

THE PATCHOGUE - MEDFORD

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

Messenger **PM**

Published by the Patchogue-Medford School District

2015-2016 Budget



Oregon Middle School Students Win the Project Presentation Award at the FIRST Lego League Long Island Regional Tournament



River Elementary School Students Preparing for Annual Spring Concert



Canaan Elementary School Students Celebrating the 100th Day of School



Class of 2015 Top Ten Students

School District Vote

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING: THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at South Ocean Middle School

Dear Patchogue-Medford Community,

The members of the Board of Education are enthusiastic about the new focus on our school community. Our new superintendent has been working tirelessly with our administrators, teachers and support staff to respond to local and state issues in order to ensure that the voice of our community is heard. Our forums have been well attended and we look forward to continuing to work with our parents, staff and community as partners.

Our schools have been constantly challenged by State mandates, including Common Core testing, new regulations governing Part 154, and yet another revamped Annual Professional Performance Review for teachers and administrators. Despite these and many other challenges, we remain proactive and positive as we forge toward the future, united in our purpose.

The proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year sustains all district programs, with no staff lay-offs, while remaining Tax Cap compliant. Moreover, the Board proposes a proposition which, if approved, will utilize additional State Aid to fund a Capital Reserve. The reserve will enable the District to make future facility repairs without financing the projects. The projects would also qualify for State Aid, resulting in the district maximizing the use of state funding.

Another proposition has been proposed by members of the community seeking to extend the mileage limitation for transporting private and parochial high school students from 15 to 25 miles. The cost of providing this service is not included in the proposed budget and will therefore require a super majority vote of 60% for both the budget and the transportation proposition.

On **Tuesday May 19th**, you will have the opportunity to vote on the 2015-2016 budget along with the transportation and capital reserve propositions between the hours of **7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.** at the polling places listed on the back of the brochure. Voting is a cherished right and your vote matters!

Sincerely,

William T. LaVelle
President, Patchogue-Medford Board of Education

Proposed Expenditures

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET		
This is the instructional portion which includes all instructional areas and associated employee benefits, including transportation	2014-2015 Adopted Budget	2015-2016 Proposed Budget
General Instruction Includes salaries for teachers, teacher aides, substitutes, textbooks, supplies, materials, etc.	\$ 48,833,909	\$ 49,078,930
Students with Disabilities Programs Includes salaries for teachers, teacher aides, substitutes, textbooks, supplies, materials, etc. for programs serving students with disabilities	\$ 24,065,519	\$ 26,094,322
Occupational Education Represents BOCES vocational programs	\$ 1,259,000	\$ 1,283,900
Special School Includes summer school, adult education, and alternative high school *	\$ 845,797	\$ 863,679
Library & Media Includes the salaries for librarians, aides, books, supplies and audio visual	\$ 1,266,132	\$ 1,280,484
Computer Instruction Includes salaries for District Computer Technology director, computer aides in each school, BOCES charges for computer support, programming and computer replacements	\$ 1,223,245	\$ 1,305,227
Student Support Services Includes salaries for counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, support staff, materials and supplies	\$ 5,351,885	\$ 5,601,300
Extracurricular and Athletics Extracurricular clubs and athletics salaries, stipends, chaperones, timers, supplies, and uniforms	\$ 1,497,824	\$ 1,539,284
Transportation Includes salaries and benefits for district drivers and the cost of contractual services for district routes and BOCES costs for some handicapped, private and parochial students **	\$ 8,491,570	\$ 8,055,954

* Adult Education programs are self-funded.

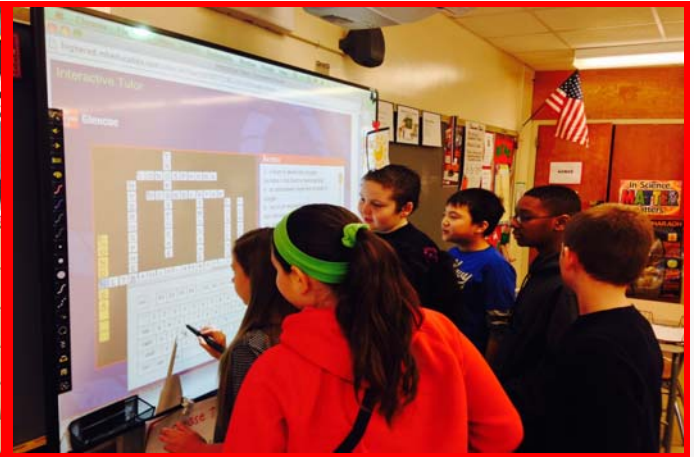
**The proposed budget includes year 3 of a 3 year contract for transportation services for big buses. The proposed budget includes year 2 of a 3 year contract for transportation services for mini buses.

