



Levittown LEADER

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION...

Proposed Budget Focuses on Student Success Remains at the Tax Levy Cap



Jonas E. Salk Middle School students (L-R) Jujhar Digpal, Ava Verret, Benjamin Campbell, Sydney Packer and Emma Mignone from the school's Archaeology Club with one of their past projects.

Preserving Educational Quality Within the Tax Levy Cap

The proposed 2018-19 budget:

- Enhances the district's already robust security, including additional mental health professionals and security guards.
- Maintains and enhances educational and extracurricular programs, including the addition of college-level courses at the high school and the continuation of the 1:1 tablet initiative.
- Preserves all athletic programs.
- Expands upon the district's mindfulness initiative.
- Pilots 21st-century classroom designs at each level.
- Increases use of data to ensure continued "Success for Every Student."



Lee Road School joins Jonas E. Salk Middle School as a New York State School of Character by Character.org based on its focus on character development and its positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate.

Following months of public meetings, careful examination of student needs, and an analysis of the district's educational programs, fixed and mandated costs, and all expenditures for programs and services, the Board of Education and district administrative team have developed a proposed school budget for the 2018-19 school year.

The proposed 2018-19 budget stands at \$215,892,556 and carries a 1.99 percent tax levy increase and a 2.70 percent budget-to-budget increase.

While preparing the proposed budget, our main goal as a Board was to maintain and support our current programs while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers through the adoption of a sound budget that is within the tax levy limit. We are proud to report that the proposed tax levy increase of 1.99 percent is at the district's New York State-mandated cap and requires a simple 50 percent-plus-one majority for approval.

The proposed budget provides funds for increased opportunities for our students,

including additional courses at the high school level, increased summer learning opportunities, expansion of our 1:1 technology initiative to include four grade levels (9-12), enhancement of our mathematics program districtwide and continuation of our successful mindfulness initiative.

We encourage residents to become familiar with highlights of the proposed budget located within this special edition of the Levittown Leader. Information on voting qualifications, absentee ballots and the budget hearing is also included. We also encourage the community to review the budget presentations posted on the district website and to attend the budget hearing on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Levittown Memorial Education Center.

Please remember to vote on May 15. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway, Levittown Memorial Education Center and Division Avenue High School.



Abbey Lane students during a visit with Mad Science of Long Island.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of Levittown's students and staff is the district's highest priority and it is taken very seriously. While we believe our schools are safe, we are not immune to the fact that tragedy does not discriminate. Since the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, we have met internally to discuss our security procedures, held a meeting for community residents on our safety protocols and have found areas to enhance our already robust security measures.

"I am very proud to be Superintendent of the Levittown School District, where I make my home and where my family attends school," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald. "I have always felt that our schools are safe, but recent events have caused us to take a hard look at what we do and discuss how we can do better. We believe we are moving in the right direction, but we are always open to suggestions."

Inserted into this special budget edition of the district newsletter is our spring Levittown Leader. On page 4, you will read more about what we have done, continue to do and plan to do to enhance the safety of our students and staff. Additionally, on May 15, residents will be asked to vote on a separate proposition (Proposition No. 2), which would authorize the district to utilize capital funds to enhance security.

Levittown School District
Levittown NY 11756

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 15
POLLS OPEN • 7 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Please Vote At Your Designated Polling Location
(Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway,
Levittown Memorial Education Center
or Division Avenue High School)



EDUCATIONAL DOLLARS AT WORK



Back Row L-R: Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services Dr. Donald Sturz, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Todd Winch and Principal Keith Squillacioti with Summit Lane students during their Unity and P.R.I.D.E. Program kickoff.

COMMUNITY:

- The district inducted 10 former graduates as members of the inaugural Levittown Public Schools Hall of Fame for their contributions in the field of work, study or athletics.
- Levittown families benefited from the generosity of students and the community during the holiday season.
- Students, staff and administrators supported Levittown's Anniversary Committee with a special 70th anniversary luncheon to celebrate the history of the town, with culinary students from Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center serving meals to members of the Golden Age Club.
- Students support various philanthropic organizations, including the American Heart Association, Autism Awareness, John Theissen Children's Foundation, Pantene Beautiful Lengths and Pennies for Patients.
- Senior Citizen Gold Card Program participants continue to enjoy free admission to district-sponsored activities and events, including regular season home athletic events, as well as high school and middle school plays and concerts.
- Hundreds of students, staff and community members participate in the annual LEADD walk and fair.

ACADEMICS:

- MacArthur High School seniors Helen Zhang and Christian Hernandez were selected as candidates in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by the United States Department of Education. Hernandez was nominated based on his accomplishments in the career and technical education field at Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center.



