



Outreach

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PROPOSED BUDGET CARRIES NEGATIVE TAX LEVY INCREASE

If Approved, Reduction of 0.012% to Tax Levy

Mineola's Board of Education and administrative team have prided themselves on doing more with less, even before the tax cap came into place. We are able to sustain all of our programs, as well as include enhancements, as a result of consistent long-term planning and a reorganization that allows us to operate at our most efficient. If you take a moment to glance at page 3, you will see a chart that illustrates

how Mineola has led the way with one of the lowest average tax levy increases in Nassau County over the last nine years. With a negative tax levy cap, the proposed budget for 2016-17 marks our lowest projected tax levy increase on record. What is truly unique about this year's budget is that if it is defeated and a contingency budget is necessary, it would not only negatively impact the supplies and equipment we could

provide our students, but it could also end up costing our taxpayers more than the proposed budget will. See the boxes below for further explanation on this anomaly.

The Board of Education urges everyone to vote on Tuesday, May 17. Budget information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

Approved 2016-17 Budget Includes:

- ALL current programs, extracurricular activities and athletics, as well as comprehensive staff and professional development opportunities.
- Continuation of the pre-K program, dual language program and STEAM initiatives.
- Expansion of our iPad and technology initiatives.
- **Facilities Upgrades:** Bus loop at the middle school; a pre-K wing and playground at Meadow Drive; exterior painting and Cupola repair at Jackson Avenue; and creation of a Fab Lab at the Middle School.
- **Capital Work:** Install air conditioning in instructional spaces at Jackson Avenue; create district storage facility at Hampton field; renovate and construct three music rooms at the High School
- **Equipment:** High School - Fab Lab equipment, new student lockers (1,700), library furniture, iHub creation, 21st-century classroom furniture, science research lab equipment; Middle School - Fab Lab furniture; Jackson Avenue - art room cabinetry; Districtwide - Bobcat for snow removal, new truck for facilities, furniture for elementary classrooms, new musical instruments, new football and lacrosse helmets, and new fitness room equipment.
- A DECREASE in the projected tax levy to residents.

Mineola Union Free School District

121 Jackson Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

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If the 2016-17 Proposed Budget Fails:

The Board *may* decide to hold a revote in June.

OR

If a contingency budget is necessary/adopted:

- The tax levy must maintain a zero percent increase over last year; meaning that the district can levy MORE taxes than it would with the proposed budget.
- Restrictions from the state will be put on district expenditures, resulting in a loss of supplies and equipment for students K-12.
- Taxpayers may pay more taxes under a contingency budget than they would under the proposed -0.012% tax cap-compliant budget.

VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 17

@ Jackson Avenue and
Meadow Drive Schools

*See page 4 for polling location information

6:00 AM to 9:00 PM

A complete copy of the proposed budget is
available on the district's website at

www.mineola.k12.ny.us



This year, Jackson Avenue School joined Mineola Middle School as being named an Apple Distinguished School.



For the eighth consecutive year, Mineola School District has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America by the NAMM Foundation.

Amazing ACHIEVEMENTS

- For the second year, the district has continued its participation in the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.
- Mineola School District has been acknowledged by President Obama in his final State of the Union address for its remarkable work with integrating coding and technology into education.
- Superintendent of Schools Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D. was chosen to speak at a TedX Talk in California in April on the topic of “Why education should be more like pizza.”
- Jackson Avenue School has been recognized as a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School.
- Our schools serve as representatives for best practices in education. Mineola High School hosted educators from Denmark to enhance their teaching of American history; Mineola Middle School hosted Chinese and Japanese educators interested in our iPad initiative; and Jackson Avenue hosted an Apple Educators forum to showcase how Apple technology is aiding instruction.
- Mineola High School has become home to hosting the annual FIRST Lego League qualifiers competition.
- A districtwide STEAM initiative is in place, encompassing science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.
- One of the few districts on Long Island, Mineola boasts a full-day and half-day pre-K program, available to all residents, as well as a dual-language program for students at Hampton, Meadow, Jackson and Mineola Middle School.
- All students are given the opportunity to participate in a gifted program hosted by LIU Post.
- Jackson Avenue School has the only SmallLab on Long Island. SmallLab turns a classroom into a live, interactive and educational game show.

Successful STUDENTS

- One student was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- One student was named a Scholar in the College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- Five student-musicians were selected for the 2016 American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Honor Choirs. This is the first year Mineola has garnered any acceptances.
- More than 50 current and former students were named Advanced Placement Scholars.

Overwhelming OUTREACH

All schools in Mineola thrive on helping others within the community.

