

HUDSON Highlights

VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 17**

12 – 9 P.M.

Polling Locations:

**Please note that polling locations have been consolidated at the request of the Board of Elections.*

District 1: City of Hudson –
JLE Primary School
360 State Street, Hudson

District 2: Greenport,
Stottville/Stockport, Ghent –
**Greenport Pumper
Company No. 1 Fire House**
216 Green Street, Hudson

District 3: Claverack,
Livingston, Taghkanic –
A.B. Shaw Fire House
67 NY-23, Claverack

Visit www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com for information about voter eligibility and absentee ballots.

Proposed Budget Includes Expanding Student Supports and Opportunities, Tax Refund

On Tuesday, May 17, the Hudson City School District community will vote on a school budget for the 2016-17 school year, as well as three open seats for the Board of Education (see page 3 for information about Board vacancies).

The \$45,910,371 budget would increase the tax levy by 2.15 percent. This increase is equal to the maximum allowable tax levy, meaning that it is within New York State's Property Tax Cap (see page 3 for details). Therefore, qualifying residents would receive a refund check from NYS.

Despite a 0.53% decrease in state funding, there will be no cuts to staff or programs.

The most notable increases to the budget are contractual obligations and expanding student supports and programs. The proposed budget includes the addition of an English as New Language (ENL) instructor as well as an Academic Intervention Services Reading Specialist, both of which are mandated services. The budget would add a dually certified English/Special Education teacher at the secondary level, as well as a part-time music teacher to accommodate the growing student interest in these programs.

In addition to instructors, the proposed budget includes a certified social worker for the Hudson Jr./Sr. High School to further assist students with counseling, the transition to high school and managing various life challenges.

Currently, more than 70% of students at

M.C. Smith Intermediate School have access to Chromebooks. The District aims to reach 100% of students at MCSIS having access to Chromebooks in the upcoming school year, and every student (Grades 3-12) having access to them in the next few years.

The District continues to take advantage of available grants and savings opportunities to enhance educational programs without affecting the general budget. For example, the Hudson Bluehawk Afterschool Program is grant-funded and serves hundreds of students. Also, many students participate in Power of Peace, a program that develops self-awareness, acceptance and tolerance. This social-emotional program has been implemented for the last few years with positive results seen in the school's climate and culture, and it aligns with updated district goals adopted by the Board in January 2016.

"Since introducing the Destination Graduation goals in 2012, the district graduation rate has increased from 59% to 77%, and the main goal of this year's budget is to continue our progress," said Superintendent, Dr. Maria Lagana Suttmeier. "Although each year brings its own set of challenges, this upward trend provides validation that our students, staff, parents and community partners are putting in the time to ensure the success of our students and continued realization of our Destination Graduation goals."



These Chromebook laptops provide students with the means to conduct research in the classroom, remotely work together on projects, and easily connect with teachers and peers outside of the classroom.

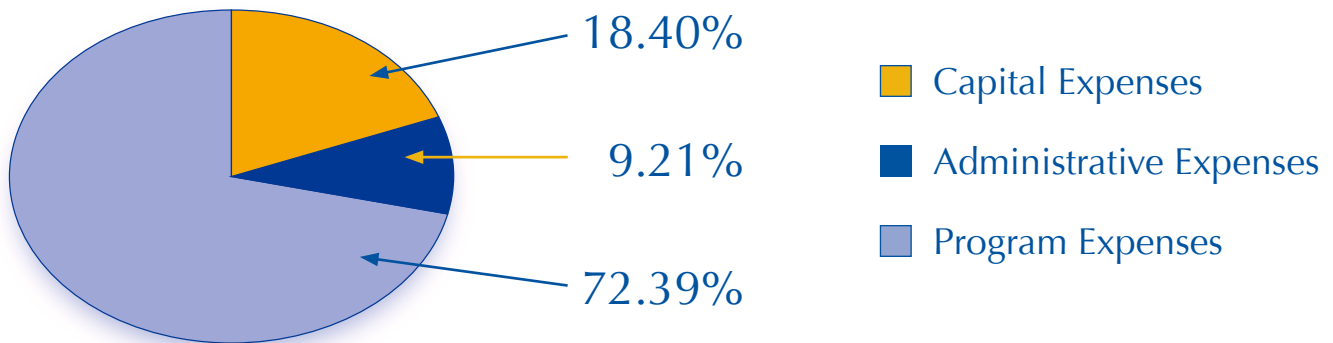
Budget Helps Qualify Homeowners for Refund

Since Hudson CSD is within the maximum allowable tax levy increase, some residents will be eligible for a NYS refund check due to the new STAR Property Tax Rebate law (see page 3). This tax relief program reimburses qualifying homeowners for increases in local property taxes in districts that remain within the NYS Property Tax Cap and meet efficiency requirements.

