



# Levittown LEADER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION...

### *Proposed 2017-18 Budget Remains Within the Tax Cap*



The Board of Education and administration are pictured with the school-level spelling bee winners who attended the Hofstra Scripps Spelling Bee.

## Preserving Educational Quality Within the Tax Levy Cap

### The proposed 2017-18 budget:

- Maintains and enhances educational and extracurricular programs, including continuation of the one-to-one tablet initiative and AP Capstone Program.
- Preserves outstanding athletic programs.
- Includes the purchase of new buses, bus cameras and GPS systems for the district's fleet.
- Implements a summer science camp (Camp Invention) and expands technology and STEAM initiatives.
- Provides expansion of the World Language Program.



Left: Division Avenue High School valedictorian Maria Mancz and salutarian Sisam Bhandari and, right, MacArthur High School salutarian James May and valedictorian Casey Butcher.

Through careful and resourceful planning and a collaborative effort with Central Administration, the Board of Education has proposed a 2017-18 budget totaling \$210,218,722 that keeps rising costs minimal while preserving the district's key instructional and co-curricular programs.

In preparing for the 2017-18 budget, the Board elected to adopt a tax levy increase of 1.14 percent, which is the allowable tax levy cap as per state law and which realizes a budget-to-budget increase of 2.32 percent. This proposed spending plan maintains and enhances the one-to-one tablet initiative, introduction of AP Capstone Research, the addition and revision of high school courses, expansion of technology initiatives and the STEAM program, the offering of a summer science camp (Camp Invention) and expansion of the World Language program. The spending plan also supports the purchase of four buses and three vans to replace an aging fleet, as well as bus cameras and updated GPS systems for the district's bus fleet.

Student achievement continues to bring great pride to the Levittown community. This newsletter highlights many of our students' educational and co-curricular achievements and contains the special spring edition of the *Levittown Leader*, spotlighting the district's Outdoor Learning Center program. To read about student achievements and various activities throughout the school year, please visit the district website at [www.levittownschoools.com](http://www.levittownschoools.com).

We encourage residents to become familiar with highlights of the proposed budget, establishment of the 2017 Capital Reserve Fund and expenditure of funds from the 2013 Capital Reserve Fund (below) for the purpose of improving district facilities. Information on voting qualifications, absentee ballots and the budget hearing is also included. We also invite the community to review the budget presentations posted on the district website.

## Repairs and Renovations of Facilities Using Capital Reserves

In addition to the district's proposed budget, the community will be asked to vote on two additional propositions.

Proposition 2 would establish a 2017 Capital Reserve Fund totaling \$25 million for the purpose of financing districtwide repairs, renovations and improvements over a ten-year period. Funding for the Capital Reserve Fund would be sourced from budget appropriations, unappropriated fund balances made available by the Board of Education, and authorized transfers from available reserves in accordance with existing law and New York State aid. **The 2017 Capital Reserve Fund will not impact the tax levy.**

Proposition 3 would allow the district to expend \$14.5 million, the remaining funds from the district's previously established 2013 Capital Reserve Fund, to undertake and perform school improvement projects. These projects totaling \$14.5 million include, but are not limited to, bathroom renovations, replacement of the turf fields at both high schools, replacement of the track at Division Avenue High School, renovation of MacArthur High School's auditorium, construction of an all-purpose room and cafeteria at Northside School and improvements and new construction related to traffic flow at various district sites. **Proposition 3 will not impact the tax levy.**

Levittown School District  
Levittown NY 11756

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16**  
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

## COMMUNITY:

- More than 100 senior citizens have taken advantage of the district's new Senior Citizen Gold Card program, providing wonderful opportunities to Levittown residents 60 years of age and older.
  - Special high school musical performances are offered to senior citizens at no cost.
  - Senior citizens may preview the artwork of high school students 15 minutes prior to the opening of the annual art shows on May 24 and May 31.
  - Senior citizens may purchase hairstyling and manicure services at a discounted cost at the Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center.
  - The automotive department at the Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center offers automotive services to community residents at discounted prices.
- Levittown families benefitted from the generosity of students and the community during the holiday season.
- Students support various philanthropic organizations, including the John Theissen Children's Foundation, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, the American Heart Association, Pennies for Patients, Pantene Beautiful Lengths and Autism Awareness.
- Hundreds of students, staff and community members participate in the annual LEADD walk and fair.

