

HIGHLIGHTS

Special School Budget Edition

Newsletter from the
Chappaqua Central School District
www.ccsd.ws
May 2017

A message from the Board of Education

The mission of the Chappaqua Central School District is to create a community for learning, where students, staff, and parents are joined in the pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth in a caring environment. We seek to develop each student's full potential through a challenging curriculum, a diversified faculty, and a commitment to intellectual freedom. We will teach basic skills, foster creative and critical thinking, and provide a foundation for life-long learning. We will nourish our students' emotional lives and guide their social development, instilling in them an appreciation of self-worth, of individual difference, and of global interdependence. We will help them learn how to manage freedom and to act ethically so that each may become a responsible, contributing member of society.

On Wednesday, April 5, the Board of Education adopted the proposed 2017-2018 school budget of \$119,571,688. This represents a \$1,346,400 (1.14%) increase over the current budget. Tax rates are estimated to increase by 0.85% for residents in the Town of New Castle, and to decrease by 0.99% for residents in the Town of Mt. Pleasant. Actual tax rates are determined by the tax levy, the equalization rate for each town (set by NYS), and assessed town property valuations, which are not finalized by town assessors until June. Since this budget is again below the tax cap, eligible homeowners will receive a STAR Property Tax Rebate from NYS. The rebate amount will equal the STAR tax savings multiplied by a percentage, depending on income.

In addition to voting on the proposed school budget and the proposed Chappaqua Public Library budget, and electing two board of education members and one library trustee, there will be a proposition on the ballot. The proposition would simply allow the District to modify the original plans for two field projects within the Capital Improvements Bond passed by voters in June 2016. Engineers have determined that poor soil conditions at Bell would not support the installation of a turf field and additional excavation work would increase costs substantially. If approved, C Field at Greeley would become a turf field with lights, and the Bell field would remain natural grass with drainage and sodding improvements as well as a walking path. (See page 5 for more information regarding the proposition.) It is important to note that the District is not seeking any additional monies by way of this proposition. It does not impact the school budget in any way; it does not affect the tax levy; it does not affect the estimated tax rates; and it does not change the amount being borrowed for the Bond.

For further details regarding the proposed school budget, please refer to the 2017-18 budget book and budget presentations posted online at www.ccsd.ws/BudgetInfo. Printed copies are available at the main office of each school, the Education Center, Town Hall, and the Chappaqua Public Library.

Thank you for your support of public education in Chappaqua. We urge you to vote on Tuesday, May 16, between 7am and 9pm in the gym at Horace Greeley High School.

Chappaqua Central School District
Board of Education

Alyson Gardner, President Victoria Tipp, Vice President
Warren Messner Jeffrey Mester Karen Visser

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
★ TUESDAY, MAY 16 ★
7AM ~ 9PM
GREELEY GYM

Call 914-238-7200 x1002
for voter registration and
absentee ballot information.

Highlights of the Proposed 2017-2018 School Budget:

- ✓ Responds to the Board of Education's two Strategic Questions.
- ✓ Increases utilization of current and evolving technologies for students, teachers and community engagement.
- ✓ Supports STEAM/problem-based learning initiatives at all schools.
- ✓ Expands Social Studies Advanced Placement courses: *Access and Opportunity*.
- ✓ Provides additional health services at the High School.
- ✓ Supports 80 athletic teams at all levels of competition.
- ✓ Adjusts personnel based on enrollment, and the District's Mission Statement, Strategic Questions, and administrative operating standards.
- ✓ Falls below the 1.6% tax cap.

Chappaqua Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal <i>State Law requires that all residents receive this information in the following format:</i>	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$118,225,288	\$119,571,688	\$118,813,658
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$1,346,000	\$558,370
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.14%	0.50%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$105,968,116	\$106,726,146	
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)	\$105,968,116	\$106,726,146	\$105,968,116
F: Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,751,146	\$3,898,700	
G: School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$103,028,016	\$103,762,432	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	\$102,216,970	\$102,827,446	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$811,046	\$934,986	
Administrative Component	\$10,030,075	\$9,883,364	\$9,861,533
Program Component	\$88,539,729	\$90,258,432	\$89,704,312
Capital Component	\$19,655,484	\$19,429,892	\$19,247,813

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: *The contingency budget would require \$758,030 in reductions from the proposed 2017-18 budget. Reductions would be made across the budget beginning with non-contingent expenses. The reductions would include student supplies, certain equipment purchases, field trips, athletics, buildings & grounds, and staffing.*