To qualify for this tax rebate, homeowners must already receive the STAR Property Tax Exemption. The property must be the homeowner's primary residence and the total household income must be \$200,000 or less.

For information about the program, please visit the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance's website (www.tax.ny.gov).

EXPENSES	2015-2016 Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget	Increase/ Decrease	Percent of Budget
ADMINISTRATION:				
Board of Education	\$ 29,690	\$ 20,530	\$ (9,160)	0.04%
Central Administration	229,427	234,016	4,589	0.51%
Finance Services	423,283	431,749	8,466	0.94%
Legal/Public Information	129,574	132,165	2,591	0.29%
Human Resources	71,460	72,889	1,429	0.16%
Central Services	570,864	562,132	(8,732)	1.22%
Supervisory/Improvement	1,696,515	1,709,165	12,650	3.72%
Fringe Benefits	1,088,298	1,070,435	(17,863)	2.33%
Administrative Total	\$ 4,239,111	\$ 4,233,082	\$ (6,029)	9.21%
PROGRAM:				
Legal	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	—	0.07%
Regular Instruction	10,181,898	10,489,174	307,276	22.85%
Special Education	6,917,474	7,027,461	109,987	15.31%
Occupational Education	634,000	588,610	(45,390)	1.28%
Library/Technology	610,588	610,588	—	1.33%
Student Services	1,339,238	1,339,238	—	2.92%
Transportation	2,067,564	2,108,915	41,351	4.59%
Community Recreation	31,450	31,450	—	0.07%
Fringe Benefits	10,639,103	11,003,274	364,171	23.97%
Program Total	\$32,451,315	\$33,228,711	\$ 777,396	72.39%
CAPITAL:				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 2,786,398	\$ 2,799,286	\$ 12,888	6.10%
Certiorari/Judgments	100,000	100,000	—	0.22%
Debt Service	4,918,388	4,538,388	(380,000)	9.88%
Fringe Benefits	981,909	1,010,905	28,996	2.20%
Capital Total	\$ 8,786,695	\$ 8,448,579	\$ (338,116)	18.40%
TOTAL	\$45,477,121	\$45,910,371	\$ 433,250	100.00%



REVENUES	2015-2016 Revenues	2016-2017 Proposed Revenues	Increase/ Decrease	Percent of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$21,468,886	\$21,930,871	\$461,985	47.77%
State Aid	22,071,695	21,922,420	(149,275)	47.75%
Other Revenue	1,936,540	2,057,080	120,540	4.48%
TOTAL	\$45,477,121	\$45,910,371	\$433,250	100.00%

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What will happen with the funds from the sale of the Claverack School?

In accordance with state law, the funds received from the sale of the Claverack School will be put toward existing debt service. Schools are not allowed to “profit” from the sale of real estate.

Is there a property tax freeze credit this year?

The property tax rebate (mentioned on page 1) replaces the more well-known property tax freeze credit that provided property tax rebate checks to eligible taxpayers in 2014 and 2015. This rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019. Because the District is tax cap compliant, some taxpayers are eligible for the rebate. Taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption and make less than \$200,000 a year should receive a rebate check for \$185 from New York State in the Fall (in accordance with the NYS Executive Budget passed in April).

How does the Capital Project affect the budget?

The Capital Project funding is separate and apart from the annual

school budget. The only place the Capital Project benefits the annual school budget is in the 8-step calculation that determines the maximum allowable tax levy. The Capital Project counts as an exclusion in the calculation. Please refer to the tax cap box below.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the budget is not approved by the required margin on May 17, the District may submit the original budget or submit a revised budget to the voters on June 21, or adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0 percent increase in tax levy). If the resubmitted/revised budget proposal is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt the contingency budget, which could result in cuts to programs and/or staff.

What if I have questions?

Additional information about the budget is posted on the district’s website, www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com. For further information, please call the District Office at 828-4360, Ext. 2100.



