrive.

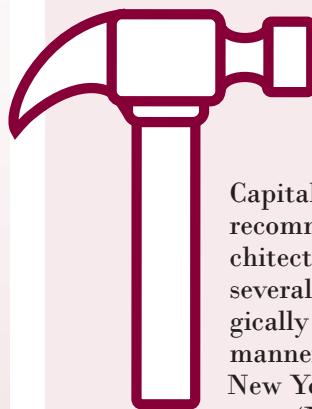
Please take the time to review the details of the budget and contact our Assistant Superintendent Richard Linden with any questions. He can be reached at 845.256.4010 or by emailing rlinden@newpaltz.k12.ny.us.

We would also like to remind everyone that our polling hours have been extended to 7 AM to 9 PM to make voting more convenient for our community.

Sincerely,

Brian Cournoyer
Board President

Maria C. Rice
Superintendent of Schools



Capital Project Update

Much progress has been made on the District’s Capital Project work. Upon the recommendation of the District’s architects, the project was broken into several smaller projects that strategically grouped work together in a manner that would expedite gaining New York State Education Department (NYSED) approval.

This strategy has worked to our advantage with regard to both the scheduling and budgeting of the projects that have gained approval to date. There has been a dramatic increase in community approvals of school construction projects across New York State in the past year, which created a backlog of projects at NYSED and increased the demand on the construction industry. Since our architects moved quickly, many of our projects were submitted ahead of this influx, which has enabled us to secure approval and solicit bidders at an optimal time.

Currently, bids for five of the 11 projects have been awarded, and have come in about \$1.1 million under the estimated budget. Project schematics for five additional projects

are currently at NYSED awaiting review and approval. When approval is given, our professionals will again provide guidance on the best time to solicit bids.

Roofing work is on schedule to begin in May. Much of the High School, Duzine, and Middle School roof will be replaced at this time. The remainder of the Middle School roof replacement will take place when the major building renovations are scheduled.

The folding partition doors at the High School were completed some time ago, and the Lenape doors will be officially finished after some remaining loose ends are wrapped up. The new septic system at the Transportation Center is also complete and just awaiting the finalization of some punch list items.

The financial impact of the project, which consisted of a one-time, one percent increase in the tax levy, was already incorporated into last year’s tax bills. There will be no further tax increases related to the project.

“We are very pleased with the progress that has been made,” said Superintendent Maria C. Rice. “Everyone involved should be commended for his or her collaboration, efficiency, and focus on results.”

Budget Summary

Expenditure Budget	2015-2016 Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget	Change from 2015-2016	Comments
Board of Education	\$36,000	\$34,500	-\$1,500	Savings from no capital project vote
Superintendent's Office	\$283,200	\$288,200	\$5,000	Cost of superintendent, secretary, and office expenses
Business Office	\$476,700	\$486,700	\$10,000	Cost of business office staff and office expenses (-0.1 Support Staff)
Personnel, Legal, Printing, Postage	\$326,600	\$361,500	\$34,900	Increase in personnel ads and records management
Insurance, BOCES Admin Fees	\$643,100	\$659,500	\$16,400	Increase in BOCES administrative fees
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$396,400	\$413,000	\$16,600	Includes assistant superintendent, secretary, and staff development
Principals' Offices	\$1,372,000	\$1,409,600	\$37,600	Reflects two years of salary increases
Special Education	\$136,700	\$139,700	\$3,000	Contractual salary increase
Employee Benefits	\$1,327,700	\$1,372,300	\$44,600	Increase in health insurance costs
TOTAL - Administration	\$4,998,400	\$5,165,000	\$166,600	3.3% Increase
Regular Instruction, AIS, and ESL	\$14,444,500	\$14,703,700	\$259,200	Contractual salary increases, restoration of teachers, and required unfunded ESL mandates (+ 1.9 Teachers)
Occ Ed, Summer School	\$818,900	\$814,000	-\$4,900	Savings from BOCES Occ Ed costs
Special Education	\$7,480,700	\$7,944,100	\$463,400	Increase due to student needs (+5.8 Support Staff)
Libraries and Ed TV	\$397,700	\$390,500	-\$7,200	Shifting of library clerk schedules
Computer-Assisted Instruction	\$1,110,300	\$1,159,000	\$48,700	Add director, eliminate technologist position
Guidance, Health, Psychologists	\$1,586,000	\$1,596,000	\$10,000	Contractual salary increases
Extracurricular and Sports	\$402,500	\$412,400	\$9,900	Retain all sports & student clubs
Transportation	\$3,826,300	\$3,975,800	\$149,500	Increase Special Education runs, extra trips, and substitutes
Employee Benefits	\$13,194,700	\$13,894,500	\$699,800	Increase in health insurance costs
Interfund Transfers	\$385,000	\$360,000	-\$25,000	Decrease in transfers to cafeteria fund
TOTAL - Program	\$43,646,600	\$45,250,000	\$1,603,400	3.7% Increase
Facilities and Operations	\$2,602,500	\$2,742,000	\$139,500	Increase in various repair budget lines
Judgments and Claims	\$6,000	\$32,000	\$26,000	Increase due to additional claims
School Buses	\$0	\$0	\$0	Four large buses and one car will be in separate proposition (\$480K = 1.2% tax levy)
Employee Benefits	\$629,600	\$668,200	\$38,600	Increase in health insurance costs
Debt Service	\$3,226,900	\$3,142,800	-\$84,100	Decrease from bus BANS (\$480K would be replaced if bus prop is approved)
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	No change
TOTAL - Capital	\$6,465,000	\$6,585,000	\$120,000	1.9% Increase
Total Budget	\$55,110,000	\$57,000,000	\$1,890,000	3.4%