## ATHLETICS:

- Six student-athletes from Division Avenue and MacArthur High Schools have signed National Letters of Intent.
- Division Avenue High School students Jamie Alvino and Steven Reilly and MacArthur High School students Jenna Stillman and Kevin Tierney were recipients of the Nassau Zone Award.
- The MacArthur High School varsity MacEtties won high gold honors at the national Starbound Dance Competition.
- The Levittown Swim Team won the Conference II Championship.



Martone Award recipient Ryan O'Shea (third from left) is pictured with (l-r) MacArthur High School Principal Joseph Sheehan, football coach Bobby Fehrenbach and coach Steve Fazzolari.

## ACADEMICS:

- The graduation rate for the Class of 2016 was well above the New York State and national averages.
- More than half of our graduates received a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation.
- Eight students from Division Avenue and MacArthur High Schools were named National Merit Commended Students.
- The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation named Levittown a Best Community for Music Education for the fourth consecutive year.
- Salk Middle School was presented with the National School of Character Award and Best Practice Award by Character.org.
- 212 students were designated as Advanced Placement Scholars, including 12 students who received the top honor of National AP Scholar.
- Wisdom Lane Middle School was named one of the top middle schools in New York State by a Niche.com survey. The district also received a New York State top 100 rating by Niche.com.
- General Douglas MacArthur High School was designated a New York State Reward School; Division Avenue High School received the same designation last school year.
- Students were invited to sing the national anthem at Citi Field Stadium for a third consecutive year.
- Hundreds of music students were selected to perform in county, state and national music festivals.
- Top secondary student-musicians performed in the first All-District Concert.
- The MacArthur High School marching band, under the direction of Joseph Romano, was invited to perform at Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom Theme Park.
- MacArthur High School senior Jaily Lopez was selected as a 2016 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.
- Division Avenue High School senior Danielle Mahn was named a national

- The Women's Gridiron Foundation and the U.S. Women's Football League presented Salk Middle School student Gia Stamatelo with the National Game Changer Award.
- MacArthur High School lineman Ryan O'Shea received the Nassau County Coaches Association's Martone Award, the Grid Iron Award and the Roy Kessenich Memorial Scholarship Award. He is also the Nassau County Champion in wrestling.
- The district's Challenger teams competed against other basketball teams in the league, drawing hundreds of fans to these local competitions for students with learning and physical disabilities.
- Both high schools' cheerleading teams hold national rankings.



- semifinalist in the 2016-2017 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Program.
- Hundreds of students participate in the district's musicals and plays.
- Hundreds of students benefit from an award-winning career and technical program.
- High school students have benefited from AP Capstone, the National History Day Club, Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology and the One-to-One Tablet Initiative.
- Division Avenue High School's DECA team won three medals at the state level.
- Hundreds of students were inducted into the National Honor Society, as well as the national honor societies for art, business, math, music and world languages.
- MacArthur High School senior Carissa Giuliano received the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for community service, while Division Avenue High School senior Kristina Spano received the Youth Recognition Award for Volunteerism.
- Division Avenue High School seniors Danielle Mahn and Sejal Mehra are 2017 Greater New York City Affiliate Winners in the National Center for Women in Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing.
- For the fourth consecutive year, MacArthur High School Digital Media II students were first-place winners in Nassau County's Drug Alternatives Public Service Announcement Contest.



National Game Changer Award recipient Gia Stamatelo is pictured with physical education chair Jeff Aiello and coach Scott Mullins.

