

Reorganization Recap from Wynantskill & Troy

Superintendents Yodis & Carmello

Consultants Brian Schmitt and Bob Breidenstein

March 26, 2026

Forum Process: To Respond to Community Questions

- Tonight we will have a brief overview of the facts that have lead Troy and Wynantskill to pursue reorganization
- All the documents can be found on the Feasibility website
 - [Click Here for the Full Feasibility Study](#)

Questions are grouped/consolidated primarily focussed on:

- **Financial-** Budget Implications, Taxes Levy, Spending, Property Taxes, Tuition Costs, School Facility Improvements
- **Program-** School Choice, Programming Options
- **What has Changed?**
- **Why Reorganize** with Troy vs Other Systems?
- **Aid-** Foundation Aid, Revenue Federal Priorities
- **Enrollment Trends-** historic and current
- **What Happens....IF?**
- **Guarantees**

Forum Process: To Respond to Community Questions

- Questions have been submitted electronically, and verbally to the consultants and/or to the Leadership Teams of the districts.
- Dr. Yodis and Mr. Carmello will respond to most questions and the Consultants will address some of the process questions.
- The conversation tonight will be recorded and posted on the Questar BOCES Feasibility Site.

Forum Process: To Respond to Community Questions

- The study findings have been reviewed by NYSED, Questar BOCES, Dr. Rick Timbs (Financial Consultant), stakeholders, current law/regulations and policy. The findings are grounded in FACTS, DATA, PRIORITIES including from Opt,
 - Keeping Gardner-Dickinson open
 - Preserving and Investing in the GD campus
 - Promoting instructional opportunities for students
 - Affirming Continuation of School Choice
- The findings relevant, valid, verifiable- Opinions are part of the process, but the data drives the decisions.

- So let's begin....

What happened during the Last 5.5 years at Gardner-Dickinson?

- Covid money phased out after 2 years (Total=\$715,432)
- We worked to right size the district
 - Teachers retired and we did not replace them
 - 1 section in prek, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd after this year
 - No longer have 6th grade teachers -Middle School Teachers cover 6th, 7th, and 8th grades
- Increased need for Security and Mental Health Resources
 - Added SRO
 - Added Social Worker
- Increased need for Special Education Teachers/Classrooms
- **Decreasing Enrollment Continues...**

Things were always tight....getting much tighter!

Is enrollment declining across NYS or just in Wynantskill?

New York State Enrollments Declining

NYS public schools Enrollment

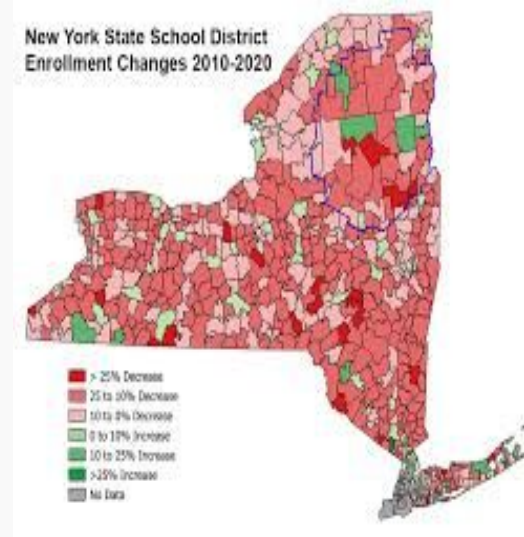
(2020 - 21) K-12 Enrollment: 2,512,973

(2021 - 22) K-12 Enrollment: 2,448,537

(2022 - 23) K-12 Enrollment: 2,422,494

(2023 - 24) K-12 Enrollment: 2,418,513

Enrollment Down -94,460 students



<https://data.nysed.gov/>



NYS Department of Health

https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2020/table54.htm



<https://www.nyeducationdata.org/demo-tools-and-visualizations>

CAPITAL REGION INDICATORS

<https://www.capitalregionindicators.org/profile/unsd-3631830>



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_aevCysrY_sWjA3fXfs5wU41XAs_9XZ0/view?usp=sharing

CRISIS!

School Too Small!



Fred E. Gardner, Principal

THE CRISIS WE FACE!

At present, we are conducting 4 Kindergarten classes in the basement of the Reformed Church, and 3 Fifth Grade classes on the second floor of the Volunteer Fire Department Building. We are grateful to have these facilities, and deeply appreciate the fine cooperation of those people who have agreed to make them available to us.

Although every effort has been made to equip these facilities for teaching purposes, they are far from being as efficient as regular classrooms. They lack space, have limited sanitary facilities, restrict our use of modern teaching techniques and equipment and in general are not conducive to efficient teaching . . . and good learning.

Picture, if you will, 174 children trying to learn in makeshift rooms which transmit sound from one room to the

next very readily. Our Fifth Grade students must be transported to and from our main school for assemblies, physical education and lunches. Vocational and Art instruction is not possible.

