

2024-2025 General Fund Budget Update

March 19, 2024

Next Steps (from March 5 meeting:

- Meet with the Board Finance Committee on March 12 to present revised Capital, Administrative, Program, and Revenue Budgets.
- Update the *District Budget Information* webpage.
- Provide communications to faculty, staff, and community.
- Continue the development of long-range plans.

The Pillars of Our Work:

Our Mission: The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious, and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically, and are knowledgeable about the world around them.

Our Vision: Independent Thinkers Prepared to Change the World.

Critical, interdependent elements of our vision include our *Strategic Points of Focus*.

Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Curriculum Development and Implementation**: By creating, adapting, and/or adopting rigorous Tier 1 curriculum that aligns with the International Baccalaureate standards; contains diverse perspectives and experiences; reflects and develops/enhances students' on grade-level abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking, mathematical understandings, and, as a result, their ability to think critically, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Instruction**: By developing/enhancing our instructional staff's teaching abilities through an understanding of how students learn, research-informed instructional techniques and frameworks including the Response to Intervention (RtI)/Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model, and effective feedback models from peers and supervisors, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Assessments**: By developing and enhancing clear understandings of the design and purpose(s) of effective assessments and how they can be utilized to improve instruction, by carefully selecting those assessments that we will use to measure student learning, and by supporting the data literacy of faculty and administration, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Positive School Climate and Culture**: By developing a welcoming school environment that is reflective of the diversity present in the larger community where all students feel included in what they encounter at school, including in their classroom resources, in differing historical perspectives that they learn about, in equitable opportunities for engagement, advancement and achievement, and the adults they interact with each day; by providing explicit instruction and structured interventions in social-emotional learning and executive functions that have a sound basis in educational research; by aligning our work with the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile; and by developing/enhancing our staff's abilities to identify, understand, and improve positive student behavior, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Recruitment, Retention, and Development of Personnel**: By investing in promising culturally relevant practices for employee recruitment; by intentionally recruiting well-qualified staff that reflect our student demographics; and by providing ongoing, targeted professional learning opportunities and proven methods of evaluation and feedback, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Family and Community Communications and Engagement:** By engaging in consistent and meaningful two-way communication with parents and families, and by inviting parents, families, and the community to participate in important initiatives, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Long-Range Planning for District Facilities and Finances:** By developing long-range financial and facilities plans that allow us to continue to provide excellent programs and opportunities for students in safe, secure, and welcoming environments, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

Major Cost Drivers Included in our Planning

- Staffing based on student needs and current labor contracts (estimated increase of \$1,650,000)
- Services to students with disabilities (estimated increase of \$1,290,000)
- Health care costs for active and retired employees (estimated increase of \$210,000)
- Employee retirement contribution rates (estimated increase of \$200,000)
- Inflationary-related increases to transportation, security, custodial, utilities and other contractual costs (estimated increase of \$150,000)
- Debt service on capital projects (estimated increase of \$126,000)
- Instructional materials to support new reading and mathematics curricula (estimated increase of \$100,000)
- General liability and property insurance premiums (estimated increase of \$37,000)

The Administrative Budget Component

Includes*:

- Office and central administrative expenses including travel expenses;
- All compensation, salaries, and benefits of all school administrators and supervisors;
- All expenditures associated with the operation of the Board of Education, the office of the Superintendent of Schools, general administration, and the school business office;
- Any consulting costs not directly related to direct student services and programs, planning, and all other administrative activities.

**From Policy 6100*

The Preliminary 2024-25 Administrative Budget

Current Year	2024-25 (from 3/5/24)	Change
\$6,198,644	\$6,489,821	4.70% +\$291,177
Current Year	2024-25	Change
\$6,198,644	\$6,400,024	3.25% +\$201,377

Projected cost increases due to:

- Salary and benefits of District Office administrators and staff
- Health insurance of District Office administrators and staff
- General liability and property insurance premiums

The Capital Budget Component Includes*:

- All transportation capital costs including debt service and lease expenditures;
- Facilities lease expenditures, annual debt service, and total debt for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district;
- Costs of construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of school buildings; and
- All expenditures associated with custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, and maintenance and repair of school facilities.

**From Policy 6100*

The Preliminary 2024-25 Capital Budget

Current Year	2024-25 (from 3/5/24)	Change
\$6,826,657	\$7,247,488	6.16% +\$420,831

Current Year	2024-25	Change
\$6,826,657	\$7,314,838	7.15% +\$488,181

Projected cost increases due to:

- Utility services
- Maintenance Initiatives
- Equipment purchases
- Contractual cost increases (cleaning, landscaping, maintenance & repairs, security, etc.)
- Debt service payments

The Program Budget Component Includes*:

- Salaries and benefits of teachers and staff;
- Teaching materials and supplies;
- Athletics and student clubs;
- Instructional technology;
- BOCES programs;
- Pupil transportation; and
- Special education costs.