**List of 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
N/A	N/A

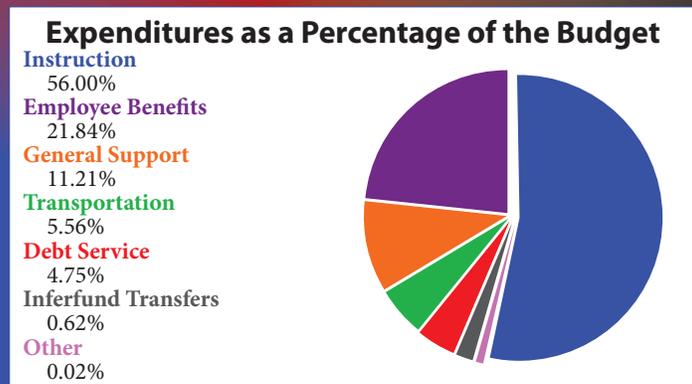
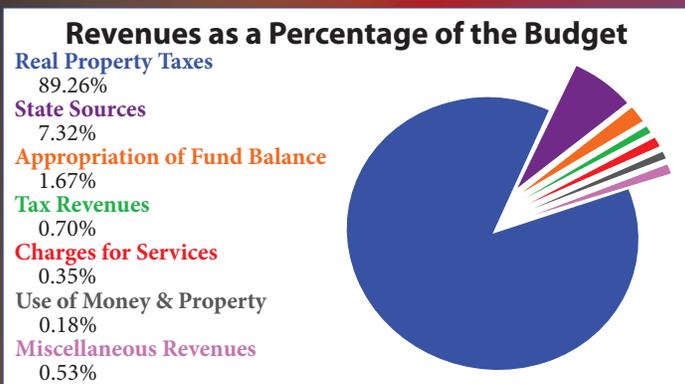
Basic STAR Exemption Impact	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,764

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 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Chappaqua Central School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Horace Greeley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Horace Greeley High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine ballot or machine.

	Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value		
		Rate	% Change
Town of New Castle	2016-17 Actual	\$105.93	0.20%
	2017-18 Estimated	\$106.83	0.85%
Town of Mount Pleasant	2016-17 Actual	\$1,384.24	1.99%
	2017-18 Estimated	\$1,370.53	-0.99%

Budget Summary ~ Revenues		2017-18 Proposed Budget	2016-17 Approved Budget	% Change
General Fund	Real Property Taxes	\$106,726,146	\$105,968,116	0.72%
	State Sources	\$8,752,223	\$8,172,172	7.10%
	Appropriation of Fund Balance	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.00%
	Tax Revenues	\$835,000	\$835,000	0.00%
	Charges for Services	\$413,319	\$380,000	8.77%
	Use of Money and Property	\$210,000	\$235,000	-10.64%
	Miscellaneous Revenues	\$635,000	\$635,000	0.00%
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$119,571,688	\$118,225,288	1.14%



Budget Summary ~ Expenditures		2017-18 Proposed Budget	2016-17 Approved Budget	% Change
General Support	Board of Education	\$54,301	\$41,490	30.88%
	Central Administration	\$379,225	\$408,552	-7.18%
	Finance/Audit/Legal	\$1,477,212	\$1,414,091	4.46%
	Human Resources/Public Information	\$489,027	\$479,326	2.02%
	Operations & Maintenance	\$9,252,615	\$9,024,198	2.53%
	Special Items	\$1,753,262	\$1,657,500	5.78%
	General Support Total	\$13,405,642	\$13,025,157	2.92%
Instruction	Supervision	\$4,304,235	\$4,169,861	3.22%
	Regular School	\$40,344,404	\$39,818,252	1.32%
	Special Schools	\$271,319	\$261,319	3.83%
	Special Education	\$12,519,924	\$12,944,187	-3.28%
	Instructional Media	\$3,095,849	\$2,959,573	4.60%
	Pupil Services	\$4,654,689	\$4,531,221	2.72%
	Pupil Activities	\$1,773,086	\$1,719,247	3.13%
Instruction Total	\$66,963,506	\$66,403,660	0.84%	
Transportation Total	\$6,646,689	\$6,615,590	0.47%	
Community Services Total	\$22,754	\$21,914	3.83%	
Undistributed	Employee Benefits	\$26,119,142	\$25,991,235	0.49%
	Debt Service	\$5,673,955	\$5,417,732	4.73%
	Interfund Transfer	\$740,000	\$750,000	-1.33%
Undistributed Total	\$32,533,097	\$32,158,967	1.16%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$119,571,688	\$118,225,288	1.14%	



A message from the Interim Superintendent

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." ~ Henry David Thoreau

In our classrooms, we seek those opportunities that inspire students to reach higher and farther. There are no true rewards without risk. We value collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Each time I visit a school, I see a genuine love of learning. I see strong programs for literacy acquisition, and innovative programs for instilling the principles of STEAM education. I also see students empowered to make their own choices and set their own learning goals as they solve relevant, complex problems both individually and collaboratively using a variety of approaches and technology.