Although this condition has placed a genuine strain on our children, teachers, bus drivers, and other members of our staff, all have put every effort into "making the best" of our situation, knowing that "some day" soon it will be remedied.

The solution to this problem can come only from your interest and support in the proposed building program. Without your support, I do not know how we will fulfill our obligation to educate our children in the years ahead.

Fred E. Gardner



85-Children presently attend Kindergarten Classes in Fellowship Hall of the Reformed Church



85-Children in the 5th Grade presently attend classes in the Fire Department Building

Need to Build

Facilities designed for 476 Children

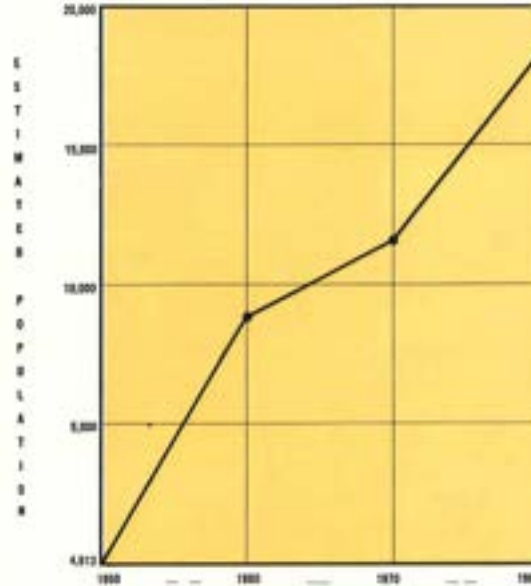
1965-66 Enrollment- 660 children

(4) kindergarten classes were in the basement of the Reformed Church

(3) 5th Grade Classes were held on the 2nd floor of the Fire Dept

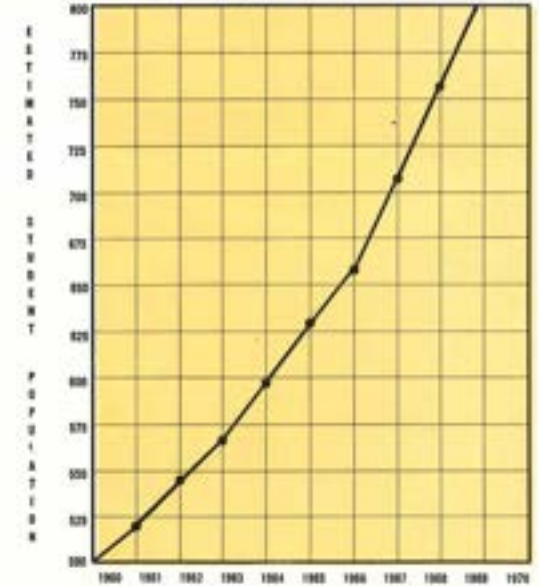
PROJECTED GROWTH OF OUR COMMUNITY FURTHER EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL . . .

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH
TOWN OF NORTH GREENBUSH



SOURCE: RENSSELAER COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

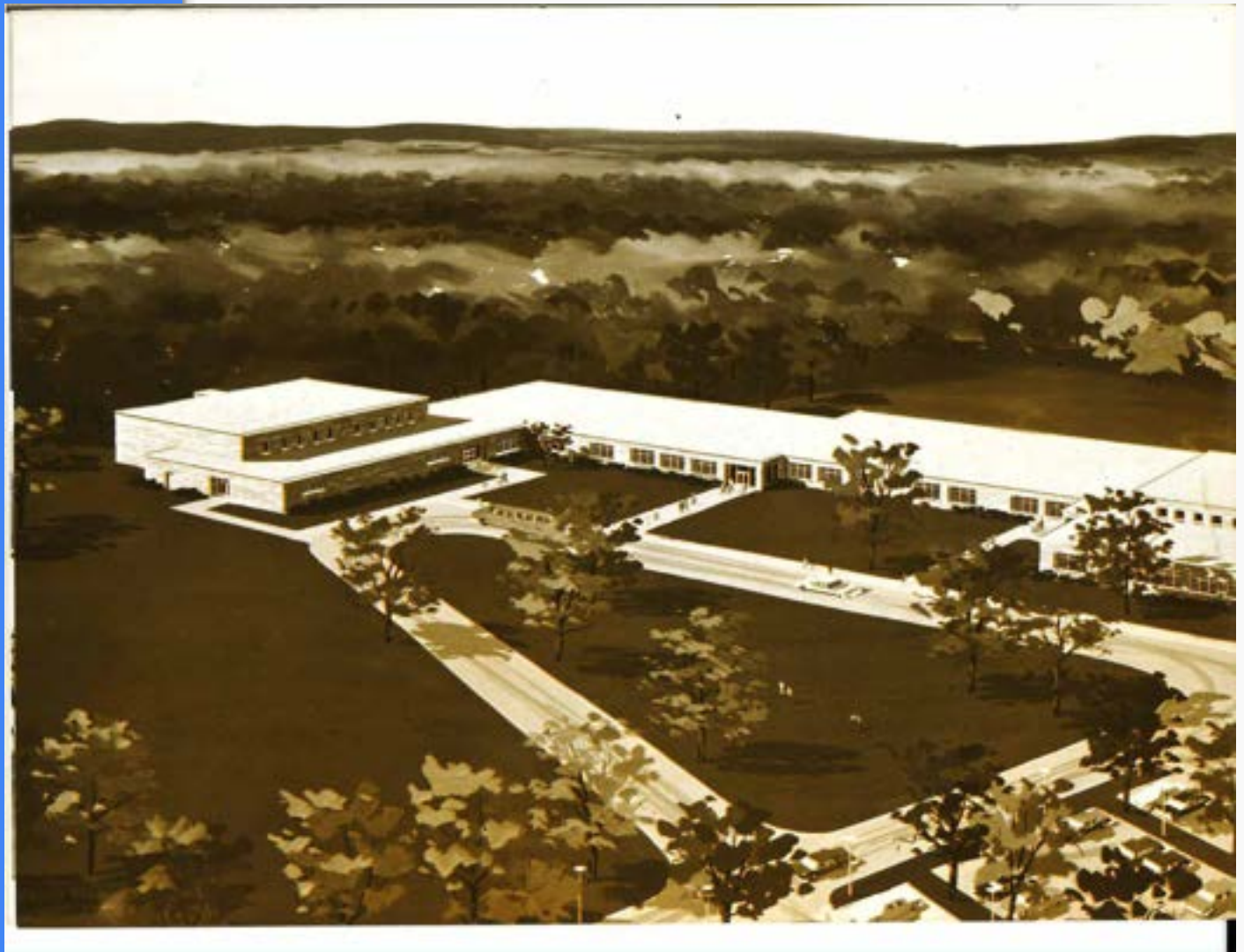
PROJECTED STUDENT GROWTH
40-70 CHILDREN PER YEAR



SOURCE: STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

New School Gardner-Dickinson Opens!

September 1969



Last 10 years of total enrollment history at Gardner-Dickinson PreK-8

School Year	Total
2016-17	364
2017-18	373
2018-19	384 PreK Begins
2019-20	379
2020-21	351
2021-22	343
2022-23	335
2023-24	311
2024-25	305
2025-26	303

What is the K-8 enrollment with and without Little Red? (Taken from SA-100 Report)

School Year	K-8 Total at GD	K-8 Wynantskill	3-8 Little Red
20-21	359	313	46
21-22	331	286	45
22-23	310	267	43
23-24	301	263	38
24-25	298	254	44
25-26	285	238	47

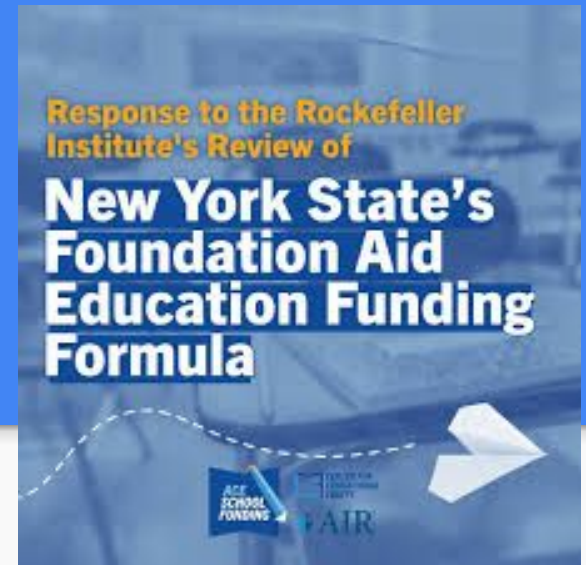
Enrollment
projections
for GD
PreK-8
2026-2027

	2026-2027 Est Total
PK	18
K	19
ICAN	6
1	23
2	23
3	35 (8 @ LR)
4	31
5	34
6	35
7	29
8	43
	296

**Projected
Enrollment for
2026-27**

Foundation Aid

Changes???








New York State Initiative

- Governor Kathy Hochul proposed changes to how the state funds schools
- NYS Legislature called for the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government to conduct a study of the State's Foundation Aid formula.
- Rockefeller Institute Recommendations
 - Phase out Hold Harmless - Since 1976 NYS would provide the same foundation aid or more through Hold Harmless (schools would never get less)
 - Enrollment loss thresholds which would also trigger reductions in save harmless aide

[Click here to view the Rockefeller Institute New York State's Foundation Aid formula study](#)

NYS Foundation Aid Formula Implications at Wynantskill...

