

# Wynantskill

## Union Free School District

MAY 2019

## THE 2019-2020 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

**VOTE: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • 12 – 9 p.m. • Gardner-Dickinson School**

Preserving programs for students while planning for the district's continued enrollment growth is the main focus of the 2019-20 school budget.

No cuts to programs or staff are required in the \$9,797,480 budget. The 2.52% tax levy increase is once again within New York's Property Tax Cap.

"We continue to look for ways to create opportunities for students while being mindful of our taxpayers," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "This budget ensures we're planning for the short term and long term to avoid spikes in future spending."

One long-term challenge the budget helps plan for is future tuition payments for students to attend high schools. Graduating class sizes will begin to increase after the Class of 2019.

"Our enrollment is growing," said Dr. Reardon. "We had a little over 300 students when I started here four years ago and now we're over 400. It's great that our district is growing but we have to plan for the future costs for our students to attend high school."

Students will have more access to library services next year as the library media specialist increases from 0.8 to 0.9 full-time equivalency. The move is part of a long-term plan to restore the position to a full-time position to help students develop better researching skills and create collaborative learning opportunities with classroom teachers.

The budget also maintains a teaching assistant for grades 3 and 5 to support those grades with relatively larger class sizes. The Pre-Kindergarten program will continue with one classroom and textbook, hardware and software funding is included to support all grades.

"We also will continue to look to create opportunities for our students at no cost to the district, such as adding electives so our middle school students have choices similar to larger districts," said Dr. Reardon. "I'm proud of the fact that the administrative portion of our budget has decreased each year I've been here so we can focus more funding on program."



*A new Computer Help Desk class provides students hands-on experience fixing keyboards, updating computers and resolving other technology issues. New classes like this continue to be explored to provide student opportunities at no cost to the district.*

## Budget Highlights

- Increases access to library service by increasing library media specialist from 0.8 to 0.9 full-time equivalency.
- Maintains teaching assistant for grades 3 & 5 to support those relatively larger class sizes.
- Continues the Pre-K program with one classroom.
- Plans for future increasing high school tuition payments due to growing enrollment.
- Maintains textbook and supply funding for all curriculum areas.
- Invests in technology by maintaining hardware and software funding.

# State Aid Increase Tied to Capital Project

Wynantskill UFSD will get an estimated 12.8% increase in state aid in 2019-20, but nearly all of the additional funding is designated to pay for the Capital Project.

To help school districts pay for building improvements, New York State provides Building Aid that can only be used for construction projects approved by the State Education Department.

New York State is covering approximately 72% of the cost

of the district's recent Capital Project, which included the new addition, performance stage and other building improvements. That building aid cannot be used for anything else.

Wynantskill UFSD's Foundation Aid, state aid that supports general education programming, will increase by just \$19,235 in 2019-20. State aid accounts for approximately 33% of the district's revenues.



Gardner-Dickinson's Drama Club performed "Seussical Jr." on the district's new stage this year, which was part of the Capital Project renovations.

## Continuing Opportunities for Students

Here are some examples of the education Gardner-Dickinson School students receive:

### Kindergarten to Grade 5

- Two sections for each grade
- Students study English Language Arts (ELA) two hours every day
- Students study math for an hour every day
- Students study social studies, on average, 30 minutes each day
- Students study science, on average, 30 minutes each day
- Students receive music, library research skills, physical education and art instruction throughout the school year

### Grades 6 to 8

- 6th graders study ELA, math, social studies and science
- 6th graders have PE every other day with hands-on art or science classes on alternate days
- 6th graders study art, music, library research skills, family and consumer science throughout the school year
- 6th graders begin learning foreign language by taking Spanish every other day
- 7th and 8th graders are taught core classes in ELA, math, science and social studies every day
- 7th and 8th graders continue their foreign language study by taking Spanish every day
- Art, music, technology, and physical education are taught to 7th graders every other day
- 6th, 7th and 8th graders have the option of taking band or chorus
- 8th graders have PE every other day opposite technology, lab, art or music
- 8th graders have the option of taking the following accelerated classes: Algebra, Earth Science, Honors English and Studio Art
- Afterschool opportunities include Odyssey of the Mind, modified sports, Builder's Club, Homework Center and Drama Club

## Proposition Would Fund Repair Reserve Fund

A proposition on the May 21 ballot would fund a Repair Reserve Fund with up to \$250,000 to pay for repairs and maintenance expenses that do not occur regularly.

The Board of Education established the Repair Reserve Fund this past year but voter approval is required to fund it.

