

BLIND BROOK-RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rye Brook, New York

School Budget Newsletter

2019-2020



www.blindbrook.org

2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

On Tuesday, May 21st, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street Elementary School, voters will be presented with the 2019-2020 Blind Brook-Rye School District budget adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$46,289,618, a 2.43% increase over the amount of the 2018-2019 budget. It is noteworthy, that for each of the eight years that the NYS Tax Levy Cap Law has been in place, at Blind Brook, the school tax levy has always been at or below the maximum allowable tax levy limit, thus an override has never been proposed. This trend will continue with the 2019-2020 Adopted Budget.

For the past two months the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education have publicly discussed the development of a school district budget for next year. While this has been another challenging budgeting process, we are pleased to be able to include in next year's budget much needed funds to support special educational programs, to purchase new technology equipment and two new school buses, and to support two new positions. The new positions include a school social worker position at Bmprss and an instructional staff developer position in the District office.

Importantly, the Superintendent and Board of Education are pleased to announce that the adopted 2019-2020 budget meets its targeted budget goals – it maintains all core instructional programs while staying at the maximum allowable levy limit. The 2019-2020 Adopted Budget, if passed by resident voters, provides for a 2.96% tax levy increase which is precisely at the maximum allowable under the law. For 2019-2020, the Blind Brook tax levy growth factor is 1.02. This coupled with a tax base growth factor of 1.0096 has created a budget scenario wherein the 2019-2020 tax levy can increase by \$1,149,106. Consequently, in developing a final budget for next year, due diligence was applied to limit spending increases only where needed and to reduce the amount used from reserves by \$186,249. To reiterate, this budget meets the tax levy cap mandate and voter approval does not require an override on May 21st.

In summary, the Superintendent of Schools and Board believe the financial plan as set forth, will obtain desired results with the projected resources needed to implement the educational program and ensure that every student receives an excellent education. You are encouraged to study the plan and ask questions about its contents. For further information please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 937-3600x3022 or jross@blindbrook.org.

Please remember to cast your vote on Tuesday, May 21st at the Bmprss Old Gym.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ryan S. Goldstein, President
Ashley R. Welde, Vice-President
Jeffrey B. Diamond
Scott D. Jaffee
Jennifer Schlactus

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Jonathan H. Ross

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

The school budget is a *financial estimate* of the operating funds required to achieve goals and objectives of the District and represents the programmatic and financial expression of the educational philosophy of the Board of Education.

The adopted 2019-2020 Budget is \$46,289,618. The budget-to-budget expenditure increase is \$1,098,694 or 2.43%. Driving this increase is the rise in special education costs, funds needed to purchase new technology equipment and two new school buses, and funds for two new positions. The new positions include a school social worker position at BMRSS and a district-wide instructional staff developer position. The District was able to offset a substantial part of the overall budget increase by reducing expenditures in the one primary area of operations:

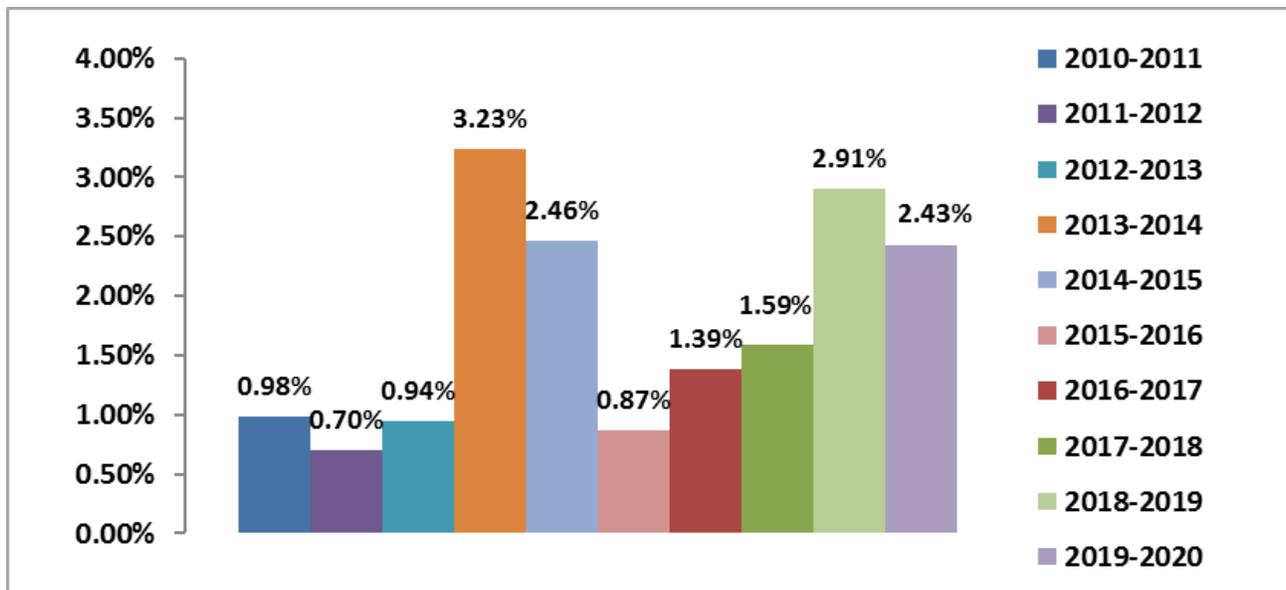
- Employee Benefits – a reduction of \$389,984

This reduction was made possible by a reduction in NYS ERS and TRS employer contribution rates and lower estimates of health insurance premiums for 2019-2020.

The 2019-2020 Budget Includes:

1. Funds to maintain all core instructional programs.
2. Funds needed for projected increases in special education costs.
3. Funds needed for technology equipment and infrastructure work.
4. Funds for first year debt service to lease-purchase two school buses.
5. Funds to support two new faculty positions.

BLIND BROOK BUDGET INCREASES SINCE 2010



REVENUE SUMMARY

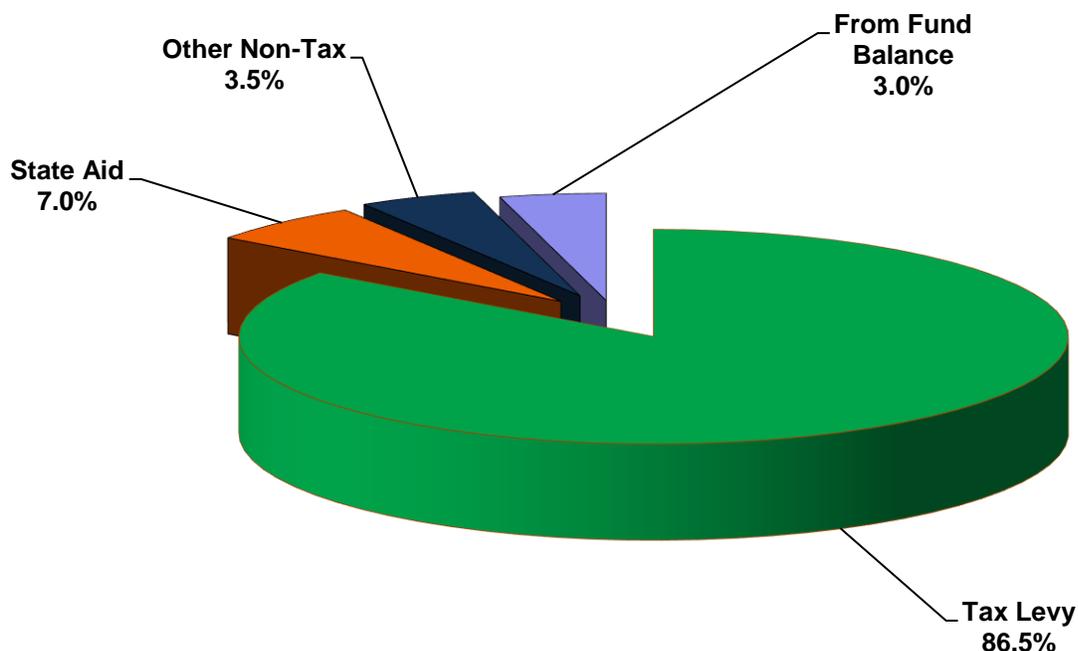
The single greatest source of budget revenue is the District's tax levy. This draft of the 2019-2020 budget estimates that the total tax levy will be \$40,021,651 or 86.5% of the total budget (before STAR deduction). Non-property revenues are estimated at \$6,267,967 or 13.5% of the total budget, a slight decrease from the prior year.