% BUDGET INCREASE ==> 3.4%

Total Staff Restorations: 7.6%
% Staff Restorations: 2.0%

Revenue Budget	2015-2016	2016-2017	\$ Change	Comments
Tax Levy including STAR	\$39,635,000	\$39,635,000	\$0	
Other Revenue - includes BOCES refund, Interest, Charges to other districts, Rentals, Donations, Admissions	\$946,000	\$1,055,000	\$109,000	
State Aid	\$13,529,000	\$15,310,000	\$1,781,000	Includes all GEA monies restored
Federal Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Revenues	\$54,110,000	\$56,000,000	\$1,890,000	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	
Revenues and Fund Balance	\$55,110,000	\$57,000,000	\$1,890,000	3.4%

% TAX LEVY INCREASE ==> 0.00%

A separate vehicle proposition for \$480K (4 Large Buses, 1 Car) would result in an additional tax levy increase of 1.2%.

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$55,110,000	\$57,000,000	\$57,000,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-2017 School Year		\$1,890,000	\$1,890,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.0%	0.0%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$39,635,000	\$39,635,000	
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)	\$39,635,000	\$39,635,000	\$39,635,000
F. Permissible Exclusions	\$1,850,600	\$1,962,977	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$37,784,400	\$37,247,023	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$37,784,400	\$37,672,023	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	-\$425,000	
Administrative Component	\$4,998,400	\$5,165,000	\$5,165,000
Program Component	\$43,646,600	\$45,250,000	\$45,250,000
Capital Component	\$6,465,000	\$6,585,000	\$6,585,000

*Assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: The district cannot purchase any band instruments, computer hardware, or other equipment.

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):

Description	Amount
2016-2017: SCHOOL BUSES (Four large buses, one car)	\$480,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ \$673

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at New Paltz High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM prevailing time in the New Paltz High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

About Proposition 2: School Bus Replacement

More than 2,000 New Paltz students both start and end their school day on a school bus. The strategic bus replacement program was implemented in the 2003-2004 school year as a way to manage the bus fleet's lifecycle, allowing the District to maintain the operational and safety standards of the vehicles without causing spikes in the cost to taxpayers. The goal of the program is to remove buses from service as they age, thereby reducing maintenance and

repair costs and providing insurance benefits in the unfortunate event of an accident. Newer buses also meet current environmental standards.

For 2016-2017, the Board of Education has continued to focus on its strategic bus replacement program. This year, the bus replacement has been structured in the form of Proposition 2, which asks voter permission to purchase four large buses and one car that would be used for small transportation runs of only a few students.

The total cost of the proposition is \$480,000, and the purchase would result in an additional 1.2 percent tax levy increase.