"The Repair Reserve Fund would help us make repairs without taking money from the general fund," explained Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "We plan to use the funding for enhancements such as resurfacing the parking lot and bus loop."

Money for the Repair Reserve Fund would primarily come from fund balance and other reserves. If there is excess money left at the end of the school year, due to projected revenues being greater than expenditures, money could be put in the Repair Reserve fund.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Two candidates are running for two open seats on the Board of Education.

### CATHLEEN A. CASTLE

I have resided in Wynantskill since 1977. Both my daughter and son attended and graduated from Gardner Dickinson School. During that time, I was very involved in the school community. I retired from the NYS Education Department in 2014, with the last 20 years of my career in the Office of Special Education.

After filling a one-year vacancy on the School Board, I was elected to a full term. I have enjoyed being actively involved again in this school community, which my grandsons are part of, and would like to continue that involvement for another term.

I will work to ensure that all children have the resources needed to learn and grow regardless of their abilities while in a safe environment. I will continue to work with and support the administration to be innovative with programming while always being fiscally responsible and responsive to the school community.

### ANDREW LANESEY

Hello friends and neighbors of Wynantskill. My name is Andrew (Andy) Lanese and I am running for re-election to the Board of Education for the Wynantskill UFSD. I have been a nearly lifelong resident myself, growing up in the halls of Gardner-Dickinson. I am an 18 plus years employee of New York State's Office of State Comptroller. My wife Joyce and I are proud that we are able to raise our children in such a great community.

As a father of four beautiful children, I feel that it is especially important for our young minds to develop excellence in essential learning habits, critical thinking, leadership skills, and the means to be successful in life, starting from an early age. I feel that the small school setting that our great district provides is key to that success.

It is with appreciation that I ask for your support in my bid for re-election to a seat on the Board of Education for the Wynantskill UFSD.

## Proposition Would Create Capital Reserve Fund

A proposition on the May 21 ballot would create a Capital Reserve Fund that would allow the district to set aside up to \$2.5 million over 10 years to address infrastructure needs.

Voters approved a similar Capital Reserve Fund in 2014, which expired this year.

That reserve was used to pay for the local share of the recent Capital Project without impacting the general budget.

Money for the Capital Reserve Fund would primarily come from fund balance and other reserves. If there is excess money left at the end of the school year, due to projected revenues being greater than expenditures, money could be put in the Capital Reserve fund.

Before the district can spend any money from the Capital Reserve fund, it must receive voter approval. An example of this was last year when voters approved using \$500,000 from the previously created Capital Reserve Fund to pay for a portion of the Capital Project.

## BUS PURCHASES PART OF LONG-TERM PLAN

As part of the district's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the May 21 ballot would allow the district to purchase one 66-passenger and one 28-passenger bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$160,437. The district pays approximately one-third of the total cost because New York State reimburses the district for 65% of bus purchases. The local cost for both buses would not exceed \$56,153.

The district purchases school buses as part of its long-term bus replacement plan to keep the district's fleet in safe, working order. New buses replace old buses based on the vehicle's mileage, age, repair history and condition.



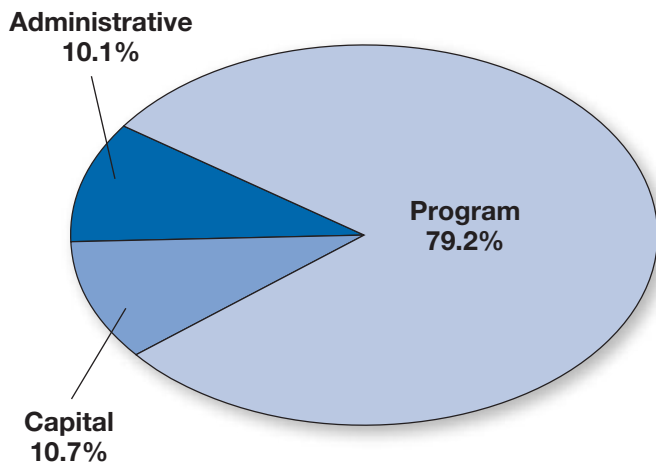
# BUDGET COMPARISON

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Change	% of Budget
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$7,444,079	\$7,755,455	\$311,376	79.2%
Teaching & Instruction, Instructional Media, Computer Services, Guidance/Health Services, Co-Curricular/Athletics, Special Education, Student Transportation, Bus Repairs/Maintenance				
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$961,610	\$993,631	\$32,021	10.1%
Board of Education: Clerk, Legal, Census, Treasurer, Tax Collection Superintendent: Business Administration, Purchasing, Payroll, Insurance, BOCES Administration Principal: Supervision, Staff Development & Training, Curriculum Auditing Services: External, Internal & Claims				
<b>CAPITAL</b>	\$1,040,619	\$1,048,394	\$7,775	10.7%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Construction Principal/Interest, Purchase of Buses				
<b>BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,446,308</b>	<b>\$9,797,480</b>	<b>\$351,172</b>	<b>100%</b>