The major sources of non-property revenues for 2019-2020 are as follows:

1. State aid totaling \$3,241,799, about \$66,042 more than in 2018-2019;
2. A transfer into the general fund of \$1,381,497 from the District's unassigned and retirement reserve fund balances;
3. County sales tax revenue estimated at \$370,000;
4. Nonresident tuition revenue estimated at \$452,271; and
5. Split lots revenue collected from neighboring school districts estimated at \$300,000.

Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, the District's ability to increase annual property tax levies is constrained. The property tax cap law, enacted in Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011, restricts tax levy increases for local governments including public school districts to no more than 2%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower (prior to allowable adjustments). Local governments and school districts can override the cap with a 60% vote either by their local governing body or, in the case of a school district, by the voting public. The proposed 2019-2020 budget reflects an estimated tax levy with an increase of 2.96% from the prior year actual, a figure that is precisely at the maximum allowable tax levy rate of increase - 2.96% calculated for Blind Brook.

REVENUE SOURCES 2019-2020



BALLOT INFORMATION

PROPOSITION 1: APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$46,289,618 be approved and the taxes in the necessary amount therefore be levied?

[] YES

[] NO

VOTE FOR UP TO ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year term ending 6/30/2022)

1A

RYAN S. GOLDSTEIN

VOTING INFORMATION

Voting Requirements

You must be a registered voter who is a United States Citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a Blind Brook resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You need not register if, during the last four years, you voted in a general election in Westchester County, voted in a Blind Brook-Rye District election, registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections, or registered with the Blind Brook-Rye School District.

When and Where to Register?

Until May 14, 2019 registration is continuous Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM in the District Clerk's office, located at the Ridge Street School, 390 North Ridge Street. Residents can also register with the Westchester County Board of Elections using the New York State registration form which can be obtained at:

[Register to Vote](#)

Who Needs to Register?

New Blind Brook residents and residents who have had a change of address must re-register by May 14, 2019.

When and Where to Vote?

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7 AM and 9 PM in the Old Gym at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, 390 North Ridge Street.

Absentee Ballots

If you will be out of town or unable to vote in person on May 21, 2019, you can apply for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the District Clerk's Office, online at the District's Website, www.blindbrook.org, or you may call 914-937-3600x3021 to have an application mailed to you. Absentee Ballot applications must be received in the office of the District Clerk by 4 PM on May 20th. The actual Absentee Ballot must be received by 5 PM on May 21st.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall 2019-2020 Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019- 20 School Year *				
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	45,190,924	46,289,618	45,140,512				
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		1,098,694	-50,412				
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.43%	-0.11%				
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44 %					
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	38,872,545	40,021,651					
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0					
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0					
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0					
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	38,872,545	40,021,651	38,872,545				
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	1,536,016	1,557,751					
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	37,336,529	38,463,900					
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	37,336,529	38,463,900					
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	0	0					
Administrative Component	4,060,312	4,428,778	4,220,671				
Program Component	36,284,705	36,902,914	36,022,117				
Capital Component	4,845,907	4,957,926	4,897,724				
<p>* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-2020 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>In order to put forth a contingency budget with a \$0 increase in the tax levy, the District must reduce the proposed 2019-2020 expenditures by \$1,149,106 from that budgeted. The following procurement items may need to be removed from the 2019-2020 Adopted Budget upon the approval of the Board of Education:</p> <p>Personnel (\$421,068) Equipment (\$552,864), Facilities O&M (\$50,000), Textbooks (\$75,174) and Consultants (\$50,000).</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 border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">None</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	None	\$0
Description	Amount						
None	\$0						
<p>NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov</p>			Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year				
<p>Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹</p>			\$1,388				

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the Blind Brook-Rye School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at BMP Ridge Street School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the BMP Ridge Street 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.