 Enrollment	 Property Wealth Ratio	 Income Ratio	 Combined Wealth	 Student Poverty

**Lower Enrollment & Higher Property and Income Ratios
= Less State Aid**

How Much Foundation Aid does Wynantskill Receive?

School Year	Actual Aid Amount	Year-to-Year Increase
20-21	\$1,773,090	
21-22	\$1,827,885	+\$54,795
22-23	\$1,873,611	+\$45,726
23-24	\$1,929,819	+\$56,208
24-25	\$1,929,819	0 (could have been -\$177,034)
25-26	\$1,968,415	+\$38,596
26-27 Projections	1,988,099	+19,684

	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Actual	2026-2027 Estimated Aids per Executive Proposal
Foundation Aid	1,929,819	1,929,819	1,968,415	1,988,099 (+19,684)
BOCES Aid	328,466	286,919	384,083	325,181 (-\$58,902)
Private/Public Excess Cost Aid (Special Ed)	43,080	46,425	37,494	49,137 (+11,643)
High cost (Special Education)	5,252	49,037	13,924	94,019 (+\$80,095)
Instructional Materials Aid (Hardware, Software, Textbook, Library)	38,449	39,129	39,549	37,529 (-\$2,020)
Transportation (including Summer)	514,638	535,112	494,802	553,194 (+\$58,392)
Building + Bldg Reorg Incent	705,357	306,925	325,154	263,690 (-\$61,464)
Universal Pre-K	97,200	81,000	97,200	150,000 (+\$52,800)
Total Actual Aid Totals for 23-24, 24-25 & 25-26	3,662,261	3,274,366	3,360,621	\$3,460,849 (+\$100,228)

This Year's Budget Planning.... 2026-2027 School Year

*A Year of
Possibilities*



2026-27 Budget Increases for Staffing Alone



TRS Contributions @ 8.24%, FICA & Salary Increase = \$149,384

ERS Contributions up from 16.5% to 17.6% & Salary Increase = \$36,240

Health Insurance Increase 7% & 13.5% prescriptions = approximately \$144,605

Total Increase to Sustain Current Staffing:

Additional \$330,229.00



Other Increases:

Technology (Chromebook repair/replacements, software)

High School Tuitions

Special Education Increases (GD & Tuitions)

Transportation Costs (Contracts with YT)

Gas & Electric

Materials

What are the Main Sources of Revenue For District?

NYS Foundation Aid - Formula for distributing general operating aid to public school districts, designed to allocate funds equitably based on student need, community wealth, and regional cost differences

\$1,988,099 (+19,684)
2026-27 Projection

AND

Tax Levy - Money raised by the school district through taxes

Increase on the tax levy

School Year	% Increase	Amount of Increase
2020-2021	2.20%	\$119,682
2021-2022	1.72%	\$95,533
2022-2023	2.10%	\$119,037
2023-2024	2.13%	\$123,309
2024-2025	2.28%	\$134,737
2025-2026	1.91%	\$115,333
2026-2027	6.4%	\$393,971

6.4% Increase to the Tax Levy

Where did the 6.4% Increase on the Tax Levy Come from?
Why this year? How will taxes change in the future?

[Click here for the Long Range Financial Analysis from Dr. Rick Timbs](#)

[Click here to view and listen to Dr. Rick Timbs Long Range Financial Analysis presentation from May 2025](#)

What is a 2% Increase to the Tax Levy?