- The Student Service Center at the high school facilitates dozens of community service and volunteer activities for students to engage in.
- The Senior Project is a mandatory class required for graduation in which students engage in a final assignment that asks them to “give back.”
- Mineola Middle School conducts service learning projects that assist local organizations such as the INN and patients at Winthrop-University Hospital.
- Our elementary schools raise thousands of dollars every year through the Jump Rope for Heart initiative and donate hundreds of food items to local families in need during the holiday seasons.

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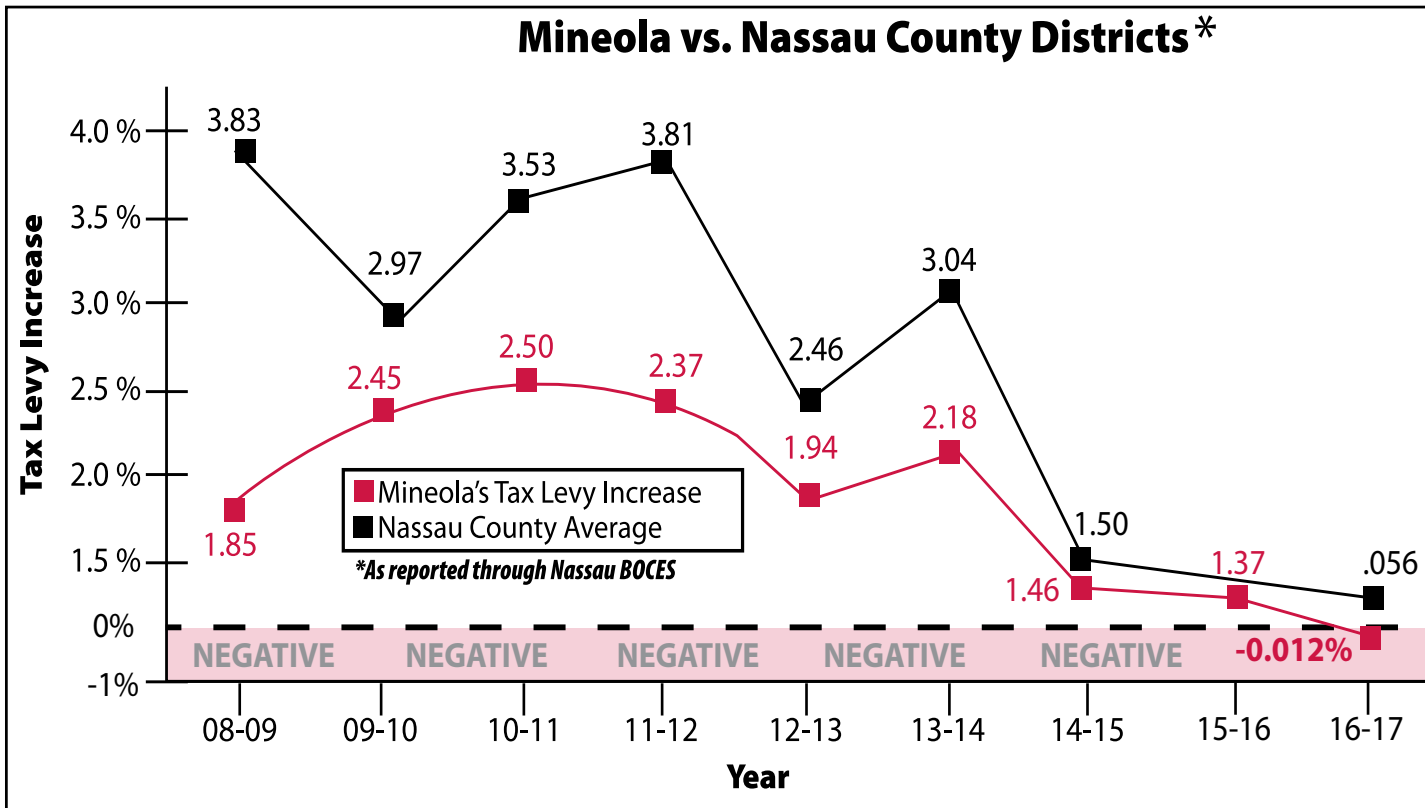
Meadow Drive School unveiled an Epic Lego Wall in its STEAM room for kindergartners through second-graders.



The districtwide iPad initiative includes classroom carts at each of the primary schools and a 1:1 take-home program for grades K-12.

Maintaining a Lower & More Stable Tax Levy

While the trend throughout Nassau County has been to put forth tax levy increases that vary greatly from year to year – sometimes low, sometimes high – Mineola has maintained a stable tax levy increase at or below 2.5% for nine consecutive years. This is due to our consistent long-term planning and reorganization that allow us to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible.