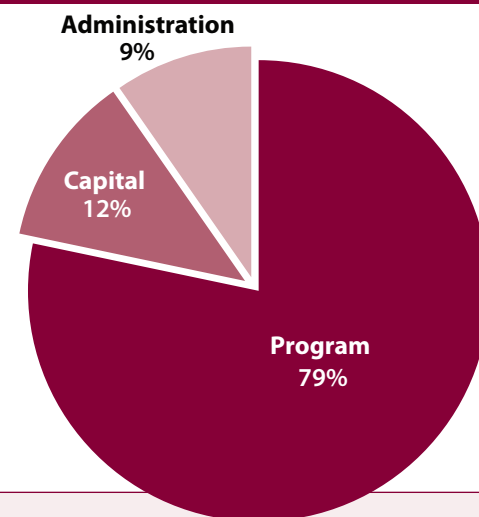
Example of Impact of Proposition 2 (Buses) on Tax Bill

Amount of 2015 School Tax Bill	1.2% Tax Levy Increase	
\$2,000	\$2/month	\$24/year
\$4,000	\$4/month	\$48/year
\$6,000	\$6/month	\$76/year
\$8,000	\$8/month	\$96/year
\$10,000	\$10/month	\$120/year



VOTE TUESDAY MAY 17, 2016
7 AM - 9 PM at New Paltz High School

The Three-Part Budget

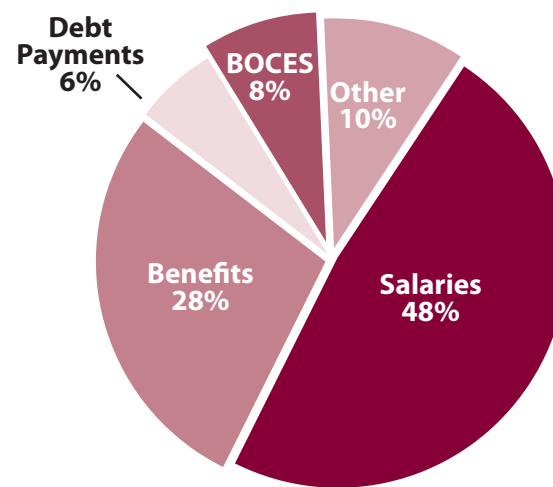


Administration Budget: This section includes school building offices and central administration, along with clerical support, salaries and benefits of all school administrators, Board of Education expenses for planning, and other administrative activities.

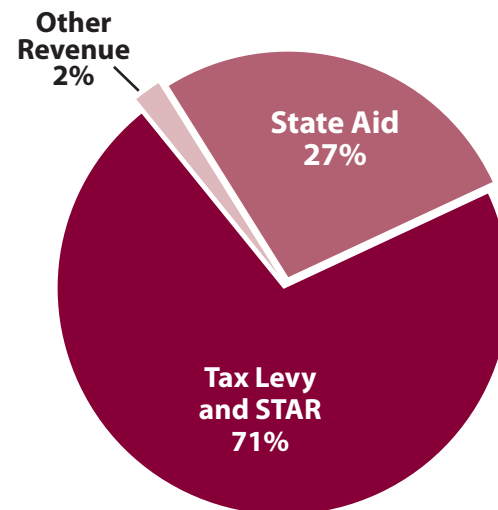
Capital Budget: This area refers to all facilities costs such as custodial salaries and benefits, maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, custodial and maintenance supplies, utility costs for heating, electricity, communication, water, and annual capital project debt service.

Program Budget: This portion covers classroom supplies and equipment, teacher salaries and benefits, all related educational costs, and costs for student transportation services. This program area makes up the largest portion of the budget.

Expenditures



Revenues



Sample Ballot

Voters are encouraged to allow extra time to cast their ballots on May 17 because of a change in voting procedures. This year, the District was required to replace the mechanical, lever-operated machines used in the past with optical scan voting machines.

Voters will now use a privacy booth to complete a paper ballot, which is then inserted into an optical scan machine. Assistance will be available in the event of a jammed ballot or other difficulty.

While our poll workers have been trained on the new process and we expect a smooth transition, we do appreciate voters' patience as we initiate the new balloting method.

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No Increase in School Tax Levy for Proposed Budget, but 60 Percent Approval Required

Why do we need 60 percent approval if the levy increase for both the proposed budget and a contingency budget is zero?

To retain local control over how our tax dollars are spent within the budget, the supermajority voter approval is necessary. Even though the levy amount would not change under a contingency budget, New York State contingency rules dictate that no money can be used for equipment purchases. This means that band instruments, computer hardware, and other equipment purchases would be prohibited.

Tax Impact

This year's tax levy has no increase. The school district projects the tax levy increase, but not the actual tax rate. Your actual tax rate is impacted by a variety of factors, including changes in the assessments of all of the properties on your town's tax rolls and/or the equalization rates from New York State (which balances assessments through a formula). These factors are determined by the towns, villages, and New York State, and are not made available to the District until August.