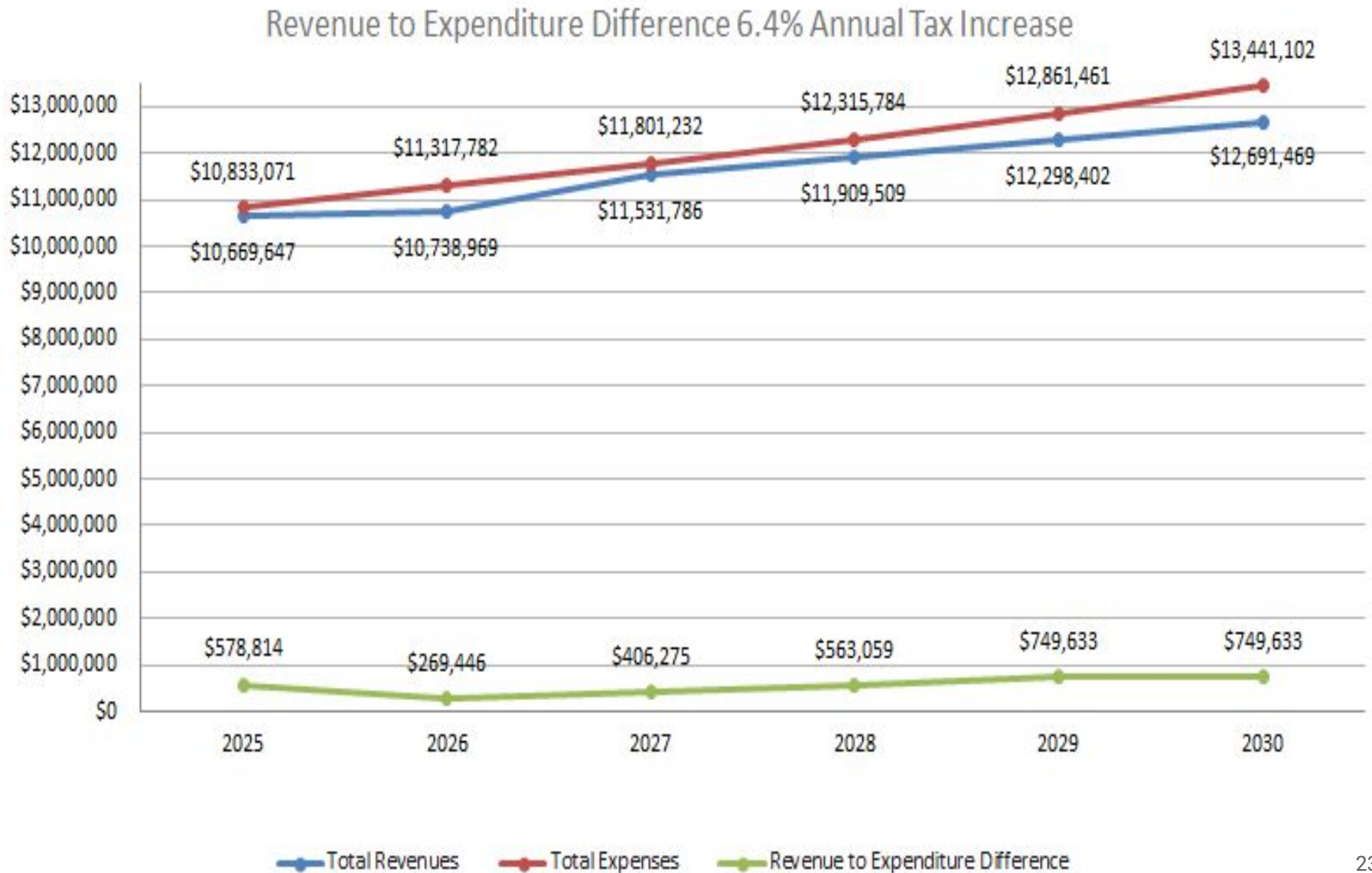
Dr. Rick Timbs updated 11/3/25

Revenue to Expenditure Difference Current Trajectory



What is a 6.4% Increase to the Tax Levy?

Dr. Rick Timbs updated 11/3/25



If there is no merger with Troy....

Wynantskill will exceed the Maximum Allowable Tax Levy and ask the community to support a Tax Levy Increase of 6.4%. This will require a supermajority vote with 60% “yes” votes.

Based on initial calculations for the 2026-2027 school year, Wynantskill will raise the tax levy \$393,971.00 which is a 6.4% increase on the tax levy.

Preliminary Budget Deficit Estimate with the 6.4% Increase

Preliminary Budget Deficit Estimate for 2026-27

Tax Levy Increase 6.4% = \$393,971 and Leaves a Gap of **\$608,910**

In comparison to last year...

The 2025-26 Budget Gap = **\$578,813**

(\$115,333.00 1.91% increase on the levy)



New York State School Bus Mandate
2027- All New School Buses Purchased MUST BE ELECTRIC
2035- 100% Of School Bus Fleets MUST BE ELECTRIC

Past and Current Funding Opportunities



NEW YORK STATE



NYSERDA



UNITED STATES • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

What's not in the budget...

- Electric Buses
- Technology -Replacements/Repairs
- Supplies - Furniture/Rugs/Classroom supplies (No More Teacher Allocations)
- Building/Facility upgrades
- NYS Unfunded Mandates
- Professional Development (Summer PD)
- Placeholders for Special Education/Tuitions/Transportation...
- Capital Improvement Projects



Proposed Revenues 2024-25 vs 2026-27

DESCRIPTION	2024-25 Revenue	2025-26 Revenue	2026-27 Proposed Revenue
School Tax/STAR	6,040,139	6,155,472	6,549,433
State Aid	3,286,773	3,349,096	3,234,893
Total Services	877,586	944,306	930,660
Total Other	465,149	290,095	250,095
Total without fund balance	10,669,647	10,738,969	10,965,081
Use of appropriated fund balance	163,425	578,813	608,910
Total	\$10,833,072.00	\$11,317,782.00	\$11,573,991

What happens with a YES vote with Troy?

