

Dear WCSD Community,

On April 21, 2015, the Board of Education adopted a budget for the Wappingers Central School District for the 2015 -2016 school year.

You can view a full power point presentation by linking on to:
<http://www.wappingersschools.org/page/18970>.

It is important to highlight some particular items that the Board of Education adopted budget includes for our community and students:

- The adopted budget provides for a 1.26% levy to levy increase and 1.02% budget to budget increase from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. This translates to a budget that is within the tax cap as allowable by New York State.
- This budget includes funding to re-instate enrichment programs for our students in elementary and middle school.
- The adopted budget allows for an allocation of resources to develop instructional programs by increasing professional development in all academic areas, especially in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- The Board of Education adopted budget addresses the fine and performing arts for our students through an increased allocation of funding for the Arts in Education program.
- Equipment purchases have not been an option in past year budget cycles. For 2015-2016, funding has been included to overhaul and update the weight rooms at both of our high schools. These updates include new flooring, paint, cardiovascular equipment and other weight training apparatus.
- From a technological perspective, this budget proposes to increase funding to support the districts ongoing technology plan. It also provides for the addition of mobile devices that will not only serve to assist with our enrichment programs, but will provide ample opportunities and options for teachers to

- integrate technology into their curriculum, work with students requiring additional supports, and to differentiate instruction.
- In addition we propose to reinstate professional development and workshops for our administrators, teachers and support staff, as well as for our parents.

It is important to come and vote on Tuesday May 19, 2015. Below are the propositions that will be included on the ballot for your approval on May 19th as well as a brief explanation for each.

Approved Budget by the Board of Education

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, in the amount of \$214,032,128 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

This ballot item pertains to the 2015-2016 general fund budget. This item relates to the annual budget vote.

Bus Referendum

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles at a maximum estimated sum of \$1,931,839; or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law, and for which obligations of the District may be issued?

This ballot item is a request to replace transportation vehicles used in the transport of our students. The District attempts to include this ballot item annually so as to maintain the safety of our Transportation fleet.

Change in Scope

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, be hereby authorized to acquire the real property and improvements erected thereon for school district offices and

classrooms, more fully bounded and described on the Tax Map of the Town of East Fishkill as Grid No.: 132800-6356-03-449033-0000, and located at 25 Corporate Park Drive, Hopewell Junction, New York for the sum of \$2,600,000.00, the cost of which acquisition together with incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, will be financed by the issuance of obligations previously authorized by the qualified voters of the School District on May 21, 2013 to construct and reconstruct various School District facilities and sites, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site and athletic field improvements and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$38,715,000.

In May 2013 the voters of WCSD approved a \$38,715,000 capital project that included many projects such as window replacements, HVAC updates, and a new Transportation garage at Fishkill Plains school, as well as the renovation and reconstruction of space for the District Offices. Much work was done to secure a location for District Office in existing space but this effort was not successful. As such the District, with Board of Education approval, had to look outside of current District space for a location. A location has been identified for purchase to house the District Offices.

This proposition is asking for a change in the scope of the May 2013 original referendum. The scope would be changed to state "purchase of property" instead of "renovate and reconstruction". PLEASE NOTE that this change of scope will not alter the cost of the capital project referendum from May 2013 (\$38,715,000). This change in scope is in language only and will have no impact on the taxpayers of WCSD.

Voter Registration

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District be authorized to permit qualified voters to personally register, for the purpose of voting at annual or special meetings and elections, with the District Clerk during regular business hours at the office of the District Clerk?

Currently all six polling sites can accept voter registrations. The District Clerk would like to have all voter registration be conducted at the Office of the District Clerk. This request for a change is based on cost (ie: security needed at the individual polling sites on the day of registration) as well as the workload of this task. This change in protocol does need approval for the voters.

Lastly, we would like to leave with you with a quote from our 32nd President of the United States, which I believe still holds profoundly true today:

*“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” **Franklin D. Roosevelt***

Sincerely,

*José Carrión
Superintendent of Schools*

*Douglass Bittker
President, Board of Education*