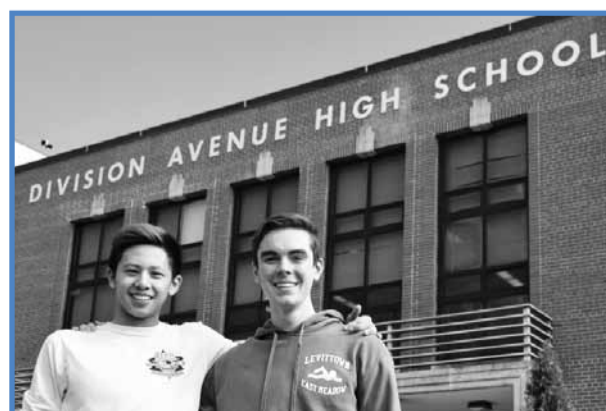
MacArthur High School seniors Helen Zhang (left) and Christian Hernandez (right), also a student at GC Tech, were recognized as candidates in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

- Senior Joy Kim from Division Avenue High School was selected as a semifinalist in the 2018 Coca-Cola Scholars Program for her exceptional leadership skills, academic abilities and community service.
- Hundreds of students benefit from an award-winning career and technical program.
- A total of 231 Division Avenue High School and MacArthur High School students were recognized as Advanced Placement Scholars by College Board.
- MacArthur High School seniors Jared Schwartz and Helen Zhang qualified as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- The Division Avenue High School competitive marching band earned fifth place and its highest score ever in the Small School 2 category at the annual New York State Field Band Conference championships.
- Sophomores Jacquelyn Devaney and Leah Draluck from Division Avenue High School and Julia Gizzo and John Hanna from MacArthur High School were selected to represent the district at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership State Leadership Seminar, to be held at Adelphi University in June 2018.
- Four seniors from both MacArthur High School and Division Avenue High School were recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- Hundreds of music students were selected to perform in county, state and national music festivals.
- The Division Avenue High School DECA team participated in the New York DECA State Career Conference, in which student Brandon Smith won three medals in the category of Human Resource Management and qualified to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta. In addition, Nikhil Keer won three medals in the Business Finance category and Ryan Dwyer won a medal in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing category.
- Originally based on a middle school project, MacArthur High School senior Sydney Schneider had her children's book, "Chip and Dip," published.
- Division Avenue High School and MacArthur High School's Science Olympiad teams qualified for the New York State finals competition in which they won numerous awards. Division Avenue students placed second, sixth and seventh in their respective categories, while MacArthur High School's team won the "Best New School Award" for its best overall score during its first appearance at States.
- The Wisdom Lane Robotics Team took first place at the Carle Place competition. The first-place finish against 19 high school teams qualified it for the state tournament.

- Lee Road School was recognized as a New York State School of Character for its focus on character development, leaving a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate.
- Hundreds of students participated in the district's musicals and plays.
- Northside fifth-grader Charith Maddipatla represented the district at Hofstra University during the 2018 Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee.

ATHLETICS:

- Ten student-athletes from Division Avenue and MacArthur High Schools have signed national letters of intent.
- The MacArthur High School boys volleyball team was recognized as Division III team champions.
- Division Avenue High School students Dylan Chase and Amy Rzemieniewski and MacArthur High School students Deanna Barrera and Gerard Fiorenza III were recipients of the Nassau Zone Award.
- The MacArthur High School boys volleyball team and the Division Avenue High School cheerleading team were designated as New York State Scholar Athlete teams for their dedication in the classroom and on the field.
- Division Avenue High School student-athletes Hans Lim and Jack Stanley were the first Levittown students to ever qualify to compete at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association boys swimming and diving championships.
- Jonas E. Salk Middle School's eighth-grade football team, the Seahawks, ended the season as an undefeated team.
- The MacArthur High School varsity cheerleading team ranked ninth in the nation during the UCA High School nationals in Orlando, Florida.
- Three students from both Division Avenue and MacArthur High Schools were selected as scholar-athletes: Robin Erdakos, MacArthur High School boys soccer; Joy Kim, Division Avenue girls volleyball; and Sarah Pleines, MacArthur High School girls soccer.
- Senior Amanda Petrillo from MacArthur High School was ranked as the No. 1 girls bowler in Nassau County with an impressive 202 average.



Swimmers Hans Lim (left) and Jack Stanley (right) from Division Avenue High School qualified for the NYSPHSAA Boys swimming and diving championships.

