



Outreach

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CAPITALIZING ON CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENTS WITHIN THE CAP

Seventh Year at or Below 2.5%

For the past decade, fiscal responsibility has been the cornerstone of Mineola's proposed budgets – and this year is no exception. Our 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 plan that has set us up to operate at our most efficient. With a **1.92% budget-to-budget** increase and a projected **1.46% tax levy increase**, the proposed budget for 2014-15 marks one of our lowest tax levies to date. The proposed budget also comes with many curricular and operational enhancements.

Key Components of the 2014-15 Budget:

- Maintains ALL current programs, extracurricular activities and athletics.
- Expansion of existing pre-K program to five-days a week, half-day for all students.
- Outsourcing of UPK to Harbor Child Care to provide 54 seats for full day pre-K five days a week.
- Expansion of the dual language program at Meadow and Jackson.
- Continuation of our iPad initiative, grades 3-9.
- Science laboratory continued for grades 3-7.
- Continuation of the Five-Year Bus Replacement Plan.
- Facilities upgrades – Seats and flooring for middle school auditorium; new public address system at Hampton; air conditioning for non-instructional spaces at Meadow, Hampton and Jackson; expansion of districtwide monitoring to include water, temperature and boiler alerts.

Mineola Union Free School District

121 Jackson Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

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Mineola is able to present a budget with these additions – at a time when others are looking to make subtractions – due to its fiscal prudence and consistent five-year outlook in planning. This year included some exceptional circumstances, as well:

- Due to diligent contract negotiations, a deferment in step salary for all teachers has saved the district approximately \$250,000 this year. These funds are being given back to taxpayers and being applied directly to offset the tax levy for the 2014-15 school budget.
- A \$213,000 Management Efficiency Grant has been applied for the 2014-15 school budget. Mineola has been selected to receive this grant every year for three years as a result of its exemplary fiscal responsibility.
- \$500,000 in revenue from Solomon Schechter Day School and Harbor Child Care.

If you take a moment to glance at page 2, 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 five years. And the district has done this while actually increasing programs and services for its students and community. These programs and services have garnered much success for our district, for which we have been rewarded with many accolades and monetary gains. A comprehensive list of awards can also be found on page 2.

The Mineola Board of Education and administration urge everyone to vote on Tuesday, May 20. Budget information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 20

@ 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

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 steady tax levy increase at or below 2.5% for seven consecutive years. This is due to our consistent long-term planning and reorganization that allow us to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. See the graph at right, where the numbers speak for themselves.



Points of Pride

As you see above, Mineola has consistently been doing more with less. Despite having lower tax levy increases, our district has been acknowledged with numerous awards over the past few years. Take a look at all the recognition your schools have been getting.

- Mineola Middle School was named an Apple Distinguished School (only one in NYS) for the 2013-14 school year, providing us with the opportunity to showcase our iPad initiative to other districts.
- Mineola High School is one of only 123 schools in the nation to be selected as a GRAMMY Foundation Signature Schools semifinalist for 2014.
- District received Apple's Distinguished Program of the Year Award for 2013 for its exemplary learning environment (only district in Nassau County). All students in grades 3-9 receive an Apple iPad to enhance their education.
- Management Efficiency Grant given to district (only one in Nassau County) for efficient management and actualized savings from reorganization. This came with an annual grant of \$213,000 for three years.
- District designated as one of the Best Communities for Music Education for six consecutive years.

- Bronze Medal Winner in the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge for our lunch services and physical education program for 2013.
- Mineola is the only district on Long Island that offers a full day pre-K program to all of its residents.
- Both Meadow Drive and Hampton Street schools boast brand-new library media centers. In fact, Hampton's won second place in the Seventh Annual People's Choice Installation Contest for its alphabet structure.
- Jackson Avenue School is home to a brand-new, state-of-the-art science laboratory for all students.
- Dual Language Program successfully launched this year at Hampton Street School.
- Our high school has semifinalists and finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition each year.
- More than 60 high school students were recognized by the College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars for their exceptional achievement on the AP exams that were completed in May 2013.

PROPOSED BUDGET VS. CONTINGENCY BUDGET

Proposed Budget
\$87,799,041

Contingency Budget
\$86,443,490

If voters defeat the proposed budget twice, the district will not be able to increase the tax levy from last year. This would force the district to cut approximately \$1,355,551 from the proposed budget, which would result in the elimination of all proposed enhancements to program and equipment, as well as the need to further maximize staff. In turn, this would possibly lead to increased class size and/or reduced program offerings. Since our district has consistently approached each budget with a five-year outlook, Mineola is in a much better position than most others; however, a reduction of this magnitude could also affect our athletic program and result in a void that will only get harder to fill and restore, especially as we face more and more restrictions under the cap.



THE 2014-15 SCHOOL BUDGET

Proposed Expenditures: Quick Look

	Approved Budget 2013-14	Proposed Budget 2014-15	Dollar Change from 2013-14
Total Instructional Program	\$66,696,849	\$67,662,613	\$965,764
Total Capital	\$10,752,066	\$11,287,487	\$535,421
Total Administration	\$8,694,741	\$8,848,941	\$154,200
TOTAL BUDGET	\$86,143,656	\$87,799,041	\$1,655,385
PROJECTED TAX LEVY INCREASE:	1.46%	BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE:	1.92%

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 two candidates to the Board of Education. The seats that will be voted on, at large, are the ones currently occupied by Nicole Matzer and William Hornberger. There are two candidates for these two seats - Margaret Ballantyne Mannion and Nicole Matzer.

POLLING LOCATIONS

Voting for the Mineola UFSD Annual Election and Budget on May 20, 2014 will take place at the following two locations: the Jackson Avenue School and the Meadow Drive School.

The following is a list of the boundaries for each of the election districts:

Election District #1 Polling Place:

Jackson Avenue Elementary School

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



Questions & Answers

Q. How are we able to add programs, while other districts are cutting programs?

A. As a result of the reorganization and closing of Cross Street and Willis Avenue schools, the district has been able to increase program opportunities for students. The savings have allowed us to not only keep the proposed tax levy increase at our cap, but add programs to benefit our students, as well. This year, we have also received a number of grants, such as the Management Efficiency Grant which accounts for more than \$213,000 to go toward our educational program.

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 3.

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 an 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 8

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

Tuesday, May 20

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

VOTER INFORMATION

Voting Requirements

To participate in the May 20, 2014 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 15, 2014, registration is continuous, 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 6, 2014 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Willis.

Who Needs to Register?

New Mineola residents and residents who have had a change in address must re-register by May 15, 2014.

When and Where to Vote

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 20 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 20, 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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