Voter Eligibility

All qualified voters may vote on the school budget. A qualified voter is any U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, who has resided in the District for 30 days or more prior to the day of the vote. If you are registered with the Ulster County Board of Elections, you are automatically registered to vote in school elections. If you are not, you may still register with the school district to participate on the day of the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are also available for any qualified voter who is unable to make it to the polls on the day of the vote. For additional information on voter eligibility and absentee ballots, contact the District Clerk at 845-256-4031.

VOTE TUESDAY
MAY 17, 2016
7 AM - 9 PM at
New Paltz High School

Election of Board of Education Members You may vote for any two (2) of the candidates listed or write in the name of another person(s) in the spaces provided.

Sophia Skiles **Matthew Williams**

IF YOU VOTE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED

OFFICE	BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS (Vote for Any Two)	
A	Sophia Skiles <input type="radio"/>	Matthew Williams <input type="radio"/>
Write-in	Write-in	Write-in

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE NEW PALTZ CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION, MAY 17, 2016 Ballot ID: 1

INSTRUCTIONS:
 (1) Mark only with a writing instrument provided by the Board of Elections.
 (2) To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the candidate, like ●.
 (3) To vote for a person whose name is not printed on this ballot write or stamp his or her name on a blank "Write-In" area under the names of the candidates for that office.
 (4) Any other mark or writing, or any erasure made on this ballot outside the voting ovals or blank spaces provided for voting will void this entire ballot.
 (5) Do not overvote. If you select a greater number of candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, your ballot will be void for that public office or proposition.

STATE OF NEW YORK
 (6) If you tear, or deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and obtain another. Do not attempt to correct mistakes on the ballot by making erasures or cross-outs. Erasures or cross-outs may invalidate all or part of your ballot. Prior to submitting your ballot, if you make a mistake in completing the ballot or wish to change your ballot choices, you may obtain and complete a new ballot. You have a right to a replacement ballot upon return of the original ballot.
 (7) Review both sides of the ballot.
 (8) Propositions appear on the reverse side of the ballot. To vote yes or no on a proposal fill in the oval that corresponds to your vote.
 (9) After completing the ballot, insert it into the ballot scanner and wait for the notice that your ballot has been successfully scanned. If no such notice appears, seek the assistance of an election inspector.
NOTE: Do not let anyone take your ballot to the scanner.

PROPOSITION #1	PROPOSITION #2
Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District be authorized to expend \$57,000,000.00 which will be required for school district purposes for the year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 (The Budget), and to levy the necessary tax therefor.	Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, be authorized to purchase four 65-passenger or larger school buses at a cost of \$112,500 each, for a maximum estimated cost of \$450,000; and one 4 to 7 passenger vehicle at a cost of \$30,000 for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$480,000; and that the sum of \$480,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments, as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued.
YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>

Proposition #1 "Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District be authorized to expend \$57,000,000.00 which will be required for school district purposes for the year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 (The Budget), and to levy the necessary tax therefor."

Proposition #2 "Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, be authorized to purchase four 65-passenger or larger school buses at a cost of \$112,500 each, for a maximum estimated cost of \$450,000; and one 4 to 7 passenger vehicle at a cost of \$30,000 for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$480,000; and that the sum of \$480,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments, as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued."

Top of the Class of 2016

Darren Tsai is New Paltz High School's 2016 valedictorian and Sarah Rubin is its salutatorian.

With a GPA of 101.4, Darren is the captain of the NPHS Mock Trial Club, co-president of his class, and co-president of the Engineering Club. He has also participated on the New Paltz Science Olympiad Team and is a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to excelling in the classroom, Darren is first trumpet for the NPHS Band, which includes Marching and Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble, and has been selected for All-County Band for four consecutive years. He has also written for the school paper, *The Maroon*.

Darren was a member of the Cross Country and Track teams beginning in Middle School and all the way up to Varsity level in High School. This year he was unable to participate due to injuries and time constraints.

A believer in giving back, Darren was part of AID (Assisting Individuals with Disadvantages) Summer, where he and 420 other volunteers went to Taiwan this past summer to teach English to disadvantaged

youth. This experience, coupled with volunteer work with the Elting Memorial Library Chess Club teaching children the basics of chess and how to think analytically, introduced him to his love of teaching.

Darren is planning to attend Cornell University, where he will most likely major in Computer Science. He is currently working as a survey/site manager and analyst for Ted Clark & Associates. Darren says, "It's a great honor being selected valedictorian. It feels like the culmination of years of hard work and an affirmation of the time I've spent trying to achieve this."

