

# Wynantskill

## Union Free School District

MAY 2018

## THE 2018-2019 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

**VOTE: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 • 12 – 9 p.m. • Gardner-Dickinson School**

Preserving opportunities for students while adding a pre-kindergarten program is the main focus of the 2018-19 school budget. No cuts to programs or staff are required in the \$9,446,308 budget. The estimated 2.3% tax levy increase is within the Property Tax Cap.

“We want to ensure that programs for K-8 students aren’t effected as we add a Pre-K program,” said Superintendent Thomas Reardon. “The Pre-K program will not be subsidized by state aid so we’re trying to be fiscally responsible by starting slow with one class.”

The Pre-K program was proposed in 2014 as part of the Capital Project vote. The building project, which includes an addition at the rear of the school, is expected to be largely completed in June.

CEO Headstart, an organization that offers numerous Pre-K programs locally, will run the program for the district. The program will serve 18 students who must be 4-years-old by Dec. 1. A selection process is expected to start in June.

“Headstart is not only a cost effective way to offer the program but they are trained to provide early childhood education,” said Dr. Reardon. “We’ve already had great meetings with Headstart and we’re excited about the program they will offer.”

The 2018-19 budget allows the district to add an 8th grade Health class by providing an additional 0.2 full-time equivalency (FTE) for its instruction. Health was offered as a 6th grade class two years ago but the district wanted to restructure the class for 8th graders.

“We want to provide a comprehensive course taught by a Health-certified teacher that covers general health as well as important areas such as mental health,” said Dr. Reardon.

The budget also allows the district to increase substitute pay for teachers and teaching assistants. That helps the district remain competitive with surrounding districts to attract substitutes.

The budget maintains funding for technology, textbooks, books, and other resources for K-8 students. It also funds a teaching assistant who will be assigned to 4th grade next year to support the grade’s relatively larger size.



*Students in all grades learned about ecology this year from wildlife expert George Steele, one of several guest educators who spent a week at Gardner-Dickinson through the Art in Education program.*

## Budget Within NYS Property Tax Cap

Most homeowners should receive a property tax relief check from New York State in the fall due to the school’s 2018-19 budget staying within the Property Tax Cap.

Wynantskill UFSD’s Property Tax Cap for next year is 2.3%. While state elected officials often call it a “2% tax cap” the figure actually changes each year due to a formula schools are required to use.

Because the district’s budget is within the Tax Cap, the community qualifies for New York’s Property Tax Relief

Credit Program. That program provides a credit to homeowners who receive Basic or Enhanced STAR property tax relief, have an income of \$275,000 or less, and paid school property taxes in 2017.

The tax credit is calculated by New York State which also mails the checks to homeowners. For questions about the tax credit or the STAR program, please contact the state Department of Taxation and Finance or your local assessor.

# Capital Project On Schedule for Completion in June

The district's Capital Project is expected to be largely completed in June, adding four classrooms, a stage and other improvements to Gardner-Dickinson.

"It's exciting to see the new classrooms and stage coming along," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "The contractors have done a great job. We can't wait to start using the new space."

Much of the Capital Project involves a building addition at the rear of the school. The two-story addition provides classrooms for the Pre-K and music programs and small group instruction space for special education.

A stage for student performances and other school events will connect the south end of the gymnasium to the building addition. The gym's ventilation system was also improved to make a more comfortable environment for physical education classes and school events.

The Capital Project also improves school safety with a more secure buzz-in system for the main entrance, upgraded video cameras and an upgraded fire alarm panel.

Gardner-Dickinson's information technology has also been improved. With teachers increasing using laptops, tablets and other devices to improve instruction, updates to the district's



*Students learned about the Capital Project from Superintendent for Construction Maurizio Cassano who volunteered to speak with classes.*

internet capabilities help integrate technology into curriculum.

The community approved the project in December 2014. New York State's review of the project took nearly a year, due to a backlog of project reviews with the Education Department.

Construction began in 2017.

## 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 every day
- 6th graders have physical education every day
- 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 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

## State Aid Increase Tied to Capital Project

Wynantskill UFSD will get an estimated 12.2% increase in state aid in 2018-19 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 State Education Department approved projects.

Wynantskill UFSD's Building Aid will increase by 70% in 2018-19 as New York State covers approximately 72% of the cost of the district's Capital Project. That funding cannot be used for anything else.

Wynantskill UFSD's Foundation Aid, state aid that supports general educational programming, will increase by 1.9% in 2018-19.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

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

### KEITH HIROKAWA

Keith Hirokawa teaches law at the Albany Law School. He teaches courses involving property and environmental and land use law. He has published articles exploring teaching theory, ecology, ethics, economics, and law. Professor Hirokawa has taught at Albany Law School, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (presently Texas A&M) and the University of Oregon School of Law. He holds an MA in philosophy and a JD from the University of Connecticut and an LLM from Lewis & Clark Law School. He attributes the success of his two boys (Owen and Ethan) to their experiences at Gardner-Dickinson.

### DARCY MACK

Darcy Mack has been a resident of Wynantskill for 16 years with her husband Tom and two children, Brigid and Cooper. She has a master's degree in Educational Psychology and works for St. Peter's Health Partners' Training and Development Department. She volunteers her time as Treasurer of the Wynantskill Community SEPTA, PTA Member, and Girl Scout Leader. She states "as a Board Member, I will continue to support innovation that helps give our children tools to become lifelong learners, all while representing our whole community. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve this district."



*The school library received free books from the Library of Congress this year when Library Media Specialist Linda Fecura applied to its Surplus Book Program.*

## BUS PURCHASES PART OF LONG-TERM PLAN

As part of the district's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the May 15 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.