0% Tax Levy Increase

As Suggested by the Troy City School District...

0% Tax Increase for the 2026-27 School Year if the Reorganization Vote Passes on March 31st 2026

Tax Levy Increase 0% Leaves a Gap of
\$1,002,871

Wynantskill would use fund balance & reserves to offset the lack of revenue

Wynantskill's Fund Balance and Reserve Totals

Workers' Compensation Reserve \$135,303
Unemployment Insurance Reserve \$41,063
Retirement Contribution Reserve (ERS) \$605,000
Retirement Contribution Reserve (TRS Sub-Reserve) \$251,510
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) \$330,206
Repair Reserve \$250,000
Insurance Reserve \$487,704
Capital Reserve -Capital Project (1) \$70,000
Total of (8) Restricted Reserves = \$2,170,786



Unassigned Fund Balance 4% \$558,684

Amount needed to cover for a 0% increase = \$1,002,871

Using the Fund Balance and Insurance Reserve \$1,046,388

What happens with a “NO” Merger Vote with Troy & the Community Votes down the budget?

6.4% Increase to the Levy- Requires Supermajority Vote

If the budget is voted down...we could move to a revote in June

If voted down a 2nd time...move to a contingency budget which is a 0% increase to the tax levy.

Tax Levy Increase 0% Leaves a Gap of \$1,002,871

*No Raises for non-Instructional staff (\$36,240),

* Building equipment, computers, new bus, after school programs & clubs

*3 AIS Teachers, Social Worker, Security Resource officer, = \$325,345

*High School Choice would continue to create a substantial budget shortfall and options would have to be restricted (mandated placements would be prioritized)

Will HS Choice Continue without an Merger? Where do students choose, this year & previously? Costs? Options?

2025-2026 School Year

This year there 30 total students in 8th grade. Their HS choices are as follows:

16 going to Troy, 4 Chose a BOCES Program with Troy as their HS

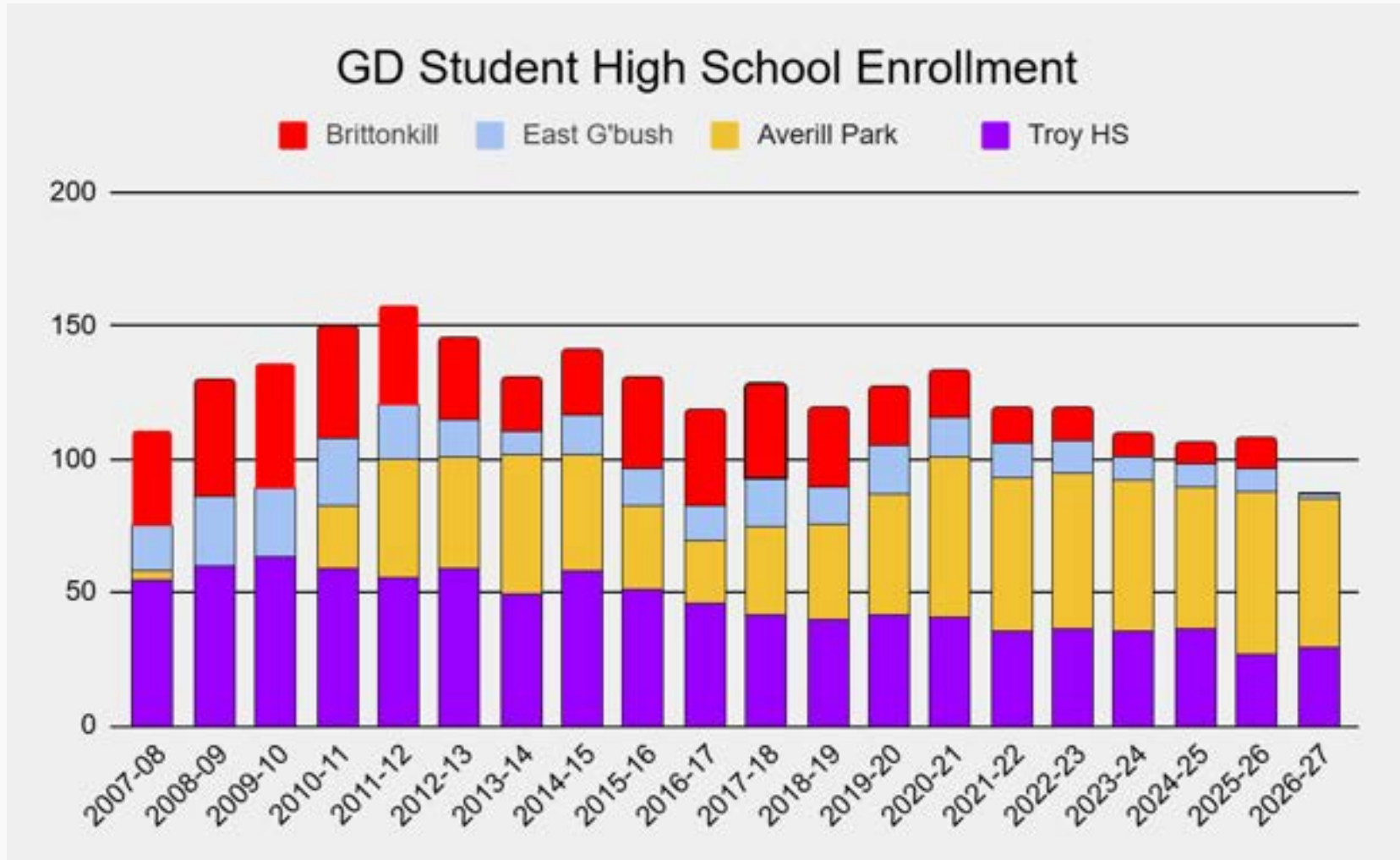
7 to Averill Park

2 to East Greenbush (1 Chose a BOCES Program with EG as their HS)

and

No students going to Brunswick

Wynantskill Resident Students Only - HS Choice (Total Number of students grades 9-12 each year)



[Click here to see the number of Wynantskill Students - HS Choice 2007-2027](#)

High School Options

For more than a century, the Troy City School District served as the primary high school option for Wynantskill students, acting as the sole provider for approximately 80 years.

Averill Park became a 2nd option accepting Wynantskill students starting in 1994, but closed off access a few years later. At that time, Wynantskill Superintendent Wilford LeForestier worked hard on a plan to grandfather in siblings so they were able to attend AP for the next several years.

Averill Park reopened its doors as a high school choice, along with East Greenbush, Brunswick, and Tech Valley High, between the years 2004 and 2007. HVCC emerged as an additional high school choice when it opened in 2021.



**What are
current
2025-26
Tuition
Agreement
Amounts
(Per Student)?**

School District	General Education	Special Education
Troy City School District	\$2,000.00	State Set Rates
Averill Park CSD	\$9,379.00	Actual Costs
East Greenbush CSD	\$10,250.00	Actual Costs
Brunswick CSD	\$11,957.00	Actual Costs
Questar III BOCES Programs: HVCC P-Tech Tech Valley High School	(Eligible for BOCES Aid @.667%) \$13,770.00 \$97,294.00 (annually) 5 year rolling average (Eligible for BOCES Aid @.667%)	Actual Costs

What are the Actual High School Costs for last year's 2024-25 School Year

\$717,934 General Education

\$622,649 Special Education at High Schools, Wildwood*

\$81,377 - Special Ed BOCES Program and Tech Valley related services

\$112,949 Tech Valley High School (Questar III BOCES Program)

\$148,500 - HVCC P-Tech (Questar III BOCES Program)

Total Tuition = \$1,683,409.00

***mandated program costs**

All High School Tuition Options VS Troy High School Only

Example using General Education Tuitions Only:

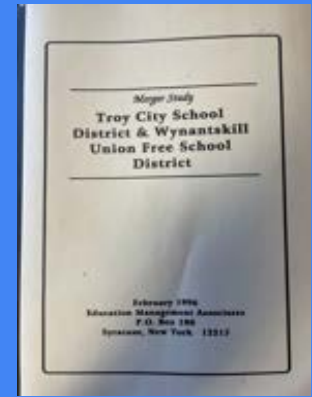
High school choices with all 6 schools for the 2025-26 school year - 124 students x the various rates =Total \$1,038,572.00

VS

Troy High School Only- 124 students x \$2,000 per student
=Total \$248,000.00

Savings of \$790,572.00

Can you explain prior merger votes with this vote? How did we make it this far when we were told we were struggling years ago?



1996 Merger Vote with Troy -

Enrollment K-8 = 420

Incentive Aid was \$49,000,000 over 15 yrs

Since that date...

The district sold the school on Main Ave for \$1million in December 2000

2010 presentation with same struggles

Federal Aid-

ARRAGrants

Race To The Top Grants

Education Jobs Fund Grants

Special Legislative Grants

2026 Merger Vote with Troy -

Enrollment K-8 = 303

Incentive Aid is \$241,000,000 over 15 yrs

Future....

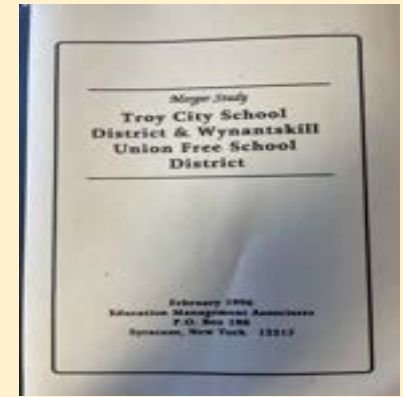
98% Capital Project Aid (10 yrs) vs 64-67%

Existing Debt Service can be refinanced at 90.2%

Affirmed Preservation of GD campus, capital improvements, staffing (Troy BOE resolutions)

Federal Priorities have shifted

Can You Compare 1996 Merger with 2026 Merger



1996 Merger Vote with Troy -

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Federal Priorities have shifted

What Repairs are needed at GD?