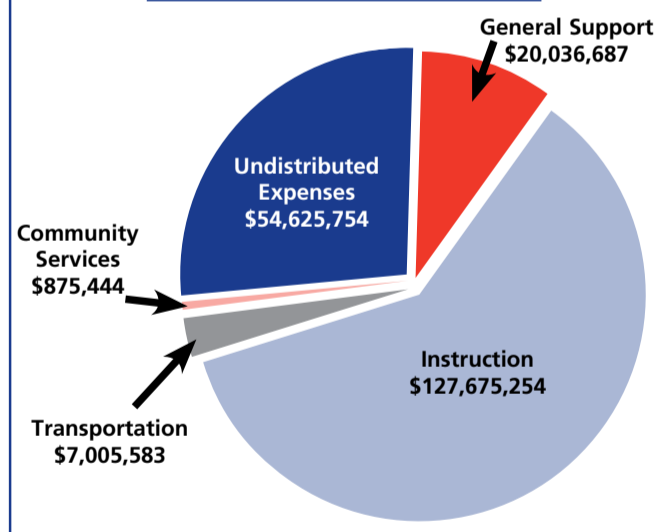
# THREE-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

	2016-17 Adopted Budget	2017-18 Proposed Budget	Change	% Increase/Decrease
<b>Administrative Budget</b>				
Board of Education	\$140,450	\$130,797	(\$9,653)	-6.87%
Central Administration	\$4,255,848	\$4,437,251	\$181,403	4.26%
Special Items	\$2,084,306	\$1,987,747	(\$96,559)	-4.63%
Supervision	\$6,962,930	\$6,689,745	(\$273,185)	-3.92%
Planned Fund Balance	\$462,433	\$462,433	0	0.00%
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$13,905,967</b>	<b>\$13,707,973</b>	<b>(\$197,994)</b>	<b>-1.42%</b>
<b>Program Budget</b>				
Teaching	\$64,527,236	\$65,495,584	\$968,348	1.50%
Special Education	\$34,848,678	\$36,382,722	\$1,534,044	4.40%
Special Schools	\$2,498,199	\$2,268,872	(\$229,327)	-9.18%
Instructional Media	\$4,965,051	\$5,175,381	\$210,330	4.24%
Student Services	\$8,287,999	\$8,663,439	\$375,440	4.53%
Activities & Athletics	\$2,854,858	\$2,987,874	\$133,016	4.66%
Transportation	\$5,638,468	\$6,283,530	\$645,062	11.44%
Employee Benefits	\$48,533,958	\$49,913,650	\$1,379,692	2.84%
Community Service	\$909,688	\$875,444	(\$34,244)	-3.76%
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$173,064,135</b>	<b>\$178,046,496</b>	<b>\$4,982,361</b>	<b>2.88%</b>
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Facilities & Operations	\$13,207,704	\$13,405,536	\$197,832	1.50%
Debt Service	\$3,936,664	\$3,264,889	(\$671,775)	-17.06%
Equipment Expenses - Including Buses	\$735,000	\$722,053	(\$12,947)	-1.76%
Transfer to Capital	\$600,000	\$1,071,775	\$471,775	78.63%
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$18,479,368</b>	<b>\$18,464,253</b>	<b>(\$15,115)</b>	<b>-.08%</b>
<b>Budget Appropriation</b>	<b>\$205,449,470</b>	<b>210,218,722</b>	<b>4,769,252</b>	<b>2.32%</b>

## COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

2017-18 Proposed Budget	\$210,218,722
Less Estimated State Aid and Local Estimated Revenue	\$63,382,917
Subtotal	\$146,835,805
Less Appropriated Fund Balance/Reserves	\$10,565,066
<b>Estimated 2017-18 Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$136,270,739</b>

