

Wynantskill

Union Free School District

MAY 2013

THE 2013-2014 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

VOTE: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 • 12 – 9 p.m. • Gardner Dickinson School

On Tuesday, May 21, the Wynantskill Union Free School District community will vote on a proposed 2013-14 school budget that maintains class sizes and programs for students while investing in areas such as reading and math.

The \$8,170,552 budget increases spending by 1.66% over the current year and requires no employee layoffs or reductions to athletics or co-curricular activities. The proposed budget requires a 2% increase in the tax levy, which is below the district's allowable increase.

"The proposed budget allows the district to continue to deliver a high quality educational program focused on improving student achievement," said Superintendent Lisa Henkel. "We also expanded support in critical areas for students who need help while staying significantly under the tax levy limit."

New York's property tax cap law sets the district's allowable tax levy increase at 3.9%. While state officials touted the law as a "2% tax cap" when they passed it, the law actually uses a formula to calculate each district's allowable increase which allows for exemptions for certain costs outside a district's control. Only 5 of the nearly 700 school districts in New York State had a tax cap of 2% last year.

"It was important to the Board of Education and administration to limit the tax levy increase to 2% even though our limit was significantly higher," said Dr. Henkel.

The proposed budget enhances support services for students in areas such as reading, math and special education. By investing in these areas, the district's goal is to help students who are struggling early on so they can progress more quickly and become more successful learners.

While the budget would allow the school to offer the same number of courses and avoid staffing cuts, Dr. Henkel noted there may be some adjustments next year but they would be due to scheduling not the budget.

The proposed budget also includes \$100,000 in capital improvements for areas such as computers, technology and building security. The investments will help ensure the district is prepared for 2014-15 when New York State will require students to take all state tests online.

As part of the district's bus replacement plan, a separate proposition will also ask voters to approve the purchase of a 66-passenger bus not to exceed \$110,000. The district receives 71% state aid reimbursement on the purchase, limiting the cost to local taxpayers.

Voting will be held from noon to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21 in Gardner Dickinson School's main lobby.



What Will I Be Voting on May 21?

A \$8,170,552 budget for the 2013-14 school year

- The budget requires a 2% tax levy increase, which is lower than the allowable increase of 3.9%

Two seats on the Board of Education

- Incumbents Andrew Lanese and Andrea Paone are running for re-election.

Proposition to purchase one 66-passenger school bus

- Cost not to exceed \$110,000
- State reimburses district for 71% of cost

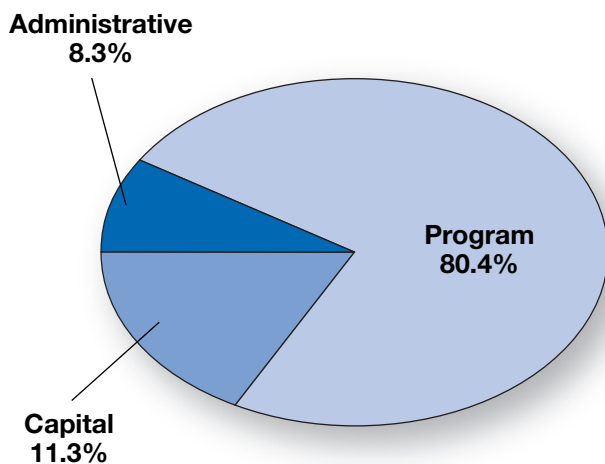
BUDGET COMPARISON

	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change	% of Budget
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 662,226	\$ 680,594	\$ 18,368	8.3%
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				
PROGRAM	\$6,343,935	\$6,565,183	\$221,248	80.4%
Teaching & Instruction, Instructional Media, Computer Services, Guidance/Health Services, Co-Curricular/Athletics, Special Education, Student Transportation, Bus Repairs/Maintenance				
CAPITAL	\$1,030,932	\$ 924,775	-\$106,157	11.3%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Construction Principal/Interest, Purchase of Buses				
BUDGET TOTAL	\$8,037,093	\$8,170,552	\$133,459	100.0%