[The WUFSD Building Condition Survey identified \\$5,000,000+ in repairs, ranging from gymnasium, roofing, parking lots, fields, technology, kitchen etc...other ADA compliance issues. Click here to view.](#)

All Capital work must be identified in the BCS report and would be aided at roughly 67% or less based on SED calculations.

For 10 years after reorganization, approved projects are aided at 98%

Why is the District not looking at a Merger with Averill Park?

For Full Explanations to the following questions regarding Averill Park...

Please see the following Q&A Document posted on the website:

<https://www.questar.org/feasibility/>

- Frequently Updated Q&A Document

[Click Here for the Full Feasibility Study](#)

If the community votes against a merger with Troy at the end of the feasibility study, would the BOE then immediately approach Averill Park for a new study?

If the vote is denied on Tuesday, the impact would be immediately felt in-

- School Choice (September)
- Staffing Reductions (September)
- Tax increases (annually through 2030)
- Program Cuts (September)

SED has confirmed it would be 3 years before another study could be aided.

Professionally speaking, WUFSD would face both instructional and financial insolvency before another study aided and or not could be completed..

Can You Respond/Clarify These Positions?

Can You Clarify Pre-K plan?

What happens if the Superintendent Retires?

Is enrollment in Troy stable?

Has the Troy BOE affirmed its commitment to the Wynantskill Community and how have they done this?

In Troy is employee retention and recruitment a concern?

What would the impact be on Property Tax Values?

Can You Respond/Clarify These Positions?

Taxes will decrease in year 1 and then remain flat for years 2-5, then what happens?

Is there a difference in programs and staffing offered between Troy and WUFSD? If so, what are they.

REORGANIZATION PLAN

A successful reorganization will result in \$241 million of Incentive Aid over 14 years

FACILITIES



- Gardner-Dickinson School stays open and remains a PK-8 school.
- Construction and technology infrastructure upgrades would be completed (gym floor, security enhancements, and more).
- The enhanced Building Aid (98%) will enable long-term, state-of-the-art building improvements, including site work and athletic fields, at no cost to taxpayers.

TAX IMPACT

- Proposed five-year tax plan is a 5 percent reduction in the school tax levy the first year, followed by four consecutive years of no tax levy increase.

- 2027-2028 - 5% reduction in school tax levy
- 2028-2029 - 0% school tax levy increase
- 2029-2030 - 0% school tax levy increase
- 2030-2031 - 0% school tax levy increase
- 2031-2032 - 0% school tax levy increase



STAFFING



- No reduction in current Gardner-Dickinson staffing levels.
- Operations at Gardner-Dickinson would remain largely unchanged, with the capacity for additional supports, programs and positions.

SCHOOL CHOICE

- We listened to and valued the community's input on School Choice.
- We have landed on a reasonable, practical, and sustainable transition solution.
- Students currently enrolled in high school will be able to continue in their programs through graduation.
- All Gardner-Dickinson students enrolled in grades K-8 in the 2026-2027 school year will retain high school choice options through their high school graduations.
- As of December 2025, those choices will be Troy City School District, East Greenbush Central School District, the Brunswick Central School District, or any Questar III BOCES program.



REORGANIZATION PLAN

TAX IMPLICATIONS OF MERGER PASSAGE OR REJECTION

School tax plan if the merger passes:

- 2026-2027: 0%
- 2027-2028: -5%
- 2028-2029: 0%
- 2029-2030: 0%
- 2030-2031: 0%
- 2031-2032: 0%

Total tax impact over six years:
5% DECREASE

School tax plan if the merger is rejected*:

- 2026-2027: 6.4%
- 2027-2028: 6.4%
- 2028-2029: 6.4%
- 2029-2030: 6.4%
- 2030-2031: 6.4%
- 2031-2032: 6.4%

Total tax impact over six years:
38.4% INCREASE

*Will require a tax cap override (60% supermajority). Even with these increases, substantial staff and program cuts will be required and the district will face financial insolvency by 2030.

PLEASE VOTE

Tuesday, March 31 | 12:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Gardner Dickinson School Library

In Conclusion

Thank you for your questions.

The polls are open on March 31st from 12 pm to 9 pm in the Gardner-Dickinson School.

This presentation will be posted on the Feasibility Website.

We encourage voters to review the facts. The dedicated email will remain active

troywufsdfeasibility@gmail.com