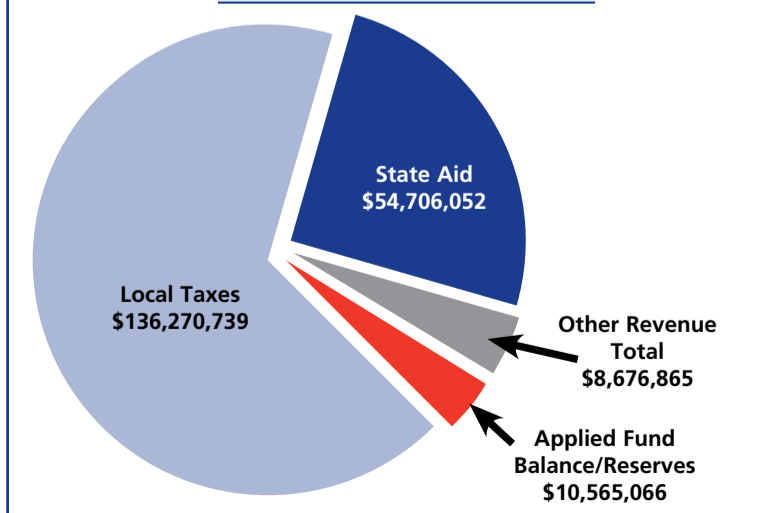
### BUDGET EXPENDITURES



### PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

<b>2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
General Support	\$20,036,687
Instruction	\$127,675,254
Transportation	\$7,005,583
Community Services	\$875,444
Undistributed Expenses	\$54,625,754
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$210,218,722</b>
<b>2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET</b>	
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE &amp; FUNDING</b>	
<b>State Aid</b>	<b>\$54,706,052</b>
<b>Local Revenue</b>	
Drivers Education Tuition	\$160,000
Tuition – Adult Education	\$28,000
After-School Program	\$665,000
Before-School Program	\$330,000
Tuition – Voc. Ed. – Other Districts	\$1,989,865
Tuition – Special Ed. – Other Districts	\$1,200,000
Rental of Real Property – Laurel Lane	\$115,000
Rental of Real Property – Individuals	\$174,000
BOCES Rental of Property	\$730,000
Miscellaneous	\$3,285,000
<b>Local Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$8,676,865</b>
<b>Applied Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>\$2,565,066</b>
<b>Local Taxes</b>	<b>\$136,270,739</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNDING</b>	<b>\$210,218,722</b>
<b>2017-18 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$210,218,722</b>
<b>LOCAL TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$136,270,739</b>
<b>Budget-to-Budget Change</b>	<b>2.32%</b>

### SOURCES OF FUNDING



Complete copies of the 2017-18 proposed budget are available in the district office and can be downloaded from the district's website, [www.levittownschools.com](http://www.levittownschools.com).

# Questions & Answers

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

A: This year, the community will vote on four propositions, as well as the individual Board member elections for the school district and library:  
 Proposition 1 – Levittown UFSD 2017-18 Budget.  
 Proposition 2 – Establishment of a 2017 Capital Reserve Fund totaling \$25 million (*at no additional cost to the taxpayer*).  
 Proposition 3 – Expenditure of remaining monies from the 2013 Capital Reserve Fund (*at no additional cost to the taxpayer*).  
 Proposition 4 – Levittown Public Library Budget.

**Q: What are Proposition 2 and 3? Will they increase my taxes?**

A: In addition to the district's proposed budget, the community will be asked to vote on Proposition 2 to allow for the establishment of a capital reserve fund totaling \$25 million for improvements to district facilities. Proposition 3 asks the community to vote on the expenditure of \$14.5 million from the capital reserve fund, previously established by voters in 2013, to undertake and perform school improvement projects. These projects include districtwide improvements to facilities, the replacement of both high school turf fields, bathroom renovations at both high schools, replacement of the Division Avenue High School track, renovation of the auditorium at MacArthur High School, an all-purpose room and cafeteria at Northside School and new construction related to traffic flow at all district sites. *The establishment of the 2017 Capital Reserve Fund and the expenditure of funds from the 2013 Capital Reserve Fund will have no impact on the tax levy.*

**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 2017-18 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.

## Democracy *in Action*

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

On May 16, while community residents are voting on the 2017-18 proposed school budget, students will have the opportunity to vote on a new lunch item to be offered during the 2017-18 school year. The choices will be BBQ beef rib on a club roll, mini cheese ravioli, three-cheese mini pizza bagels or shredded pulled pork sandwiches.

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 17.



## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

### TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

### 2017-18 School Budget Vote and Trustee Election

For comprehensive information on the budget, please visit the district's website at [www.levittownschools.com](http://www.levittownschools.com).



## 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 11, 2017**.

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 9) or in person (Monday, May 15). Applicants can download an application from the school district website at [www.levittownschools.com](http://www.levittownschools.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 516-424-7002.

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