Proposed Expenditures

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET CONTINUED		
	2014-2015 Adopted Budget	2015-2016 Proposed Budget
Employee Benefits	\$ 34,987,129	\$ 33,228,063
Mandatory retirement system payments, social security, workers' compensation insurance and contractual health, life and dental insurance benefits		
Community Services	\$ 969,910	\$ 967,543
Includes all expenses for child care offered through the District for before-and-after school, and summer programs. These expenses are offset by revenues from the fees for child care services *		
TOTAL PROGRAM:	\$ 128,791,920	\$ 129,298,686
CAPITAL BUDGET		
The Capital section of the budget contains all debt service, operations and maintenance costs, including utilities, employee benefits and maintenance of building and grounds		
Operations, Maintenance and Security	\$ 11,447,591	\$ 11,450,451
Includes salaries, equipment, repairs, preventative maintenance expenses, maintenance expenses and supplies		
Employee Benefits	\$ 3,471,854	\$ 3,398,890
Mandatory retirement system payments, social security, workers' compensation insurance and contractual health, life and dental insurance benefits		
Debt Service	\$ 326,000	\$ 108,278
Interest on short term debt of the district		
Transfers	\$ 11,535,509	\$ 12,709,297
Transfer to Debt Service to pay down the long term debt in accordance with payment schedules; transfer to Special Aid Fund as necessary for summer Special Education program; transfers to the School Lunch and Capital Project Funds		
TOTAL CAPITAL:	\$ 26,780,954	\$ 27,666,916
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET		
The Administrative portion of the budget provides for the support of the other components of the budget		
Board of Education	\$ 180,373	\$ 182,196
Includes memberships, travel, conferences, supplies, notices, District Clerk, voting costs and associated expenses		
Central Administrative Support	\$ 1,942,398	\$ 2,035,838
Includes salaries and expenses of the Superintendent, business office, fiscal agent fees, personnel, treasurer, advertising, and audit		
Legal Services and Insurance	\$ 1,511,801	\$ 1,492,868
Cost of attorney services and general liability insurance		
Other Central Services	\$ 2,622,311	\$ 2,458,876
Includes BOCES charges for administration and data services, postage and mailing fees		
Instructional Educational Support	\$ 5,603,575	\$ 5,923,656
Includes salaries and expenses of administrators and their support staff		
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,020,493	\$ 4,009,863
Mandatory retirement system payments, social security, workers' compensation insurance and contractual health, life and dental insurance benefits		
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE:	\$ 15,880,951	\$ 16,103,297
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 171,453,825	\$ 173,068,899

* Child care for before-and-after school and summer programs are self-funded.

District Highlights



- ★ Completion of the Energy Performance Contract to save the District \$15 million dollars over 16 years;
- ★ Scheduled refunding of a \$49 million dollar bond issue in order to save an estimated \$3.2 million dollars over the remaining 12 years or \$265,000 annually;
- ★ Continued consolidation of bus routes to effectuate over \$500,000 in savings during the 2015-2016 school year.



NEW PROGRAM AND COURSES FOR 2015-2016

- ★ New Foundations Phonics program for Kindergarten students;
- ★ New Advanced Placement Statistics course at the high school;
- ★ New Principles of Engineering course at the high school.



District Highlights (Continued)

TECHNOLOGY RELATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014-2015

- ★ Kiosk computers installed in each library for reference and research;
- ★ Computers installed in high school resource and life skills rooms;
- ★ Computer lab installed in high school Business Department.

PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR 2015-2016

- ★ Installation of display screens at Tremont Elementary School, Saxton Middle School, and South Ocean Middle School;
- ★ Replacement of necessary lockers at the high school;
- ★ Upgrade stage lighting and purchase curtains for the high school auditorium;
- ★ Purchase stage curtains, upgrade lighting and rigging repair at River Elementary School;
- ★ Upgrade stage lighting at South Ocean;
- ★ Stage rigging repair and purchase curtains at Tremont Elementary School.



Questions and Answers

Are there any propositions being presented for voter approval?

A voter proposition will be placed on the ballot for the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to enable the District to fund capital projects without financing the costs or increasing taxes. **The District would fund the reserve for the 2015-2016 school year utilizing additional State Aid that will be received from the State Education Department.** In future years, the reserve would be funded with additional unanticipated revenues. The proposition would authorize the fund to be established in the 2015-2016 school year in the amount not to exceed five million dollars over a ten year period. **Future voter authorization would be required in order to spend funds from the reserve, and the projects would have to be specifically defined.**

The proposition on the ballot would read as follows:

PROPOSITION #2

"Shall a new Capital Reserve Fund be authorized to be established in accordance with the provisions of Education Law section 3651, to be designated "Capital Reserve Fund – 2015" (the "Fund"), for the purpose of providing moneys for future capital improvements, including, but not limited to: construction, reconstruction, alteration, additions, and improvements to District facilities and sites thereof; and the acquisition of equipment, furnishings, machinery, and apparatus for the District; the probable term of said fund will not exceed ten(10) years from the date of its establishment; the ultimate principal amount therein to total \$5,000,000, plus interest earnings thereon; such amount to be provided from surplus funds of the District in the current and future fiscal years, sufficient to fund said \$5,000,000 ultimate principal amount?"