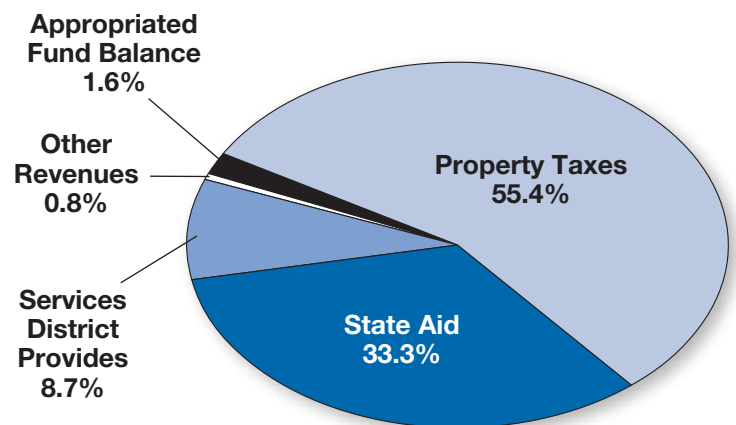
# REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$5,313,920	\$5,447,841	\$133,921	55.4%
State Aid	3,157,866	3,260,642	146,966	33.3%
Services District Provides	750,712	855,887	105,175	8.7%
Other Revenues	67,810	77,110	9,300	0.8%
Appropriated Fund Balance	156,000	156,000	0	1.6%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$9,446,308</b>	<b>\$9,797,480</b>	<b>\$395,362</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## EXPENSES:



## REVENUES:



# Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 9,448,308	\$ 9,797,480	\$9,538,835										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$ 349,172	\$ 90,527										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.69 %	0.95%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 5,313,920	\$ 5,447,871											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable													
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **													
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy													
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 5,313,920	\$ 5,447,871	\$ 5,313,920										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,313,920	\$ 5,447,871											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 5,313,920	\$ 5,447,871											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 961,610	\$ 993,631	\$ 985,554										
Program Component	\$ 7,444,079	\$ 7,755,455	\$ 7,721,203										
Capital Component	\$ 1,040,619	\$ 1,048,394	\$ 832,078										
<p>*To reach contingency budget amount, the District would reduce or eliminate certain expenses including equipment purchases, technology and supply increases, non-union increases and other contractual services.</p>													
<p>** List 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)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Description	Amount								
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NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 634
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Gardner-Dickinson school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of Noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Gardner-Dickinson School, Room #247, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

## POSTAL CUSTOMER Wynantskill, NY 12198

### Superintendent

Dr. Thomas Reardon

### Principal

Dr. Mary Yodis

### Board of Education

Andrew Lanesey, *President*  
Darcy Mack, *Vice President*  
Cathleen Castle  
Keith Hirokawa  
Eric Strang

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[www.wynantskillufsd.org](http://www.wynantskillufsd.org)

## VOTER INFORMATION

### When and where is the vote?

**Tuesday, May 21, 12 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Gardner-Dickinson School Band Room**

### Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and is a resident of the Wynantskill Union Free School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

### How can I vote by absentee ballot?

District residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 21 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. To request an application for an absentee ballot, please call the District Office at 518-283-4600 ext. 14. All completed ballots must be received by the District Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21.

### What if I have questions?

The district website, [www.wynantskillufsd.org](http://www.wynantskillufsd.org), has additional budget resources including budget presentations from Board meetings. You can also call the District Office at 518-283-4600 ext. 14.

## What Will I Be Voting on May 21?

### A \$9,797,480 budget for the 2019-20 school year

- The budget requires a 2.52% tax levy increase.
- Budget is within NYS Property Tax Cap.

### Two seats on the Board of Education

- Cathleen Castle and Andrew Lanesey are running for two seats on the Board of Education (see page 3).

### Proposition to purchase 28- and 66-passenger school buses

- Cost not to exceed \$160,437.
- State reimburses district for 65% of cost (see page 3).

### Proposition to create Capital Reserve

- Will help pay for future building projects, improvements or renovations.
- Funding will come from unappropriated balances in general fund (see page 3).

### Proposition to fund Repair Reserve

- Will help pay for repairs to buildings or grounds.
- Funding will come from unappropriated balances in general fund (see page 2).