



Eastchester Eagle

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Spanish version of this newsletter is available upon request at the District Clerk's office. Please contact Lori Perrotta at (914) 793-6130 ext. 4201

Una versión en español de este boletín está disponible a solicitud en la Oficina del Secretario del Distrito. Comuníquese con Lori Perrotta al (914) 793-6130 ext. 4201

Dear Eastchester Community Members,

As our annual budget vote nears, we find ourselves contemplating the possibilities for public education on the other side of the pandemic. I am so very proud of our administrators, faculty and staff members who continue to work diligently to serve the needs of students and families through an ever-changing landscape. Together, we have moved the District through a period unlike any other in recent history and the partnerships formed will continue to propel us into the future.

The District has emerged stronger from this global crisis. With a newly charted strategic plan, we have the power to help our students grow and develop competencies and skills in the classroom and in life. Teams from across the District have put together some important action items that are already taking shape and thanks to your generous approval, we're making headway on a capital project that will greatly improve the health, safety and infrastructure of the teaching and learning environment for years to come. The future is bright for Eastchester Union Free School District!

Our 2022-2023 proposed budget of \$96,208,000 remains compliant with the New York State Tax Cap and includes state Foundation Aid. This proposal for your consideration will allow the District to continue the positive momentum and fulfill the following requests to meet the needs of our students:

- Additional staffing in Business Education, Math, Computer Science, Robotics, and English as a New Language
- Additional Mathematics Intervention Services and Special Education Co-Teaching
- Elementary Reading and Math programs for students
- Prioritization of professional development
- Addition of Assistant Principals at our elementary schools to support all the above
- Additional Maintenance and Custodial support Districtwide
- Purchase of additional Chromebooks and licenses
- Increased Safety & Security

Please review the budget details on our website www.eufsdk12.org. You will also be asked to vote for four members to serve on the Board of Education.

Yours in partnership,


Dr. Robert Glass, *Superintendent of Schools*

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget
\$96,208,000

Budget to Budget Increase
4.2%

Tax Levy Increase
1.78%

**SCHOOL BUDGET
VOTE**

**Tuesday,
May 17, 2022
6:00am – 9:00pm**

**Eastchester
Middle School Gym
(Enter on Lincoln Ave.)**

Garth Road residents
must vote at Eastchester
Middle School



2022-23 Revenue Summary

REVENUE CATEGORY	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$77,921,000	\$79,308,000	\$1,387,000	1.8%
Other Revenues	\$4,111,000	\$4,410,000	\$299,000	7.3%
State/Federal Aid	\$10,000,000	\$12,490,000	\$2,490,000	24.9%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$300,000	\$0	(\$300,000)	-100%
GRAND TOTALS	\$92,332,000	\$96,208,000	\$3,876,000	4.2%

2022-23 Expenditure Summary

BUDGET CATEGORY	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Administration	\$3,414,608	\$3,553,775	\$139,167	4.1%
Facilities/Operations/Security	\$6,695,966	\$7,038,318	\$342,352	5.1%
Instruction	\$50,483,541	\$52,563,724	\$2,080,183	4.1%
Transportation	\$3,496,323	\$3,908,892	\$412,569	11.8%
Employee Benefits	\$20,316,284	\$21,612,617	\$1,296,333	6.4%
Debt Service	\$5,325,278	\$5,230,674	(\$94,604)	-1.8%
Transfers to Other Funds	\$2,600,000	\$2,300,000	(\$300,000)	-11.5%
GRAND TOTALS	\$92,332,000	\$96,208,000	\$3,876,000	4.2%

The transportation budget includes approximately \$2,450,000 for home-to-school transportation, and approximately \$235,000 for athletic and field trips, based upon the School District's current usage of such transportation, and upon the School District entering into three (3) year contracts (September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, excluding summers) with our current transportation provider. The approval of this budget will constitute approval for the Board of Education to enter into three-year contracts for home-to-school transportation and athletic and field trips with the District's current transportation provider.

Projected Tax Bill Impact

NOTE: The budget-to-budget increase is \$3,876,000. The tax levy increase, which reflects the impact on a homeowner's tax bill, is 1.78%, which is tax cap compliant.

NOTE: This projection assumes a total static assessment base. A change in assessments as calculated by the Town of Eastchester may have an impact on this estimate of the tax impact. Lower assessments in the town may raise the tax rate. Final rates are set by the Town of Eastchester in August.

AVERAGE

ASSESSED VALUE	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$11,000	\$13,000
2021-2022 School Tax Bill*	\$7,766	\$10,872	\$13,202	\$17,085	\$20,191
Estimated 2022-2023 Tax Bill*	\$7,905	\$11,067	\$13,438	\$17,390	\$20,552
GRAND TOTALS	\$139	\$195	\$236	\$305	\$361

*Does not include STAR impact.

