



# Outreach

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## EDUCATIONAL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONS WITHIN THE TAX CAP

*\* Complete list of accomplishments on page 2*

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 plan that has set us up 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 seven years. With a 2.12% budget-to-budget increase and a projected 1.37% tax levy increase, the proposed budget for 2015-16 marks one of our lowest tax levies to date.

The Board of Education urges everyone to vote on Tuesday, May 19. Budget information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the district website at [www.mineola.k12.ny.us](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us).



**Eighth Year  
at or Below  
2.5%**

### *Key Components of the 2015-16 Budget:*

- Maintains ALL current programs, extracurricular activities and athletics, as well as comprehensive staff and professional development opportunities.
- Continuation of the Pre-K program – 54 full-day seats at Harbor via lottery; half-day program available for all other students.
- Expansion of the dual language program to include grades 3 and 4.
- Expansion of our iPad initiative, grades K-12.
- Creation of science labs to include grades K-2, making it a K-7 priority.
- Instructional additions – increased student time for Regents-level math courses at HS; create robotics lab at high school; create “small lab” space at Jackson.
- Facilities upgrades – completion of window replacement districtwide; repair/replace damaged asphalt, concrete and fencing districtwide; high school track repair; air conditioning for non-instructional spaces, as needed.
- A \$213,000 Management Efficiency Grant has been applied towards the 2015-16 school budget. Mineola was selected to receive this grant as a result of its exemplary fiscal responsibility.
- \$500,000 in revenue from Solomon Schechter Day School and Harbor Child Care.

**Mineola Union Free School District**  
121 Jackson Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MINEOLA U.F.S.D.

**VOTE TUESDAY,  
MAY 19**

**@ 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](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us)**



As an Apple Distinguished School, Mineola Middle School received a visit from Apple's Vice President of Education John Couch in October.



This is the first year the district launched a pre-K program with full-day and half-day options.



MHS hosted the FIRST Lego League competition on Jan. 31. Mineola's team won an award for the Alliance Round, where they teamed up with another group at random and scored the highest point value.



The Be the Change for Kids Award for Innovation came with grant monies from the New York State School Boards Association that the district will use to enhance its already extensive program.



# Mineola

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2014-2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

### *Amazing* ACHIEVEMENTS

The district joined the elite Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.

- The New York State School Boards Association presented Mineola with the Be the Change for Kids 2014 Innovation Award.
- Superintendent of Schools Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D. was chosen to participate in the first National Connected Superintendents Summit hosted by the U.S. Department of Education and the White House.

Mineola Middle School was visited and toured by Apple's Vice President of Education John Couch.

- The State Education Department featured Mineola in a video for its parent outreach with the Common Core initiative. Former Commissioner John King mentioned Mineola's program in many public speeches.
- The district received honorable mention in the National School Boards Association 2015 Magna Awards for its "Stopping the Summer Slide" program.

The district hosted the Smart Schools Committee Press Conference due to its reputation for technological excellence in education.

- A districtwide STEAM initiative is in place, encompassing science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.
- The district implemented a full-day and half-day pre-K program, available to all residents.
- All students are given the opportunity to participate in a gifted program hosted by LIU Post. Students who meet a minimum score on the COGAT exam are eligible for the Saturday morning program at no cost.

### *Successful* STUDENTS

- One student was named a National Merit Semifinalist.

Two students were named semifinalists in the national Intel Science Talent Search for their research.

- Four students were named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- More than 70 students were named Advanced Placement Scholars.