Questions and Answers (Continued)

Are there any additional propositions to be presented for voter approval?

A voter proposition will be presented that will change the mileage limitation for transporting children to private and parochial high schools from 15 miles to 25 miles. The estimated cost of the change in the mileage limitation is based on the current student enrollment and next year's transportation costs. The cost of the proposed change is \$423,440 and will increase annually in accordance with the transportation contract requirements.

How will the transportation proposition affect the proposed budget?

Education Law §2023a, which governs the property tax cap states that if any proposition to be voted upon at the annual meeting would cause the levy to exceed the tax levy limit, the proposition must be approved by at least 60% of the voters. **Although the proposed budget falls within the confines of the tax levy limit, the addition of the transportation proposition to the proposed budget would require the district to exceed the tax cap and will therefore require a super majority vote of 60% or more of the voters for both the budget and the proposition. In order for the budget and/or proposition to pass, each will require a super majority vote.**

Can the budget or the transportation proposition be separately approved if a super majority vote is received for one of the two proposals?

If a super majority vote is received for one of the two propositions (budget or transportation proposition), whichever proposition(s) receive(s) a super majority vote of 60% or more will be voter approved.

Are there any staffing changes proposed for the 2015-2016 school year?

Included in the proposed budget are four (4) additional teaching positions, one additional administrative position, and one additional clerical position. There are no proposed staff reductions for the 2015-2016 school year.

How does the tax cap impact the tax rate?

The 2% tax cap (with exclusions) implemented by the Governor and the Legislators does not cap the tax rate, it caps the tax levy. The levy is one component to calculating the tax rate. The assessed valuation is the other component used to calculate the tax rate. **The legislation only addressed one component of the calculation (the levy).** Depending on whether assessed valuation remains the same or declines, the estimated tax rate increase could range from 2.62% to 4.71%. The assessed valuation is determined by the Town and is provided to school districts in the Fall.

Does the proposed budget pierce the property tax cap?

The proposed Budget does **not** pierce the property tax cap. In addition, for the 2015-2016 school year, when a District passes a budget below the tax cap, combined with demonstrating a certain level of budget savings, homeowners qualify for tax rebates. The proposed budget and efficiencies implemented should ensure that homeowners will continue to qualify for rebates in the 2015-2016 school year.

What happens if the proposed budget is not approved?

If the budget fails on May 19, 2015, the Board may either recommend a re-vote on June 16, 2015 or adopt a contingency budget. If the Board chooses a revote, the budget will require 50% voter approval, since the transportation proposition is only presented to the voters at the first budget vote. If the Board chooses to adopt a contingency budget, it will require almost \$2.2 million dollars of additional cuts, which will include staff reductions. In addition, all equipment purchases would be eliminated from the General Fund budget. The interfund transfers of \$743,455 would also be eliminated.

What happens if the proposed budget fails, but the transportation proposition passes?

If the budget fails (less than 60% voter approval), but the transportation proposition passes (60% or more approval), the Board may either adopt a contingency budget, which would include the cost of the transportation proposition, or recommend a re-vote on June 16, 2015.

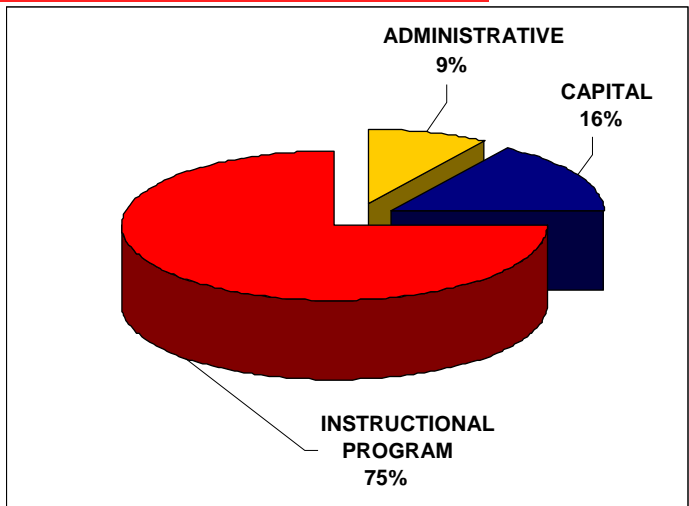
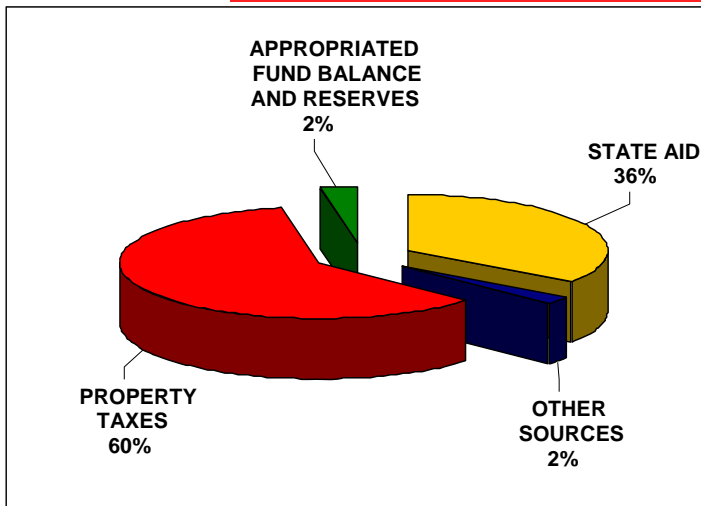
Budget Summary

