

Budget Remains Within Tax Cap Despite Looming COVID-19 Costs

Proposition 1

Despite the continuing financial challenges and unknowns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed 2021-2022 Dobbs Ferry School Budget remains within the tax cap for the tenth year in a row; maintains existing programs and services for all students; retains faculty and staff; and supports the District's Strategic Plan. The proposed budget also allows the District to meet the changing needs of our students and staff as we continue to respond to the unpredictable impact of the pandemic on our school community. We are working continually to re-allocate resources to provide for COVID-19 related supplies and contingencies.

The Board of Education and District administration have been working together over the last few months to find ways to trim the budget and reduce costs, while maintaining the integrity of our instructional programs and minimizing the impact on Dobbs Ferry taxpayers. With an anticipated increase in student enrollment for next year, the District is committed to supporting small class sizes and has budgeted a contingency teacher position to meet this need if necessary. The budget also allows for additional special education support and the addition of a K-12 Diversity & Equity Teacher Leader stipend, to assist in the facilitation of the important work our schools have undertaken to help create learning communities that are more diverse, equitable and inclusive. An existing position in the Business Office will be reorganized into a bilingual central registration position to handle all student registrations K-12.

We continue to place the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our decisions, and with the increased availability of COVID-19 vaccines we hope that next year will be much less stressful for everyone in our school community. The proposed 2021-2022 budget reflects the District's best efforts to adapt to the new "normal," while still providing high-quality instructional programs to benefit student learning.

Detailed information on the proposed 2021-2022 budget can be found on the District website: <https://www.dfsd.org/Domain/228>

The School Budget Vote/Board of Education Election will be held IN PERSON (DFHS Gymnasium) on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021.**

Remember to vote!

PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Total Proposed Budget:	\$49,029,234
Projected Budget Increase:	4.17%
Projected Tax Levy Increase:	\$1,139,566
Projected Tax Levy Increase:	2.86%

Letter from the Board of Education

Dear Dobbs Ferry School District Resident,

The Board of Education presents the proposed 2021-2022 school budget for your consideration. This has been a year like no other; however, we are pleased to report that next year's budget stays within the tax cap for the tenth consecutive year. While we still face unknown costs relating to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the budget continues to maintain or enhance instructional programs and student support services without reducing staff. The Board appreciates the trust you have put in us to prepare a budget that is fiscally responsible and maximizes the value of every tax dollar.

This was one of the most difficult budgets to balance in recent years given the ongoing expense of additional cleaning and safety equipment, increasing technology needs, rising contractual and health costs and projected enrollment growth. Despite this tight budget, we are still able to provide enrichment and cultural arts programs, co-curricular activities, high-level professional development for faculty and staff, and continued support of our IB (MYP and DP) programs.

We are grateful that our students and staff can all be together again in our school buildings as we had hoped. While it is imperative that we remain vigilant and continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing as much as possible, this is great news for everyone. Next year promises to be even better. We invite you to review the information in this newsletter and on our website (www.dfsd.org), and we encourage you to head to the polls on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** to vote on the budget and to elect Board of Education Trustees.