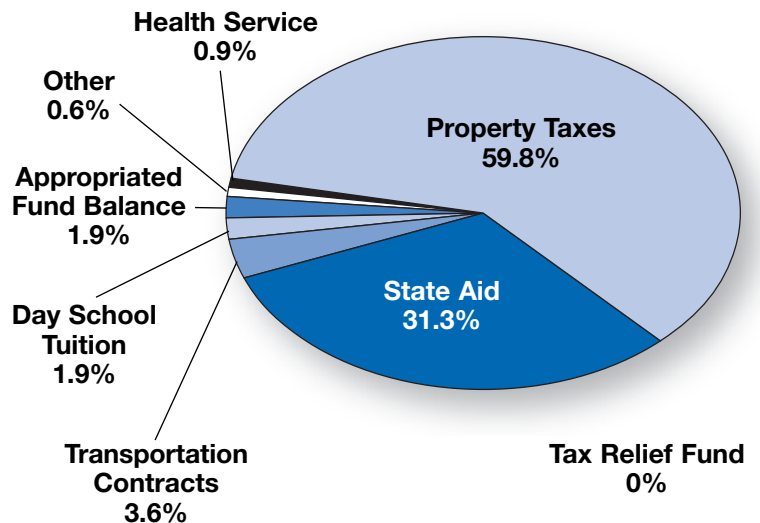
REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$ 4,787,717	\$ 4,883,471	\$ 95,754	59.8%
State Aid	2,440,476	2,560,297	119,821	31.3%
Transportation Contracts	287,283	293,029	5,746	3.6%
Appropriated Fund Balance	205,117	156,255	-48,862	1.9%
Day School Tuition	175,000	152,500	-22,500	1.9%
Health Services/DOR Billing	75,000	75,000	0	0.9%
Other Unclassified Revenues	50,000	50,000	0	0.6%
Tax Relief Fund	16,500	0	-16,500	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 8,037,093	\$ 8,170,552	\$133,459	100.0%

EXPENSES:



REVENUES:



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Incumbents Andrew Lanese and Andrea Paone are running for two open seats on the Board of Education.

ANDREW LANESEY

My family has lived in Wynantskill for over 90 years and I'm a nearly lifelong resident myself. I've worked for NYS's Office of State Comptroller for 12 years. My wife Joyce and I are proud we are able to raise our three children in such a great community.

I feel 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. The small school setting that our district provides is a means to this success.

We need to remember that fiscal responsibility is key. The current administration has been diligent in keeping additional tax levies to a minimum by sharing services where possible. As part of the Board of Education, I feel we have built a great team to lead our district forward. It is with gratitude that I ask for your support in my bid for re-election.



Finding Savings Through Partnerships

Wynantskill UFSD continues to seek ways to reduce costs by working with other schools and municipalities. Here are some examples:

- As part of a shared service agreement that reduces costs, the district partners with Brunswick (Brittonkill) CSD for support in the Building and Grounds and Food Services departments.
- The district works with other school districts in a health insurance consortium to increase purchasing power which significantly lower premiums.
- Products and services are purchased through New York State contracts and cooperative arrangements with BOCES whenever possible to obtain the best price.
- The district is part of a consortium of more than 170 schools and municipalities to purchase natural gas and electricity at a reduced rate.

ANDREA PAONE

I am honored to run for my 4th term to the Board of Education. I have lived in Wynantskill for the past 23 years. I have two children who both enjoyed their experiences at Gardner Dickinson, and were well-prepared for their current high school careers.

I joined the Board when the financial outlook for the school was very dim. Being a CPA and Director of Finance for Northeast Health, I thought I could lend that expertise to the Board and District. Over the years, Wynantskill School District has come back to not only a healthy financial position, but more importantly providing an ever improving education for our children.

With all the changes at the State level - increasing mandates, and decreasing funding - all schools including ours will need to think "outside the box." I strongly feel that consistent leadership is important to the process, and I am excited about the future of the Wynantskill School District.

SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE ON BALLOT

- A proposition on the May 21 ballot will ask voters to approve the purchase of a 66-passenger bus at a cost not to exceed \$110,000.
- The bus purchase is part of the district's long-term bus replacement program.
- The cost to local taxpayers will be significantly less because New York State provides aid to reimburse the district for 71% of the cost of the vehicle.

VOTER INFORMATION

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 12 – 9:00 p.m.
Gardner-Dickinson School

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and 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?

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 21 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the district office at 283-4679 by 3:00 p.m. on May 8. All completed ballots must be received at the District Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the district office at 283-4679.

POSTAL CUSTOMER
Wynantskill, NY 12198

Superintendent/Principal
Dr. Lisa Henkel

Board of Education
Andrea Paone, *President*
Ann Marsh, *Vice President*
Christina Curran
Matthew Hug
Andrew Lanese

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Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2012-13 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2013-14 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$8,037,093	\$8,170,552	\$8,131,423
Increase/Decrease for the 2013-14 School Year		\$133,549	\$(39,129)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.66%	(0.004%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.1%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$4,787,717	\$4,883,471	\$4,838,846
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$3,181	\$51,129	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$4,784,536	\$4,832,342	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,819,794	\$4,926,292	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$(35,258)	\$(93,950)	
Administrative Component	\$662,226	\$680,594	\$680,594
Program Component	\$6,343,935	\$6,565,183	\$6,565,183
Capital Component	\$1,030,932	\$924,775	\$824,775

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2013-14 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The District would reduce capital project expenditures in the amount of \$44,825.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

(Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition (purchase from 12-13 appropriations)	\$110,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 610

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Gardner-Dickinson School, 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.