## Proposition Allows Use of Capital Reserve Fund

A proposition on the May 15 ballot would allow the district to spend \$500,000 from a Capital Reserve Fund to pay for a portion of the current Capital Project.

**Q:** Why does the district want to use money from the Capital Reserve Fund?

**A:** Using money from the Capital Reserve Fund would allow the district to pay for additional costs of the Capital Project with no impact to taxes and no additional borrowing.

**Q:** Why does the district need voter approval?

**A:** New York State requires voter approval before school districts can use money from a Capital Reserve Fund.

**Q:** When was the Capital Reserve Fund established?

**A:** Voters approved the creation of the Capital Reserve Fund in May 2014 as a proposition on the budget vote.

**Q:** Where does the money for the Capital Reserve Fund come from?

**A:** Funding for the Capital Reserve Fund comes primarily from fund balance.

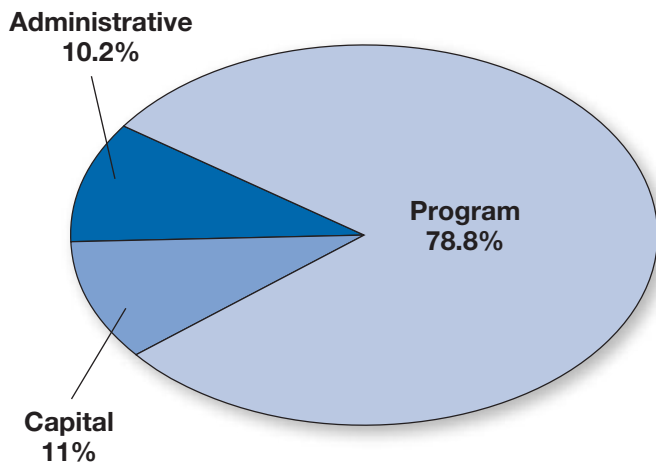
# BUDGET COMPARISON

	2017-2018	2018-2019	Change	% of Budget
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$7,197,703	\$7,444,079	\$246,376	78.8%
Teaching & Instruction, Instructional Media, Computer Services, Guidance/Health Services, Co-Curricular/Athletics, Special Education, Student Transportation, Bus Repairs/Maintenance				
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$929,227	\$961,610	\$32,383	10.2%
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>	\$910,909	\$1,040,619	\$129,710	11%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Construction Principal/Interest, Purchase of Buses				
<b>BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,037,839</b>	<b>\$9,446,308</b>	<b>\$408,469</b>	<b>100%</b>

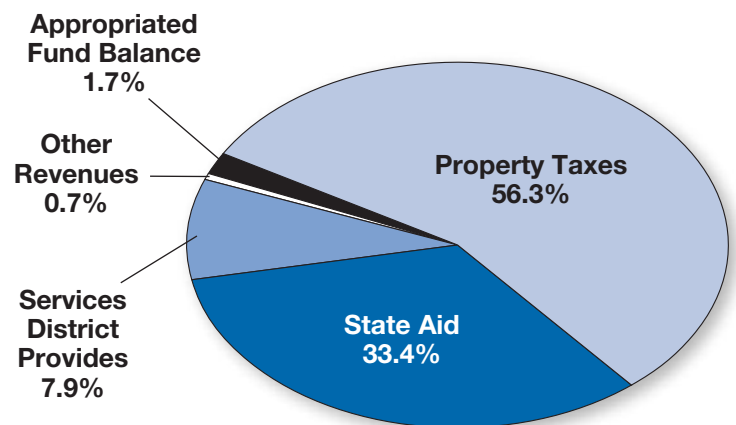
# REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2017-2018	2018-2019	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$ 5,194,661	\$ 5,313,920	\$ 119,259	56.3%
State Aid	2,808,638	3,157,866	349,228	33.4%
Services District Provides	808,940	750,712	-58,228	7.9%
Other Revenues	69,600	67,810	-1,790	0.7%
Appropriated Fund Balance	156,000	156,000	0	1.7%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 9,037,839</b>	<b>\$ 9,446,308</b>	<b>\$408,469</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## EXPENSES:



## REVENUES:



# Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018- 2019 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 9,037,839	\$ 9,446,308	\$9,202,324										
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$408,469	\$164,485										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.52 %	1.82%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$5,194,661	\$5,313,920											
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)	\$5,194,661	\$5,313,920	\$5,194,661										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,194,661	\$5,313,920											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$5,194,661	\$5,313,920											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$929,227	\$961,610	\$946,337										
Program Component	\$7,197,703	\$7,444,079	\$7,428,039										
Capital Component	\$910,909	\$1,040,619	\$827,948										
<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 style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: left;">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: [emscmqts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmqts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$655

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free school district, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Gardner-Dickinson school in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 09:00pm, prevailing time in the Gardner-Dickinson School Band Room 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 15, 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 15 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. To request an application for an absentee ballot, please call the District Office at 283-4600 ext. 14. All completed ballots must be received by the District Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15.

### 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 283-4600 ext. 14.

## What Will I Be Voting on May 15?

### A \$9,446,308 budget for the 2018-19 school year

- The budget requires a 2.3% tax levy increase.
- Budget is within NYS Property Tax Cap.

### Two seats on the Board of Education

- Keith Hirokawa and Darcy Mack 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 authorize use of Capital Reserve

- Voter approval required to use \$500,000 of Capital Reserve Fund to pay portion of Capital Project.
- No impact to taxes.

## Follow District on Facebook and Twitter



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