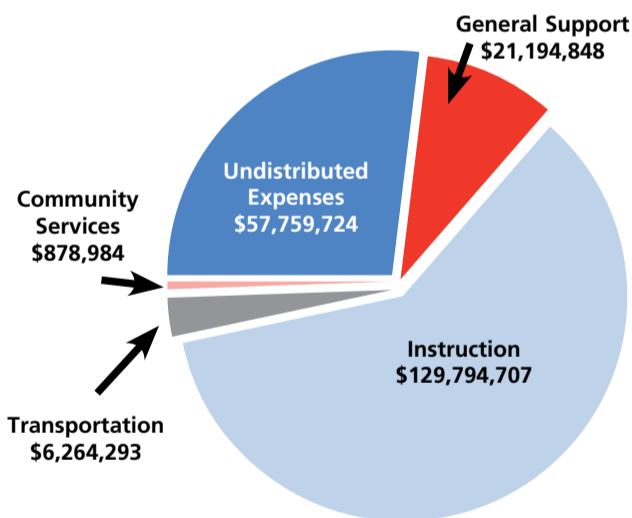
THREE-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

| | 2017-18 Adopted Budget | 2018-19 Proposed Budget | Change | % Increase/Decrease |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Administrative Budget | | | | |
| Board of Education | \$130,797 | \$136,750 | \$5,953 | 4.55% |
| Central Administration | \$4,437,251 | \$5,288,311 | \$851,060 | 19.18% |
| Special Items | \$1,987,747 | \$2,174,455 | \$186,708 | 9.39% |
| Supervision | \$6,689,745 | \$6,833,871 | \$144,126 | 2.15% |
| Planned Fund Balance | \$462,433 | \$462,433 | - | 0.00% |
| Total Administrative | \$13,707,973 | \$14,895,820 | \$1,187,847 | 8.67% |
| Program Budget | | | | |
| Teaching | \$65,495,584 | \$66,455,582 | \$959,998 | 1.47% |
| Special Education | \$36,382,722 | \$36,670,274 | \$287,552 | 0.79% |
| Special Schools | \$2,268,872 | \$2,118,610 | (\$150,262) | -6.62% |
| Instructional Media | \$5,175,381 | \$5,575,738 | \$400,357 | 7.74% |
| Student Services | \$8,663,439 | \$9,046,960 | \$383,521 | 4.43% |
| Activities & Athletics | \$2,987,874 | \$3,140,062 | \$152,188 | 5.09% |
| Transportation | \$6,283,530 | \$6,264,293 | (\$19,237) | -0.31% |
| Employee Benefits | \$49,913,650 | \$52,091,394 | \$2,177,744 | 4.36% |
| Community Service | \$875,444 | \$878,984 | \$3,540 | 0.40% |
| Total Program | \$178,046,496 | \$182,241,897 | \$4,195,401 | 2.36% |
| Capital Budget | | | | |
| Facilities & Operations | \$13,405,536 | \$13,486,949 | \$81,413 | 0.61% |
| Debt Service | \$3,264,889 | \$3,265,890 | \$1,001 | 0.03% |
| Equipment Expenses - Including Buses | \$722,053 | - | (\$722,053) | -100.00% |
| Transfer to Capital | \$1,071,775 | \$2,002,000 | \$930,225 | 86.79% |
| Total Capital | \$18,464,253 | \$18,754,839 | \$290,586 | 1.57% |
| Budget Appropriation | \$210,218,722 | \$215,892,556 | \$5,673,834 | 2.7% |

COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| 2018-19 Proposed Budget | \$215,892,556 |
| Less Estimated State Aid and Local Estimated Revenue | \$63,850,281 |
| Subtotal | \$152,042,275 |
| Less Appropriated Fund Balance/Reserves | \$13,058,114 |
| Estimated 2018-19 Tax Levy | \$138,984,161 |

BUDGET EXPENDITURES



Gardiners Avenue students took a trip to the Levittown Public Library and engaged in different STEAM activities with their class.

PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

| EXPENDITURES | 2018-19 PROPOSED BUDGET |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Support | \$21,194,848 |
| Instruction | \$129,794,707 |
| Transportation | \$6,264,293 |
| Community Services | \$878,984 |
| Undistributed Expenses | \$57,759,724 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$215,892,556 |

ESTIMATED REVENUE & FUNDING

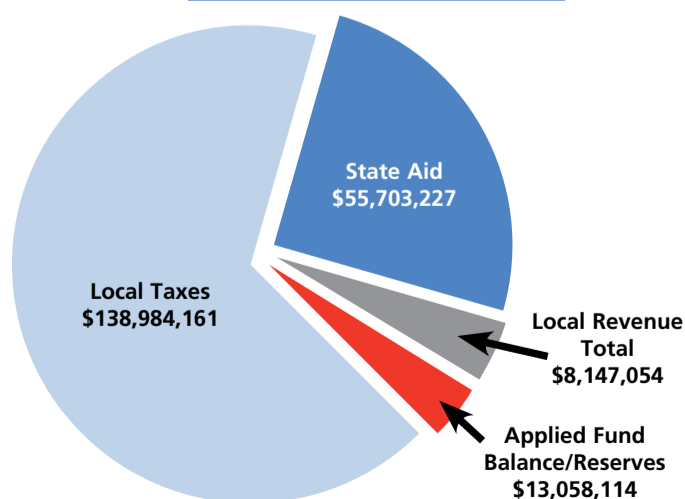
| | |
|---|----------------------|
| State Aid | \$55,703,227 |
| Local Revenue | |
| Tuition – Drivers Education | \$160,000 |
| Tuition – Adult Education | \$28,000 |
| After-School Program | \$665,000 |
| Before-School Program | \$330,000 |
| Tuition – Voc. Ed. – Other Districts | \$1,700,000 |
| Tuition – Special Ed. – Other Districts | \$850,000 |
| Rental of Real Property – Laurel Lane | \$40,800 |
| Rental of Real Property – Individuals | \$174,000 |
| BOCES Rental of Property | \$730,000 |
| Miscellaneous | \$3,469,254 |
| Local Revenue Total | \$8,147,054 |
| Applied Fund Balance | \$9,928,114 |
| Reserves | \$3,130,000 |
| Local Taxes at Tax Cap | \$138,984,161 |

TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNDING \$215,892,556

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 2018-19 Proposed Budget | \$215,892,556 |
| LOCAL TAX LEVY | \$138,984,161 |

Budget-to-Budget Change 2.70%

SOURCES OF FUNDING



Complete copies of the 2018-19 proposed budget are available in the district office and can be downloaded from the district's website, www.levittownschoools.com.



The Wisdom Lane Middle School drama club performed its production of "Annie Jr." for community members.

Q&A Questions & Answers

Q: What propositions will the community vote on at the polls?

A: This year, the community will vote on two propositions, as well as the individual Board member elections for the school district and library:
 Proposition 1 – Levittown UFSD 2018-19 Budget.
 Proposition 2 – Use of Capital Fund for enhanced security measures.
 Proposition 3 – Levittown Public Library Budget.

Q: Why does the increase in the tax levy cap vary from district to district and is not a consistent limit for all levels of government?

A: Each district must complete a tax levy worksheet based upon a formula provided by New York State to calculate its individual tax levy cap. Factors that impact the cap calculation include the tax base growth factor, received PILOT payments, debt service for capital projects and other exemptions, which vary among districts.

Q: What happens if the 2018-19 proposed budget is defeated at the polls?

A: If defeated, school districts have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted. State law mandates that if a district is forced to adopt a contingency budget, the tax levy increase over the current year is capped at zero percent.



East Broadway first-graders Logan Dall'Aste (right) and Emma Kast (left) learned about the moon while coloring their orbit projects.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018
2018-19 School Budget Vote
and Trustee Election

For comprehensive information on the budget, please visit the district's website at www.levittownschoools.com.



In celebration of Northside Elementary School's "Art and Music In Our Schools Month," students honored surrealist artist Salvador Dali by having mustaches drawn on their faces for Mustache Day. Pictured R-L are second-graders Juliana Sampugnaro, Greysen Gomezcoello and Lucas Reyes with kindergartner Matteo Reyes.

Voting Locations and Times

Please vote at your designated polling location between **7 a.m. and 8 p.m.**
(Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway, Levittown Memorial Education Center or Division Avenue High School)

VOTER INFORMATION

Qualifications for Voting

A voter will be entitled to vote for the election of school district trustees and the school budget, who has the following qualifications: a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, a resident of the district for a period of 30 days or more before the election, and anyone who voted in a school, state or national election during the four years prior to the pending election. Those not registered or who have not voted in four years must register to vote before **Thursday, May 10, 2018**.

Registration forms for school elections may be obtained from the district clerk's office at Levittown Memorial Education Center.

Absentee Ballots

You must be a registered voter in order to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available in the office of the district clerk on any school day between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Completed applications must be received by the district clerk by mail (Tuesday, May 8) or in person (Monday, May 14). Applicants can download an application from the school district website at www.levittownschoools.com. Applications may not be submitted electronically because an original signature is required.

Upon receipt, your application will be reviewed, pursuant to the provisions of the education law, to establish your entitlement to vote by absentee ballot. A ballot will then be issued to you. For more information, contact the district clerk at 516-434-7002.

Democracy in Action

Students have been learning about American freedoms, including the freedom of speech and the right to vote.

On May 15, while community residents are voting on the 2018-19 proposed school budget, students will have the opportunity to vote on a new lunch item to be offered during the 2018-19 school year. The choices will be Chickendipity (chicken tenders on a waffle), Land O'Lakes macaroni and cheese, grilled cheese with tomato soup, turkey sandwich with chicken noodle soup or smiley potato puffs.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the voting center after school until 8 p.m. to experience the voting process together. Student votes will be tallied and results will be announced at each building on May 16.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Marianne Adrian, **Vice President**

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Dr. Tonie McDonald, Superintendent of Schools

William Pastore, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Donald Sturz, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services

Todd Winch, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Budget 2018 Success for Every Student!