



PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

2020-2021



BLIND BROOK-RYE UFSD

June 2, 2020



2020-2021 Budget Proposition

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.26, Governor Cuomo has established June 9, 2020 as the revised date for the 2020 annual budget vote and board election. **Voting will be exclusively by absentee ballot.** There will be no in-person voting.

An absentee ballot was sent to the home address of every eligible Blind Brook voter 10 days ago. If you did not receive your ballot, please send an email requesting one to vgroccia@blindbrook.org.



Voter Ballot Information

PROPOSITION 1: APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$50,409,032 be approved and the taxes in the necessary amount therefore be levied?

YES

NO

PROPOSITION 2: LEASE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) SCHOOL BUSES

Shall the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District be authorized to lease-purchase two (2) 72-passenger school buses at an annual cost not to exceed \$23,492.50 each, for a five (5) year term, commencing July 1, 2020 and terminating on June 30, 2025, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

YES

NO

VOTE FOR UP TO TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year term ending 6/30/2023)

JENNIFER SCHLACTUS

TINA STEINBERG

ROBIN WILLIG



2020-2021 Budget Proposition

Listed below are the pertinent budget data contained in the final 2020-2021 budget adopted by the School Board and presented to the eligible voters via paper ballot mailed to their homes and to be returned to the District Clerk on or before June 9, 2020.

Proposed Expenditures

Adopted Budget

\$50,409,032

Budget-to-Budget Increase

8.90%

Estimated Tax Levy

\$43,995,268

\$106,450 Below
Maximum
Allowable Limit

% Tax Levy Increase

9.93%

The maximum
allowable cap is
10.3%



What costs are driving the increase?

In 2017, voters overwhelmingly approved the District spending a total of \$44.7 million in bonds to fund our much-needed renovations to BMP Ridge Street School and Blind Brook MS/HS.

The first \$3 million in principal & interest payments on these bonds comes due next school year and represents 73% of the overall \$4.1 million increase in spending for 2020-2021.



What else is impacting the budget?

The COVID-19 is impacting school districts across New York, these are the certain impacts to Blind Brook's budget for 2020-2021:

- Reductions in state aid due to reductions in NYS tax revenue
- Lower Westchester County sales tax revenues
- Loss of revenue from groups renting school facilities
- Lower interest rates on district investments



Budget Revision: Revenue adjustments

These are the final reductions made to the revenue side of the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget:

- Reduce budgeted state aid by \$450,000
- Reduce budgeted County sales tax by \$75,000.
- Reduce budgeted interest earnings by \$85,000.



Budget Revision: Expenditure adjustments

These are the final reductions made to the expenditure side of the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget:

- Reduction of 2.8 teaching FTES totaling \$382,129.
- Reduced equipment, materials, supplies and textbooks budget lines totaling \$121,338.
- Reduced consultant and contractual budget lines totaling \$83,500.



What happens if the budget does not pass?

The District would be required by law to adopt a “contingency budget” at a flat amount against the 2019-2020 school year, resulting in nearly \$4 million in devastating cuts.

A reduction of this magnitude would be unprecedented and would impact every facet of operations across Blind Brook’s schools.



What cuts would be necessary?

For the District to find these massive savings, the following is likely for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Cuts of up to 35-40 positions across all employee groups
- Elimination of academic programs and elective courses
- Increased class sizes through all K-12 grade levels
- Elimination of the interscholastic athletics program
- Elimination of all clubs and co-curricular activities
- Elimination of all non-essential equipment purchases
- Elimination of all consultant work agreements



Why buy two school buses now?