Sincerely,

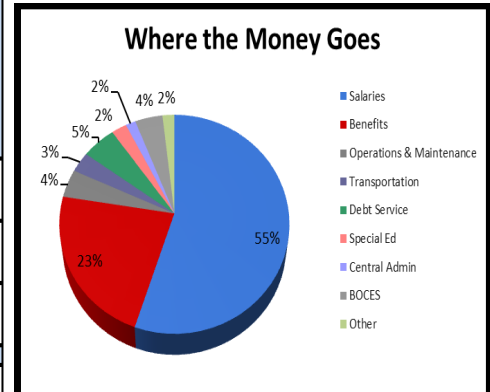
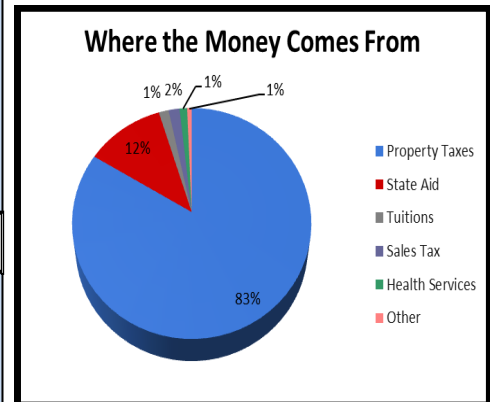
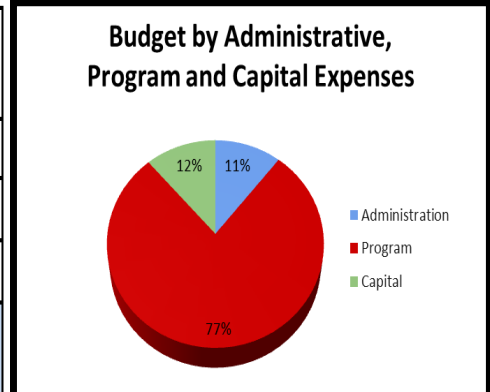
Louis Schwartz, President
Dobbs Ferry Board of Education

DOBBS FERRY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

<u>Description</u>	<u>2020-2021</u> <u>Adopted Budget</u>	<u>2021-2022</u> <u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>			
Board of Education	\$ 31,675	\$ 31,925	250
District Clerk	9,531	10,005	474
District Meeting	24,450	24,450	0
Chief School Administrator	360,086	380,449	20,363
Business Administration	394,961	446,309	51,348
Auditing	64,500	64,450	-50
Treasurer	100,485	104,334	3,849
Legal	27,000	60,000	33,000
Personnel	115,398	114,392	-1,006
Public Information & Services	70,188	64,523	-5,665
Central Printing & Mailing	22,750	24,250	1,500
Central Data Processing	233,917	245,343	11,426
Unallocated Insurance	184,400	195,100	10,700
Assessments on School Property	230,000	230,000	0
BOCES Administrative Costs	234,567	254,965	20,398
Curriculum Development & Supervision	303,255	278,238	-25,017
Supervision-Regular School	1,454,207	1,564,764	110,557
Research, Planning & Evaluation	2,300	3,000	700
Inservice Training Instruction	150,188	143,991	-6,197
Employee Benefits	1,002,884	1,087,190	84,306
Administrative Total	\$ 5,016,742	\$ 5,327,678	\$ 310,936
<u>CAPITAL</u>			
Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operation of Plant	2,108,358	2,200,513	92,155
Maintenance of Plant	685,051	737,850	52,799
Judgments and Claims	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	335,890	341,928	6,038
Serial Bonds-School Construction	2,184,125	2,184,126	1
Other Debt	212,370	212,369	-1
Capital Total	\$ 5,525,794	\$ 5,676,786	\$ 150,992
<u>PROGRAM</u>			
Legal	\$ 39,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 1,000
Teaching-Regular School	14,978,165	15,440,815	462,650
Programming for Students w/Disabilities	6,449,815	6,678,954	229,139
Occupational Education (Grades 9-12)	51,000	108,000	57,000
School Library & Audio Visual	274,255	238,761	-35,494
Educational Television	70,876	73,448	2,572
Computer Assisted Instruction	1,150,083	1,243,672	93,589
Guidance	822,516	843,935	21,419
Health Services	453,807	546,081	92,274
Psychological & Social Worker Services	748,617	722,088	-26,529
Co-Curricular Activities	237,240	245,240	8,000
Interscholastic Athletics	556,682	584,634	27,952
District Transportation Services	24,954	26,386	1,432
Contract Transportation	1,413,000	1,511,500	98,500
Civic Activities	-	-	0
Employee Benefits	9,118,179	9,566,256	448,077
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	135,000	155,000	20,000
Program Total	\$ 36,523,189	\$ 38,024,770	\$ 1,501,581
Grand Total	\$ 47,065,725	\$ 49,029,234	\$ 1,963,509