Bard Citizen Science, a science literacy program undertaken by all first year Bard College students, visits the Intermediate School each year. The Bard students helped these 6th graders work on an experiment to understand the states of matter.

Board of Education Candidates...

Residents will also vote for three open seats on Hudson CSD’s Board of Education. There is one 5-year term (effective 5/17/2016), one 3-year term (effective 06/30/2016) and one partial term seat (effective 5/17/2016 through 6/30/2018). To learn more about the BOE candidates, visit: www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget

Why is a 2.15% increase within the tax cap?

When New York State passed the Property Tax Cap law, elected officials often referred to the new law as a “2% tax cap.”

But the law they passed requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy, which doesn’t always work out to 2%. Very few school districts actually have a 2% tax cap because the formula causes the cap to vary from district to district. A school district is considered tax cap compliant as long as it does not increase its tax levy by more than the amount determined by the 8-step calculation.

CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Here are some examples of what our schools will continue to provide students next year:

JLE Primary School

- TumbleBooks, an online database with hundreds of animated eBooks
- JLE Summer Academy to provide kindergarten tutorial support for students who need it before September
- COMET program to provide early counseling and allow children to better adjust to the school culture
- Additional aide support during lunch and recess to keep children safe and engaged in physical activity

MCSIS

- Science 21, a hands-on science curriculum that allows students to learn advanced concepts and prepares them for secondary-level work
- Hudson Reads mentoring program
- Over 25 unique clubs and activities, including clubs for the school newspaper, art, drama, Scrabble®, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, jazz band, & tech club
- Access to Chromebooks for enriched learning and research

Hudson Jr./Sr. High School

- Extracurricular activities such as the school newspaper, art club, robotics team, mock trial, environmental club & Envirothon competition
- School garden opportunities
- Modified, junior varsity and varsity athletics (Go Bluehawks!)
- Access to Chromebooks for enriched learning and research
- Advanced placement and college level courses

District-wide

- Professional development opportunities for teaching staff to enhance instructional methodologies
- Increased student access to online resources such as extensive digital libraries
- PBIS events and rewards
- After school programs for extended learning time (includes low performance and enrichment programs)
- Key student services such as counseling, bullying prevention and social skill building



Hudson City School District
 215 Harry Howard Avenue
 Hudson, New York 12534

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 Sumayyah Shabazz
 Michelle Camacho

www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com

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AVERAGE TAX IMPACT (NO STAR EXEMPTION)

Town	Assessed Home Value	Tax Paid (2015-16)	2.15% Levy Increase*	Annual Difference
Hudson	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,681.79	\$ 1,717.95	\$ 36.16
Claverack	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,697.98	\$ 1,734.48	\$ 36.51
Ghent	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,697.96	\$ 1,734.47	\$ 36.51
Greenport	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,697.97	\$ 1,734.47	\$ 36.51
Livingston	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,825.77	\$ 1,865.02	\$ 39.25
Stockport	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,886.62	\$ 1,927.19	\$ 40.56
Taghkanic	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,512.66	\$ 1,545.18	\$ 32.52

NOTE: to determine the annual tax difference based on a home value of \$150,000, multiply the amount in the "Difference" column by 1.5. For an assessed home value of \$200,000, multiply the amount in the "Difference" column by 2, and so on.

**Based on the NYS Property Tax Cap formula, HCS D is considered "tax cap compliant." See page 3 for further explanation and details about the property tax rebate.*

Student Achievement

The best measure of the education offered by Hudson CSD is the success of our students.

Here are a few examples:

- Colleges attended by the Class of 2015 include: Siena, LeMoyne, St. Rose, Lincoln Technical Institute, Cazenovia, SUNY Purchase, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Delhi, Mount Saint Mary, Albany College of Pharmacy, University of Rochester, and Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Students had artwork selected for regional art exhibits, and senior Michaela Gomula won the Director's Choice Award at the Annual Juried Art Show at Columbia-Greene Community College.
- Sophomore Brianna Tsitsera was selected to join the Cornell Cooperative Extension's new 4-H Invasive Species Action Team. She is one of 16 students from across the state, and the only one from Columbia County, to be chosen for the team.
- In March, the Hudson High School Robotics team placed high enough in a regional robotics competition to qualify for the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Last year, the HHS Envirothon team won 1st in the county and 3rd in the regional competition, earning the opportunity to compete in the state competition. HHS has a history of success at this event, having gone to the statewide event four times in the last 6 years.