2021-2022 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,553.16
2022-2023 Tax Rate Impact per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$27.79
2022-2023 Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$1,580.95

★ **VOTE May 17, 2022 Poll Hours: 6:00am – 9:00pm** ★

Voting Information

What You Will See on the Ballot

Proposition #1

Shall Eastchester Union Free School District of the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York adopt a budget for the school year 2022-2023 for the Schools comprising said Eastchester Union Free School District, in the gross sum of \$96,208,000 and raise the necessary taxes required for said budget in one sum by tax upon the taxable property of the District?

Board of Education Candidates

Three (3) seats are for a full term of three (3) years each commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025 and one (1) seat is for a partial term of one (1) year commencing upon tabulation of the results and expiring on June 30, 2023. To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot, fill in the oval below or next to the name of the candidate.

Vote for up to four (4) candidates:

- Laurie Giacobbe
- Cheryl C. Smith
- Steven Projansky
- Michele Lawlor
- Stanley Thangaraj
- Cardinale B. Smith
- Matthew Fanelli
- Christine Civitano-Lombardi

Information about the Board of Education candidates can be found in the Important Information section of our website at www.eufsdk12.org.

Am I Eligible to Vote?

In order to vote in the district election, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States of America.
- A resident of the Eastchester School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.
- At least 18 years of age by the vote date.
- A registered voter with either the school district or with the County Board of Elections.

You are registered to vote if:

- You are on the Westchester County voter list AND have voted at least once during the last four years, OR
- You are registered with the school district.

Registration Applications

School District Voter Registration Applications

Applications for School District Voter Registration are available at the District Office and on the website at www.eufsdk12.org. This registration allows you to vote only in School District votes (Budget/BOE Trustee, Bond, or Referendum). Deadline for school district registration for the Annual Budget and Trustee Vote is Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Westchester County Voter Registration Applications

Qualified voters who register with Westchester County can vote in school district elections as well as other local and national elections. Registration applications are available locally at Eastchester Town Hall and Tuckahoe Village Hall. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.elections.ny.gov/> Call 1-800-FOR-VOTE for additional information.

Absentee Ballots

Obtaining an absentee ballot is a two-step process.

An Application for an Absentee Ballot must be filed first with the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting the District Clerk's office at 580 White Plains Road, Eastchester, NY 10709; Phone: 793-6130, ext. 4201, or by going to the website at www.eufsdk12.org. Look under the Budget Information section of the Business Department or the Absentee Ballot section of the Board of Education page.

Deadlines

Applications must be obtained from the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by 5:00pm on the day before the election if the ballot is to be given personally to the voter. The completed ballot must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00pm on the voting day, May 17, 2022.

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Poll Hours: 6:00am - 9:00pm

Eastchester Middle School Gym
(Enter on Lincoln Ave.)

Garth Road residents must vote at
Eastchester Middle School

THE BIG REVEAL:

Eastchester Union Free School District to Invest in New Resource for K-5 Mathematics

To keep pace with changes to New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and support 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, beginning in the fall of 2022, Eastchester Union Free School District will be investing in Reveal Math as its primary resource for elementary mathematics.

Reveal Math is a McGraw Hill core math program built on modern-day academic research and strategically designed to fuel active student engagement and deepen conceptual understanding. By encouraging curiosity, exploration, and a growth mindset, it allows students to see math as a dynamic set of problem-solving strategies instead of a slew of algorithms to memorize. It is highly reviewed by EdReports, earning top marks for all three metrics: Focus & Coherence, Rigor & Mathematical Practices, and Usability.

The decision to transition from the current resource, Go Math, to the new resource, Reveal Math, comes after a pilot facilitated by a selection of teachers in classrooms across grade levels in the District's three elementary schools. Throughout the fall and winter, building and district-level discussions were held, as well as classroom observations and multiple feedback sessions with teachers. All signs pointed to Reveal Math as the best resource for student success.

According to the District's K-12 STEM Supervisor Irene "Minnie" Iannuzzi, Reveal Math seeks to promote active student engagement and deepen conceptual understanding through productive struggle, rich tasks, inquiry opportunities, and mathematical discourse. It is fully integrated with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and the Measures



Anne Hutchinson fifth graders in Lindsay Farley's class participated in skill-based STEM activities with a March Madness theme.

of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Assessment data, allowing teachers to target and differentiate instruction to meet student needs.

"I'm just excited to hear kids talk about math again! With Covid, they've been missing some of that collaborative social piece and we know our students learn best when they can communicate with one another. Reveal Math will enable them to do that and allow our teachers to be able support that learning," Iannuzzi said.

Beginning this spring, all elementary teachers will be engaged in mathematics professional development to facilitate a smooth transition to Reveal Math next school year and beyond.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Meet Ava Tsapatsaris, Coca-Cola Scholar & Change Agent

Ava Tsapatsaris, age 17 and a senior at Eastchester High School, sat in a poised position with her hands placed on her lap. Her eyes, big and bright, intelligent and kind, dazzled with confident anticipation. After an arduous process lasting several months and beginning with approximately 68,000 applicants throughout the country, Ava won the Coca-Cola Scholarship, an achievement-based scholarship awarded by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the largest corporate-sponsored scholarship program in the United States. That's right; out of a pool of 68,000 graduating high school seniors narrowed down to 2,000 semifinalists, and a final regional interview round conducted by scholar alumni, Ava won the top honor. She is one of 150 winning scholars, eight winners from New York, and the only winner from Westchester County.