With a GPA of 100.8, Sarah Rubin is a student athlete who has spent her most of her childhood and her entire high school career playing competitive softball. She has earned multiple athletic awards, including the Mid-Hudson Athletic League Senior Scholar Athlete Award this year.

Sarah is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in the Science Olympiad, where, this

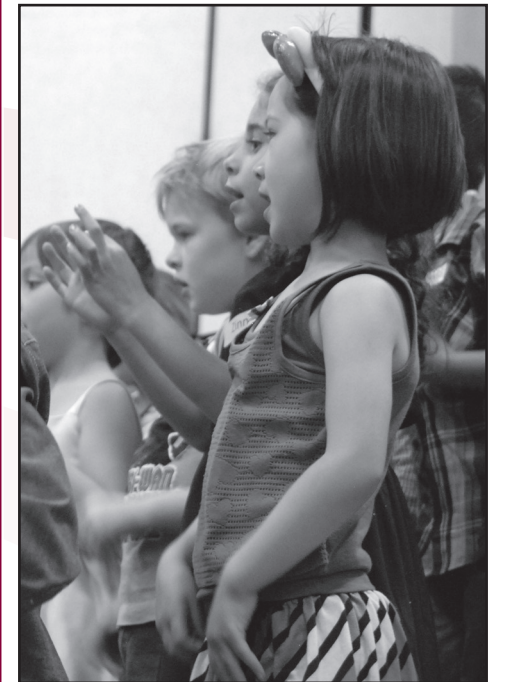


year, both she and Darren earned medals in cell biology. She also received the University of Rochester's Xerox award.

During her first two years of high school, the salutatorian played clarinet and was faced with choosing between AP Computer Science and Band. Her love of technology and coding won out. Sarah will be studying molecular engineering at the University of Chicago. She plans on attending graduate school or medical school upon completion of her undergraduate degree.

Sarah's extracurricular interests include teaching Hebrew school classes and tutoring NPHS classmates. She is gaining work experience at Wallkill View Farms. "I am extremely honored to be the salutatorian of NPHS. I honestly believe it's more of a reflection of the community and support system I have grown up with," she says.

Duzine Celebrates Arts and Music



Duzine Elementary School students were decked out in their spring finest to sing songs and show off their artwork to family and friends at the 6th Annual Art & Music Celebration on April 28. The students were treated to arts and crafts at the "Creation Station," and snacks courtesy of the PTA, before they took to the stage to perform songs including *Chee Chee Cha*, *She'll Be Comin' Round The Mountain*, and *El Burrito Enfermo*. A good time was had by all!

Fiddler on the Roof

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Scenes from this spring's High School performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and the full cast.



The role of Tevye was played by Jeremy Brownstein, with Meaghan McElroy portraying his long-suffering wife, Golde. Other primary cast members included Maddie Finnegan as Tzeitel, Olivia Provaci as Hodel, Tiana Ramic as Chava, Adam Joyner as Motel, and Gil Sweeney as Perchik. Choir director and NPHS musical alumnus Nicole Foti has acted as musical director for the school's shows for the past six years. Kate Weston has choreographed for NPHS for 14 years and is also an NPHS musical alum. Karyn Morehouse, also an alum, returned after graduating college, and has been Ms. Owen's assistant director for the past 10 years. Dan Young has been involved as rehearsal pianist/pit conductor for 13 of the past 16 shows. Theater parents ran the box office, concessions, provided a lunch on all-day rehearsal day, and helped to construct and paint the set with the crew.

This is Drama Club advisor Nancy Owen's 16th musical at NPHS, where she also directs a fall drama/comedy each year. Her team also puts together "The Last Act" each year, where all participating seniors return for a last performance at the school, are recognized for their work, and are given honorariums/scholarships.

"Working in the theater has helped me to find my inspiration. I want to pass that experience on to these young performers," shares Owen. "It's a great opportunity for them to develop their talents, learn a lot about themselves, and share the journey with their peers. It sounds trite but you really do create a 'family' when you are doing the play."

Brownstein felt that the preparation for the part of Tevye was intense, but familiar. "Last year, I had the lead role in our production of

Big Fish, so I felt more prepared to handle the pressure of such a large part." Asked how he prepared for this show, he recited this mantra: "Take it slow, learn your lines over the months, and then do your job and rely on the rest of the excellent cast to do theirs."