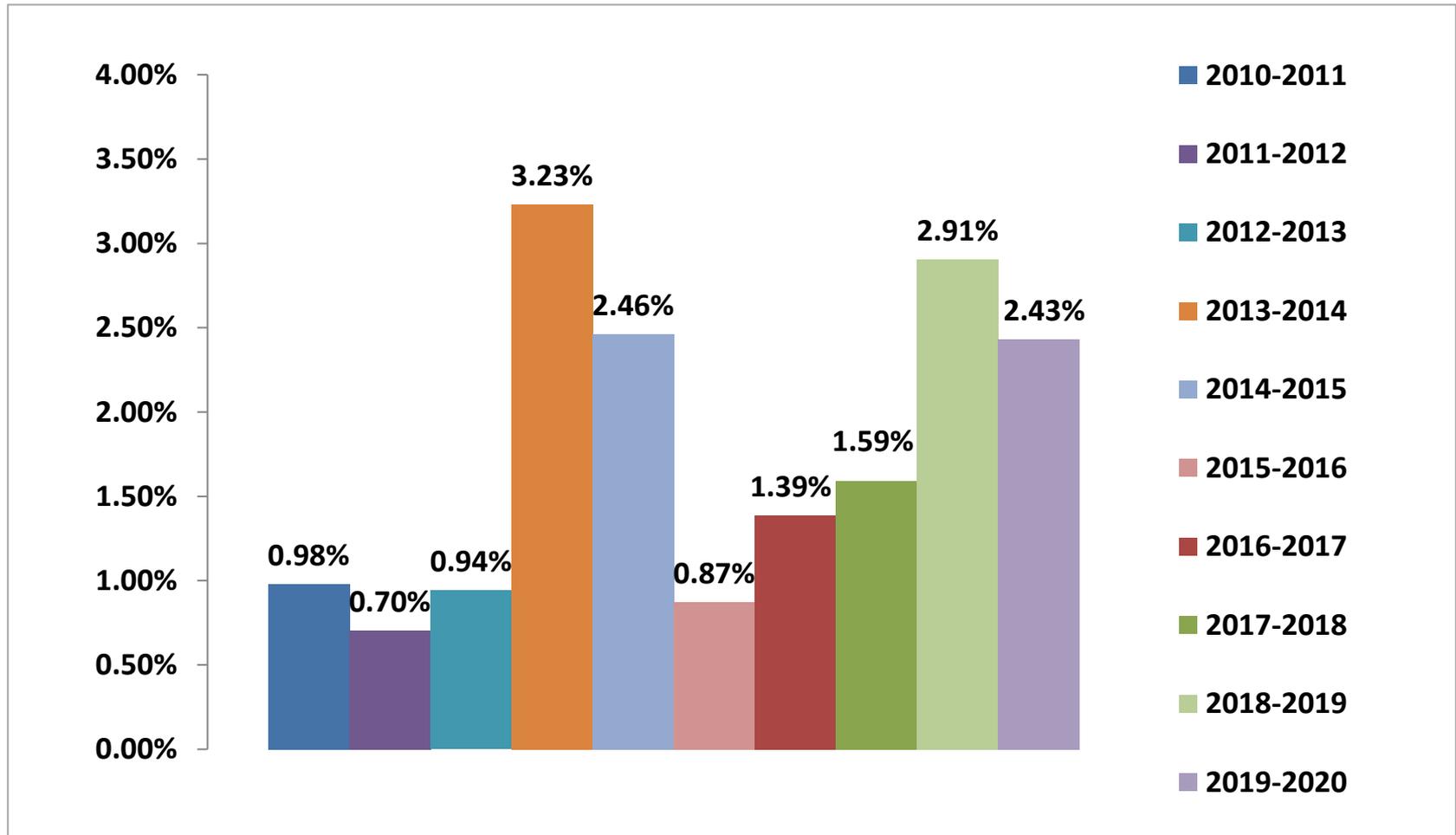
The District owns and operates 13 school buses providing its own in-district transportation for students attending BMPRSS and BBMS/HS, and bus service for academic field trips and all athletic and academic skills competitions held at other locations away from Blind Brook.

Two school buses were taken out of service since last December as a result of catastrophic engine damage and whose repair costs would be much more than the present value of the buses.

The buses need to be replaced to maintain an adequate number of buses available to meet the service requirements of our school district.



Spending increases over the past decade



Since the inception of the tax cap law in 2012, the District has never exceeded the maximum allowable tax levy limit - this trend will continue with the 2020-2021 Budget.



Additional budget information

Additional information including the comprehensive **2020-2021 Adopted Budget Book** is viewable at the District website – [2020-2021 Budget Information](#).

Also view the **School Budget Message and FAQ** that is also located at the District website [link](#).

A **6-Day Budget Notice** will arrive by mail at every Blind Brook residence this week.



Please Vote!

Please remember to mail-in your paper ballot so that it arrives on or before Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

REMINDER: If you did not receive a paper ballot or you have any questions about voting, please email the District Clerk at vgroccia@blindbrook.org.