THE 2016-17 SCHOOL BUDGET Proposed Expenditures: Quick Look

	Approved Budget 2015-16	Proposed Budget 2016-17	Dollar Change from 2015-16
Total Instructional Program	\$67,862,926	\$68,973,841	\$1,110,915
Total Capital	\$12,853,116	\$13,158,337	\$305,221
Total Administration	\$8,948,221	\$9,082,334	\$134,113

TOTAL BUDGET	\$89,664,263	\$91,214,512	\$1,550,249
PROJECTED TAX LEVY INCREASE:	-0.012%	BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE:	1.73%

For a detailed look at the district's proposed budget, including the entire three-part budget, please visit the district's website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us

BOARD CANDIDATES

In addition to voting on the budget, this year residents will be electing one candidate to the Board of Education. The seat that will be voted on, at large, is the one currently occupied by Patricia Navarra. A separate mailing will be sent out with information about the candidates for this seat.

POLLING LOCATIONS

Voting for the Mineola UFSD Annual Election and Budget on May 17 will take place at Jackson Avenue School and Meadow Drive School.

Election District #1 Polling Place:

Jackson Avenue Elementary School

All those portions of the school district which are located within U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 11501 and 11040.

Election District #2 Polling Place:

Meadow Drive Elementary School

All those portions of the school district which are located within U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 11507, 11577 and 11596.



Visit www.mineola.k12.ny.us and use the Poll Place Finder to confirm your voting location.



Questions & Answers

Q. What programs are included in the budget?

A. This budget includes funds for all current academic, co-curricular and extracurricular programs, as well as the continuation of our iPad program.

Q. What happens if this budget fails?

A. If the budget fails, the Board of Education has the opportunity to make any changes to the proposed budget and put it up for another public vote in June. However, the Board of Education also reserves the right to not conduct a revote and go straight to a contingency budget. To see what a contingency budget would mean for Mineola, please see page 1.

Q. What is included in the budget for residents who do not have children in the public schools?

A. The Mineola Union Free School District serves all residents. All district buildings and athletic fields are available for use by community groups. The budget also provides more than 600 private and parochial school students with textbooks, computer software, health services, special education services, library materials and transportation to their respective schools.

Q. Are there tax exemptions for senior citizens?

A. The Mineola Board of Education is aware of the strain that the tax levy increases can place on our senior citizens. In order to help ease this burden, the Board has approved senior citizen tax exemptions that may reduce property taxes for seniors by as much as 50%, based on the individual's annual income. This means that a senior citizen with low income may be eligible to pay only half the amount of the school tax that he or she would otherwise be required to pay. Seniors can apply for this exemption by contacting the Nassau County Department of Assessment at 516.571.1500.

Q. Are there any other exemptions that homeowners may qualify for to reduce school taxes?

A. All New York State residents who live in their own homes have the opportunity to see a reduction in their school property taxes, regardless of age or income, through the New York State School Tax Relief (STAR) program. Senior citizens are eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit. In order to receive this exemption, residents must apply to the Nassau County Department of Assessment at 516.571.1500. Seniors must reapply for the enhanced exemption each year.

IMPORTANT *Budget Dates*

Thursday, May 5

Board of Education Workshop Meeting & Budget Hearing @ Willis Avenue School 7:00 PM (121 Jackson Avenue) 2nd Floor Board Room

Tuesday, May 17

Board Election and Budget Vote @ Jackson or Meadow Drive Schools (See Polling Locations at left) 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM

VOTER INFORMATION

Voting Requirements

To participate in the May 17, 2016 budget vote and Board election:

- You must be a registered voter who is a United States citizen 18 years of age or older, and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You need not register if, during the last four years, you voted in a general election in Nassau County, voted in a Mineola Union Free School District election, registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections, or registered with the Mineola Union Free School District.

When and Where to Register

From now through May 12, 2016, registration is continuous for new residents and those who have had a change of address, Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 3 PM in the Superintendent's Office, located at 121 Jackson Avenue, second floor. There will be a special registration opportunity on the evening of Tuesday, May 3, 2016 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Willis.

When and Where to Vote

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 17 between the hours of 6 AM and 9 PM at either Jackson Avenue or Meadow Drive (see at left).

Absentee Ballots

If you will be out of the country or unable to vote in person on May 17, you can apply for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available in the Superintendent's Office, located at 121 Jackson Avenue, second floor. You may either call 516.237.2002 to have an application mailed to you, come into the office to pick one up in person, or download a copy from the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.



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