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$47,065,725	\$49,029,234	\$47,889,668
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$1,963,509	\$823,943
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.17%	1.75%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$39,804,331	\$40,943,897	
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)	\$39,804,331	\$40,943,897	\$39,804,331
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,290,705	\$1,565,702	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$38,513,626	\$39,378,195	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$38,513,626	\$39,378,195	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$5,016,742	\$5,327,678	\$5,326,178
Program Component	\$36,523,189	\$38,024,770	\$36,901,704
Capital Component	\$5,525,794	\$5,676,786	\$5,661,786



* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingency budget would require the elimination of all equipment purchases and a reduction of staff.

** 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)

Description	Amount

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$1,773

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Dobbs Ferry High School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Dobbs Ferry High School gymnasium, 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.

Absentee Ballot Applications may be requested in writing or by email:
 District Clerk
 Superintendent's Office
 Dobbs Ferry High School
 505 Broadway
 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
 tularzkol@dfsd.org

Application will be sent to the voter via US mail or email but must be delivered in person or sent via US mail to the District Clerk.

Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on May 18, 2021.

Voter Qualifications:

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 18, 2021.

Voter Registration:

Monday, May 10, 2021 3:30 PM—7:30 PM
 Dobbs Ferry High School Gymnasium Foyer
 505 Broadway
 Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

PROPOSITION 1

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$49,029,234 shall be appropriated to meet the estimated expenditures for school purposes for 2021-2022 and that a tax be levied in accordance with the law to meet the same.

BOARD MEMBERS

VOTE FOR TWO (2) or WRITE IN

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for three (3) year terms commencing July 1, 2021, and expiring on June 30, 2024.

Penny Sullivan-Nunes - Brooke Bass

The School Budget Newsletter is Available in Spanish
 El boletín de Presupuesto Escolar está disponible en español. Visitar el sitio web del Distrito en www.dfsd.org.
 Haga clic en Información del Distrito.



VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021- 7:00AM TO 9:00PM in the DFHS Gymnasium

Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District
 Board of Education
 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
boe@dfsdf.org

Board of Education

- Louis Schwartz, *President*
914-693-1693 schwartzl@dfsdf.org
 - Rita Kennedy, *Vice President*
914-469-4441 kennedyr@dfsdf.org
 - Tracy Baron
914-693-9155 baront@dfsdf.org
 - Massimo Bufalini
917-860-6007 bufalinim@dfsdf.org
 - Shannon Johnson
914-693-5776 johnsons@dfsdf.org
 - Jean Lucasey
914-831-7601 lucaseyj@dfsdf.org
 - Shannon Stringer
914-478-4639 stringers@dfsdf.org
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- Lisa Brady, *Superintendent*
914-693-1506 bradyl@dfsdf.org
 - Ron Clamsr, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent
914-693-1500 x3030 clamserr@dfsdf.org
 - Elizabeth Hausman, *Editor*
914-693-1500 x3013 hausmane@dfsdf.org

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- INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE SCHOOL FOR IN-PERSON VOTING**
- Must be in good health:
 - Have not been in close contact in the past 10 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who had symptoms of COVID-19
 - Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
 - Have not experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 10 days
 - Have not traveled internationally per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 10 days
 - Must enter the school via the HS Gym Entrance
 - Wear a mask - masks will be provided should you need one
 - Maintain six feet social distance while waiting in registration lines, for privacy booths and for voting machines
 - Refrain from lingering and socializing with others
 - Hand sanitizing gel and wipes will be provided
 - Barriers will be installed at registration tables
 - Pens will be sanitized after each use and surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day
 - During busy times, voters may need to wait in line outside the Gym and possibly the building