While the success of a school district can be measured in many ways, here are just a few highlights of what our students and staff have been able to accomplish.

ACADEMICS

- Horace Greeley ranked #1 public high school in the United States. (*Best Colleges*)
- Horace Greeley ranked #12 for STEM education in New York State. (*NICHE.com*)
- Horace Greeley ranked #157 public high school in the United States. (*US News & World Report*)
- Elementary/Middle schools ranked #2 in Westchester and #10 in New York on State testing.
- iLab/Innovative Spaces: Nationally and internationally recognized for our commitment to knowledge-based and problem-based learning.
- 65 students selected for New York State School Music Association performance groups.

ATHLETICS (Fall/Winter/Spring Track)

- 6 league titles, 2 Conference Titles, 1 Section Title, 1 State Championship.
- 68 student-athletes earned post-season honors.

INCLUSION

- In 2015-16, 84.2% of students receiving special education services were educated inside regular education classrooms for 80% or more of their school day. (NYS average was 58.2%)

With 78% of the 2017-18 proposed budget going toward instruction, the expenditures portion is specifically targeted to advance the goals of the District, maintain our commitment to class size, and prepare all students with the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to be caring, productive, and responsible citizens in a 21st-century democratic society.

Regards,

Dan McCann
Interim Superintendent



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Ballot Proposition

The ballot proposition is asking voters to allow the District to modify the plans for two field projects within the Capital Improvements Bond that voters approved on June 14, 2016. Specifically, the original plan calling for the installation of an environmentally friendly turf field at Bell needs to be amended, and that will then impact the planned work for C Field at Greeley.

The District is NOT seeking any additional monies by way of this proposition.

Q: What is this all about?

A: Basically, the District is asking permission to switch the original plans for an environmentally friendly turf field with lights at Bell with the original plans for improving the drainage and sod of C Field at Greeley. The C Field would become an environmentally friendly turf field with lights, and the Bell field would remain natural grass and receive drainage and sodding improvements. A walking path around the field at Bell is still in the plan.

Q: Why can't there be a turf field installed on the side field at Bell Middle School?

A: An engineering consulting firm concluded that pursuing the originally planned field project at Bell School would not make sense from a logistical and financial perspective. Sub-surface geotechnical borings uncovered that there exists an approximate 35-foot deep organic/peat layer, similar to what you would find in a wetland, marsh, or bog. The soil conditions are too structurally poor to support a turf field and lighting poles at the current proposed budget for this project.

Installing a turf field with lighting poles given these current soil conditions would result in uneven settling. Uneven settling would then create a hazardous playing surface, greatly reduce the life expectancy of the turf, and sharply increase any maintenance and repair costs. In order to make the originally proposed site at Bell a suitable option, soil stabilization, major land excavation work, and a retaining wall would be required, which would drastically increase the final cost of this project as well.

Q: How come these issues were not discovered beforehand?

A: The District was not authorized to expend any District funds, or begin any site work for this project, until after the 2016 Capital Improvements Bond was approved by voters. Initial, surface level observations of the original, proposed location led the District and planners to believe that this location would be adequate for the field project. It was only after the District was allowed to contract with the engineering consulting firm to conduct more extensive site work that it was determined the underlying soil conditions were too poor. The engineers were quite concerned with the sub-surface soil conditions after the geotechnical boring investigation was completed..

Q: Could the turf field instead be installed on the front field at Bell Middle School?

A: Unfortunately, No. The District did first explore this option, but there were too many challenges to overcome. Namely, the dimensions of the side field at Bell are too small to accommodate a regulation turf field for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and football. A turf field of these dimensions at this location also would encroach on the blacktop area where students are dropped off and picked up and school buses turn around, and it would need to extend onto neighboring property that the District does not own.

Q: Will this proposition impact the proposed 2017-18 school budget, or future budgets?

A: No. This proposition will have no impact on the school budget in any way. It will not affect the final budget numbers; it will not affect the tax levy; and it will not affect the tax rate for District residents. No budget increase is called for in this proposition, and there is no change to the amount being borrowed for the 2016 capital improvements bond.

The District is NOT seeking any additional monies by way of this proposition.

Q: How will the proposition be worded on the ballot come May 16?