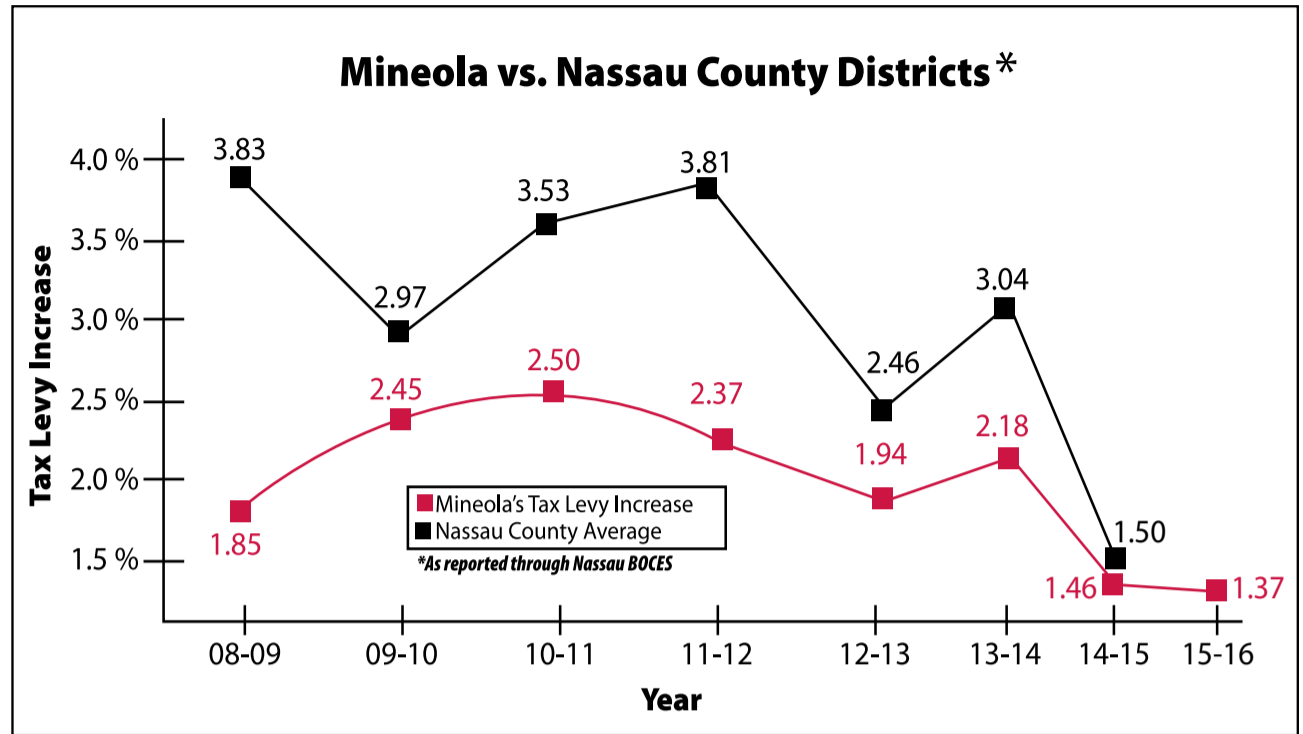
### *Overwhelming* OUTREACH

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.
- 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.

# 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 eight 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 2015-16 SCHOOL BUDGET Proposed Expenditures: Quick Look

	Approved Budget 2014-15	Proposed Budget 2015-16	Dollar Change from 2014-15
Total Instructional Program	\$67,662,613	\$69,162,926	\$1,500,313
Total Capital	\$11,287,487	\$11,553,116	\$265,629
Total Administration	\$8,848,941	\$8,948,221	\$99,280
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$87,799,041</b>	<b>\$89,664,263</b>	<b>\$1,865,222</b>
<b>PROJECTED TAX LEVY INCREASE:</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	<b>BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE:</b>	<b>2.12%</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET VS. CONTINGENCY BUDGET

**Proposed Budget**  
**\$89,664,263**

**Contingency Budget**  
**\$88,585,023**

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 \$1,079,240 from the proposed budget, which would result in the elimination of all proposed enhancements to program and equipment. In turn, this would possibly lead to increased class size and/or reduced program offerings, including athletics.

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](http://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 Arthur Barnett and Christine Napolitano. A separate mailing will be sent out with information about the candidates for these seats.

## POLLING LOCATIONS

Voting for the Mineola UFSD Annual Election and Budget on May 19, 2015 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 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.



## 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 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 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 7**

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

**Tuesday, May 19**

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 19, 2015 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 14, 2015, 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 5, 2015 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Willis.

### **When and Where to Vote**

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 19 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 19, 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](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us).

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Arthur Barnett, *President*

Christine Napolitano, *Vice President*

Nicole Matzer, Patricia Navarra, Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, *Trustees*

Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*