

Wynantskill

Union Free School District

JUNE 2020

THE 2020-2021 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY • JUNE 9, 2020

A community vote on Wynantskill UFSD's 2020-21 budget will take place Tuesday, June 9. All voting will be by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic, per New York State Executive Order.

The 2020-21 school budget totals \$9,864,410 and requires a 2.2% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap.

Like school districts across New York, Wynantskill UFSD is anticipating the possibility of significant cuts to State Aid due to the state's \$13 billion deficit.

The state budget froze Foundation Aid, the largest category of school aid, at 2019-20 levels. In addition, New York is weighing further cuts to state spending depending on how state revenues and expenditures look during the rest of the year.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has said further cuts to state spending could be significant after it examines revenues and expenditures at three points during this year.

Faced with this financial uncertainty, the focus of Wynantskill UFSD's 2020-21 presented budget is preserving student programs and supports. It also adds or restores previously cut programming with an eye on long-term fiscal sustainability (see Budget Highlights box).

"This budget creates some new opportunities for our students while being very mindful of New York's financial situation," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "If our state aid is cut mid-year, we plan to use our reserves to lessen the impact of the revenue loss."

Savings in the 2020-21 budget are made in several areas including bringing students back to Gardner-Dickinson from special education outplacements. A new program taught in a classroom in the school's new addition will save close to \$180,000 by providing our own class for these students.

Additional savings are made by restructuring transportation leadership, retirements and reducing a teacher assistant position. The TA position helped students in primary grades who are now in upper grade levels where small group instruction can occur more independently. A teacher aide position is also reduced through attrition and will not be replaced based on current district needs.

Voters will also decide on a proposition to purchase a 66- and 28-passenger bus as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan (see page 2). Eric Strang is running unopposed for a second three-year term on the Board of Education.



Wynantskill UFSD would like to thank all our GD families and teachers for doing such an incredible job helping our students continue their learning during the school closure.

Budget Highlights

- Increase physical education by 0.13 full-time equivalency to help with larger class sizes and potential adaptive PE needs.
- Add custodial cleaner to meet increased demands of the campus, particularly in cleaning and sanitizing learning areas.
- Maintain textbook and supply line items to support all curriculum areas.
- Maintain technology hardware and software line items to maintain technology for all grades.
- Invest in transportation salary line item to remain compliant with DOT/NYSED mandates.

BUDGET COMPARISON

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Change	% of Budget
PROGRAM	\$7,755,455	\$7,645,478	-\$109,977	77.5%
Teaching & Instruction, Instructional Media, Computer Services, Guidance/Health Services, Co-Curricular/Athletics, Special Education, Student Transportation, Bus Repairs/Maintenance				
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$993,631	\$1,105,424	\$111,793	11.2%
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				
CAPITAL	\$1,048,394	\$1,113,508	\$65,114	11.3%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Construction Principal/Interest, Purchase of Buses				
BUDGET TOTAL	\$9,797,480	\$9,864,410	\$66,930	100%

REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$5,447,841	\$5,567,523	\$119,682	56.4%
State Aid	3,260,642	3,200,000	-60,642	32.4%
Services District Provides	855,887	855,887	0	8.7%
Other Revenues	77,110	85,000	7,890	0.9%
Appropriated Fund Balance	156,000	156,000	0	1.6%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,797,480	\$9,864,410	\$66,930	100.0%

BUS PURCHASES PART OF LONG-TERM PLAN

As part of the district's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the June 9th ballot would allow the district to purchase one 66-passenger and one 28-passenger bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$169,661. The district pays approximately one-third of the total cost because New York State reimburses the district for 65% of bus purchases.

The district will not borrow money to purchase the buses. If money is not available at time of purchase, a bus or buses will not be purchased.

The district purchases school buses as part of its long-term bus replacement plan to keep the district's fleet in safe, working order and avoid costly repairs. New buses replace old buses based on the vehicle's mileage, age, repair history and condition, which can become costly to maintain when repairs are needed to remain DOT compliant.



Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 9,797,480	\$ 9,864,410	\$9,665,755										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$ 66,930	(\$198,655)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		.68 %	(0.02%)										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 5,447,871	\$ 5,567,523											
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)	\$ 5,447,871	\$ 5,567,523		\$ 5,447,871									
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,447,871	\$ 5,567,523											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 5,447,871	\$ 5,567,523											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 993,631	\$1,105,424	\$ 980,500										
Program Component	\$ 7,755,455	\$ 7,645,478	\$ 7,645,478										
Capital Component	\$ 1,048,394	\$ 1,113,508	\$ 1,039,777										
<p>To reach contingency budget amount, the District would reduce or eliminate certain expenses including equipment purchases, technology and supply increases, non-union wage increases, reduction of building clerical support, and other administrative 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="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									
Description	Amount												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 607

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held via absentee ballot, and must be RECEIVED by the District Clerk no later than June 9th at 5:00 p.m. Ballots will be mailed to each individual household member using the previous year's voter registration log and will not be accepted in-person. If you have not received a ballot or need another copy, please contact Sharon Hillis, District Clerk via email at: shillis@wynantskillufsd.org, or via phone at 518-283-4600 ext. 14.

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

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

www.wynantskillufsd.org

VOTER INFORMATION

School Budget Vote Date:
Tuesday, June 9
(by absentee ballot only)

Voting Process:

All voting will be conducted by mail. There will be no in-person voting this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, per New York State Executive Order.

All qualified voters should receive an absentee ballot that they can mail to the district by June 9. If you did not receive an absentee ballot but believed you should have, please call 518-283-4600 ext. 14 or email shillis@wynantskillufsd.org.

Additional Budget Details

Please visit our website, www.wynantskillufsd.org, for additional details about the budget. Residents can also follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts for regular updates.

Continuing to Serve Our Community Through Closure

Wynantskill UFSD closed its buildings March 16 but we have never stopped caring for our students or community.

We are incredibly proud of our faculty and staff for the countless ways they serve our community each day during the school closure. Here are just a few examples.

- Almost overnight, teachers had to change how they taught. Our faculty use technology and creativity to keep students learning, engaged and connected with each other using a variety of platforms.
- Our IT Department made sure remote learning started day one, using existing student devices and loaning more than 150 other devices to students who need them.
- Our Food Services staff makes sure students are fed during the school closure by preparing a week of meals that students can take home each week. Fifty-four meals are prepared each week.
- Our counseling staff reach out to families to help them with any mental health or wellness needs.
- Our Facilities Department cleans, sanitizes and maintains our school so they are safe and ready when needed