Summary of Expenditures

	Adopted 2014-2015 Budget	Proposed 2015-2016 Budget	Change	% of Budget
Instructional Program	\$ 128,791,920	\$ 129,298,686	\$ 506,766	74.7%
Capital	\$ 26,780,954	\$ 27,666,916	\$ 885,962	16.0%
Administrative	\$ 15,880,951	\$ 16,103,297	\$ 222,346	9.3%
Total	\$ 171,453,825	\$ 173,068,899	\$ 1,615,074	100%

2015-2016

Budget to Budget Change	Tax Levy Change
\$1,615,074	\$2,881,145
0.94%	2.86%



Estimated Revenues

	2014-2015	2015-2016
STATE AID Foundation Aid, Transportation Aid, Building Aid, Excess Cost Aid, BOCES Aid, Textbook, Hardware and Software Aid	\$ 61,598,323	\$ 61,720,756
OTHER SOURCES Admissions, BOCES refund, other refunds of expenses, taxes other than property taxes, donations, interest earnings, Medicaid reimbursement	\$ 4,006,339	\$ 4,121,225
PROPERTY TAXES Includes STAR payments from the State (levy adjusted during 2014-2015 school year after audit review)	\$ 100,682,131	\$ 103,563,276
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE AND RESERVES	\$ 5,167,032	\$ 3,663,642
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 171,453,825	\$ 173,068,899

Proposition 1 - Budget

“Shall the Patchogue-Medford School District budget for fiscal 2015-2016 be adopted and the requisite portion thereof raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district?”

Adoption of this budget and the transportation proposition requires a tax levy increase of \$3,304,585 or 3.28% which exceeds the statutory tax levy limit increase of \$2,881,145 or 2.86% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

Proposition 2 – Capital Reserve Fund

See District Highlight Page 5 for Details on Proposition 2

Proposition 3 – Extending Transportation Mileage Limitation

“Shall the maximum mileage limitation for the transportation of pupils to non-public high schools from students’ homes be increased from 15 miles to 25 miles, whether such non-public school is within or outside of the school district, with the approximate cost of proposed additional services to the district being \$423,440 for the 2015-2016 school year?”

Adoption of this budget and the transportation proposition requires a tax levy increase of \$3,304,585 or 3.28% which exceeds the statutory tax levy limit increase of \$2,881,145 or 2.86% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

Voter Qualifications

To be eligible to vote in school district elections, a person must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 19, 2015;
- Be a citizen of the United States and;
- Be a registered voter with the Board of Registry or with the Suffolk County Board of Elections.

Voter Registration

Any school day at the Administrative Center, 241 South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue, New York 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact the District Clerk (687-6370) for further information.

Deadline to register with the School District Board of Registry is Monday, May 11, 2015 by 4 p.m.

District Polling Places

- District No. 1: South Ocean Middle School
- District No. 2: Medford Elementary School
- District No. 3: Saxton Middle School
- District No. 4: Tremont Elementary School
- District No. 5: Eagle Elementary School



Qualified voters with disabilities who seek information about access to polling places may, in advance of the day of the vote, contact the District Clerk at (631) 687-6370 for information about accessibility.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballot applications may be obtained at the Administrative Center, 241 South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue or via the District web site (www.pmschools.org). Ballots will be issued upon the satisfactory completion of the application form. The deadline for filing absentee ballot application, if the ballots are mailed to the resident is May 12, 2015 by 4:30 p.m. The deadline for filing absentee ballot applications, if the ballots are to be personally delivered to residents, is May 18, 2015 by 4:30 p.m. All absentee ballots must be filed with the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Patchogue-Medford Schools
241 South Ocean Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772
www.pmschools.org

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