A: WHEREAS, on June 14, 2016, the voters of Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District") approved the expenditure of not to exceed \$42,500,000 for the construction of alterations and improvements to District buildings and sites, and the Chappaqua Public Library; substantially in accordance with a "Capital Bond Proposal" dated March 30, 2016, prepared by the District with the assistance of Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson, Architects, P.C. (the "Original Project"); and thereafter the Board of Education authorized the issuance of not to exceed \$42,500,000 bonds and the levy of a tax in installments to pay said bonds and the interest thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has now determined that it is necessary and desirable to modify the Original Project **without increasing the cost thereof and without increasing the amount of bonds heretofore authorized;**

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED:

That the Board of Education of the District is hereby authorized to modify the scope of the Original Project substantially in accordance with a revised plan prepared by the District's architects, which plan is on file and available for public inspection at the office of the District Clerk, by (i) eliminating the artificial turf field with lighting proposed to be constructed at the Robert E. Bell Middle School side field and, in place thereof, constructing grass and drainage improvements and a walking path at said field; and (ii) constructing an additional artificial turf field with lighting at the Horace Greeley High School's C Field; and to reallocate and expend for the foregoing improvements a portion of the not to exceed \$42,500,000 Original Project cost heretofore approved by the voters on June 14, 2016.

Q: How can I get more information or ask a question?

A: Please contact John Chow, Assistant Superintendent of Business, at 914-238-7200 x1006 or via email at jochow@ccsd.ws.

HIGHLIGHTS

Chappaqua Schools

P.O. Box 21 ♦ 66 Roaring Brook Road ♦ Chappaqua NY 10514

Web: www.ccsd.ws E-mail: Board@ccsd.ws Phone: 914.238.7200 Fax: 914.238.7218

Board of Education

Alyson Gardner, *President*
 Victoria Tipp, *Vice President*
 Warren Messner
 Jeffrey Mester
 Karen Visser

Interim Superintendent of Schools

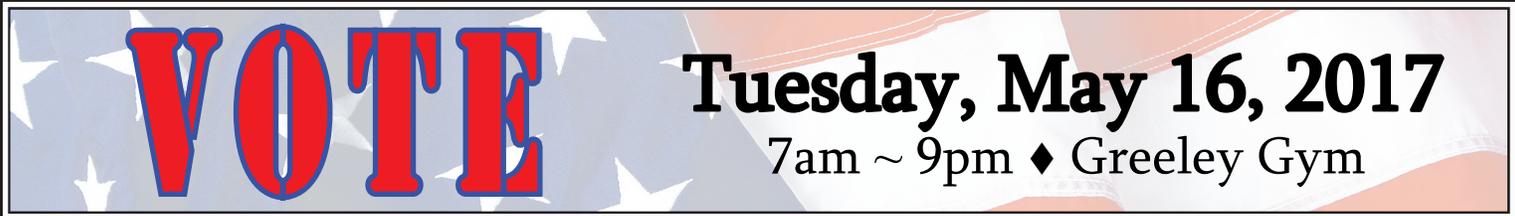
Daniel McCann, Ed.D.

District Clerk

Therese Dell'olio

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VOTE **Tuesday, May 16, 2017**
 7am ~ 9pm ♦ Greeley Gym

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

YES	NO	YES	NO
SCHOOL BUDGET RESOLUTION RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District be and hereby is authorized to expend the sum of \$119,571,688 set forth in the School District Budget for the School Year 2017-2018, and that the necessary tax be levied therefor.		LIBRARY BUDGET RESOLUTION RESOLVED: That there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$3,085,869 for the Chappaqua Central School District Public Library for the School Year 2017-2018, and that the necessary tax be levied therefor.	

YES **NO**

Shall the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District be authorized to modify the scope of the Original Project substantially in accordance with a revised plan prepared by the District's architects, which plan is on file and available for public inspection at the office of the District Clerk, by (i) eliminating the artificial turf field with lighting proposed to be constructed at the Robert E. Bell Middle School side field and, in place thereof, constructing grass and drainage improvements and a walking path at said field; and (ii) constructing an additional artificial turf field with lighting at the Horace Greeley High School's C Field; and to reallocate and expend for the foregoing improvements a portion of the not to exceed \$42,500,000 Original Project cost heretofore approved by the voters on June 14, 2016.

**NOTE: Actual, complete wording of this proposition can be found on page 5.*

To elect TWO members of the Board of Education for a term of three years. (Vote for TWO)	To elect ONE Trustee of the School District Library for a term of five years. (Vote for ONE)
Victoria Bayard Tipp	Leslie Mark Wertheim
Dean Rock	Ronni Diamondstein
Rhonda Kaufman	
Sanford M. Benardo	
Leah Heiss	
Jane Kimmel Shepardson	