Each year, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation awards its winners with a \$20,000 scholarship to an accredited U.S. college or university of their choosing. Individuals are selected based on their academic excellence, capacity to lead and serve, and commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities. They are also given exclusive access to Coke Scholars Connect, a tool that allows them to network with fellow scholars, alumni and change agents. With the addition of the 2022 class, the Foundation will have provided more than 6,600 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$78 million in scholarships.

Go to our website at eufsdk12.org to learn more about Ava, the role that Eastchester Union Free School District has played in her success, and the plans she has for the future.

Class of 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian on District's Vision of a Graduate

Seniors Nicole Williams and Genna Handel have reached the highest level of academic success throughout their four years at Eastchester High School, giving them the titles of Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively, for the Class of 2022. Using the District's Vision of a Graduate as a guide, we sat down with the students to learn which skills and dispositions they feel are most important to succeed in school and in life. Here's what they had to say:



Class of 2022 Valedictorian Nicole Williams (left) and Salutatorian Genna Handel.

Vision of the Graduate

- Complex Problem Solving
- Communication (written, spoken, visual)
- Critical, Analytical and Inter-connected Thinking
- Collaborative Self-Manager
- Participative Citizen
- Persistence and Fortitude
- Empathy
- Integrity
- Growth Mindset
- Creativity and Imagination

To read more on the District's Strategic Coherence Plan, go to our website at eufsd12.org.

Natalie: "Out of the skills that the District envisions for the graduate, I believe empathy is the most important. Having empathy is one of the ways I've found success. For instance; if someone is having a rough day, it takes the empathy of others to help build them up to continue to be successful and move forward."

Genna: "I think the last two years have proven that we need creative solutions to difficult problems, both in dealing with the uncertainties of Covid and in the subjects we study in school. That's why I think creativity & imagination are so important. Being able to apply the skills we learn in innovative ways is what makes learning fun and impactful."

Committee Does Deep Dive into the District's Elementary Literacy Program

According to Susan Chester, the District's K-12 Supervisor of Humanities, department administrators and teachers have been on a strategic journey to shape the future of the elementary English Language Arts curriculum at Eastchester Union Free School District.

For about eight years, the primary resource for ELA at the elementary level has been McGraw Hill's Reading Wonders. The program has proven to be successful for students and teachers. However, with the State's new learning standards and the District's newly charted Strategic Coherence Plan, teams have decided to take a closer look at the philosophy for English Language Arts.

"The purpose of the strategic planning is to find cohesion between all our elementary buildings and between English and Mathematics in general. We know that the key elements do not change from subject to subject. It's just a matter of becoming well-informed, looking at the data, and making the right decisions for our students," Chester said.

A Literacy Committee, formed in the Fall of 2021, is leading the charge, looking at a variety of materials that are used in other school districts and identifying unifying elements. These elements involve assessment and progress monitoring, the expansion of classroom libraries, and the use of data to drive instruction.

Chester said that next year's goal is to continue to empower our teachers through professional development and for the committee to carry on with their research on what the literacy program will look like 21st century.



Through the District's monthly Eastchester SMART video series, Supervisor of Humanities Susan Chester (right) chats with Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Scott Wynne about progress being made in English Language Arts and Social Studies.



Non Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
White Plains, NY
Permit NO. 825

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Vito Catania, *President*
Judah Holstein, *Vice President*
Steve Projansky, *Secretary*
Dr. Jackie DiMarco, *Trustee*
Chrissy Geagan, *Trustee*
Christie McCloskey, *Trustee*
Jonah Rizzo-Bleichman, *Trustee*
Dr. Cheryl Smith, *Trustee*

For more 2022-23 Budget Information, go to www.eufsd12.org

2022-23 School Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 92,332,000	\$ 96,208,000	\$ 94,821,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 3,876,000	\$ 2,489,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.2%	2.7%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 77,921,000	\$ 79,308,000	
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)	\$ 77,921,000	\$ 79,308,000	\$ 77,921,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,912,983	\$ 4,744,457	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 73,008,749	\$ 74,563,553	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 73,008,017	\$ 74,563,543	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 732	\$ 10	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,703,081	\$ 10,692,417	\$ 9,938,687
Program Component	\$ 66,871,159	\$ 69,805,073	\$ 69,631,160
Capital Component	\$ 15,747,759	\$ 15,710,510	\$ 15,251,153

*Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the District enact a contingency budget which does not allow for any increase in the maximum allowable tax levy from the current year, the following items will be eliminated: Assistant Principals at the elementary schools; teacher professional development and training for new curriculum that will not be implemented, facilities maintenance projects will be deferred, and all outside groups must be charged the full cost for use of District facilities.

** 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)

Description	Amount
Not applicable	

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings *** \$1,439

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Eastchester Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Eastchester Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Eastchester Middle School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.