**From Policy 6100*

The Preliminary 2024-25 Program Budget

Current Year	2024-25 (from 3/5/24)	Change
\$42,179,934	\$45,027,770	6.75% +\$2,847,836

Current Year	2024-25	Change
\$42,179,934	\$45,261,312	7.31% +\$3,081,378

Projected cost increases due to:

- Salaries and benefits of current staffing in all buildings
- ERS/TRS pension rates
- Out-of-district programs for students with disabilities
- Transportation contract costs and BOCES program and service costs
- Final year of Illustrative Mathematics curriculum implementation

Initiatives and Investments Under Consideration in the Program Budget Component:

- Programs and staffing for students with disabilities
- K-5 Reading and Writing curriculum implementation
- Staff, professional development, and instructional materials to support 6-12 literacy initiatives
- Student and staff support for English Language Learners
- General education classroom support including academic interventions
- Additional counseling support for students including *Primary Project*

Key Elements of the Revenue Budget:

- State aid including expense-based aids
- County sales tax
- Anticipated interest earnings
- Out-of-District Tuitions
- Tax levy based on tax cap projections

Also under consideration:

- Allocation of fund balance and use of District reserves

Impact of Current Budget Design

After initial adjustments to revenues:

- A tax levy of 0% would require expense reductions and increased revenue totaling **\$4,028,153**.
- A tax levy increase of 2.00% would require expense reductions and increased revenue additional reductions totaling **\$3,175,846**.
- A tax levy increase of 3.00% would require expense reductions and increased revenue totaling **\$2,749,693**.
- A tax levy increase of 4.28% (our estimated tax cap) would require expense reductions and increased revenue reductions totaling **\$2,206,190**.

Additional adjustments to revenues will be reviewed prior to the April 2 presentation

Preliminary Revenues: Flat Tax Levy

Revenue Source	2023-24 Adopted	2024-25 Preliminary	Variance	
			\$	%
Property Taxes	42,615,325	42,615,325	0	0%
State Aid	8,870,382	8,897,871	27,489	0.31%
Tuitions	870,000	913,500	43,500	5.00%
Sales Taxes	925,000	975,000	50,000	5.41%
Health Services	582,000	582,000	0	0.00%
Interest	350,000	400,000	50,000	14.29%
Other	314,323	314,323	0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserve	678,205	250,000	-428,205	-63.14%
Total	55,205,235	54,948,019	-257,216	-0.47%

Preliminary Revenues: 2.00% Increase

Revenue Source	2023-24 Adopted	2024-25 Preliminary	Variance	
			\$	%
Property Taxes	42,615,325	43,467,632	852,307	2.00%
State Aid	8,870,382	8,897,871	27,489	0.31%
Tuitions	870,000	913,500	43,500	5.00%
Sales Taxes	925,000	975,000	50,000	5.41%
Health Services	582,000	582,000	0	0.00%
Interest	350,000	400,000	50,000	14.29%
Other	314,323	314,323	0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserve	678,205	250,000	-428,205	-63.14%
Total	55,205,235	55,800,326	595,091	1.08%

Preliminary Revenues: 3.00% Increase

Revenue Source	2023-24 Adopted	2024-25 Preliminary	Variance	
			\$	%
Property Taxes	42,615,325	43,893,785	1,278,460	3.00%
State Aid	8,870,382	8,897,871	27,489	0.31%
Tuitions	870,000	913,500	43,500	5.00%
Sales Taxes	925,000	975,000	50,000	5.41%
Health Services	582,000	582,000	0	0.00%
Interest	350,000	400,000	50,000	14.29%
Other	314,323	314,323	0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserve	678,205	250,000	-428,205	-63.14%
Total	55,205,235	56,226,479	1,021,244	1.85%

Preliminary Revenues: *4.28% Increase

*Maximum Allowable Tax Levy under Tax Cap Calculation

Revenue Source	2023-24 Adopted	2024-25 Preliminary	Variance	
			\$	%
Property Taxes	42,615,325	44,437,288	1,821,963	4.28%
State Aid	8,870,382	8,897,871	27,489	0.31%
Tuitions	870,000	913,500	43,500	5.00%
Sales Taxes	925,000	975,000	50,000	5.41%
Health Services	582,000	582,000	0	0.00%
Interest	350,000	400,000	50,000	14.29%
Other	314,323	314,323	0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserve	678,205	250,000	-428,205	-63.14%
Total	55,205,235	56,769,982	1,564,747	2.83%

Next Steps:

- Meet with the Board on April 2 to present:
 - Revised Capital, Administrative, Program, and Revenue budgets based on discussions on March 19 and any additional variances in expenditures and revenues
 - BOCES Administrative Budget proposal
- Update the *District Budget Information* webpage
- Discuss budget impact with Administrative Council
- Provide updated communications to faculty, staff, and community
- Continue the development of long-range plans including the management of our reserves
- *Adjust the Board meeting calendar to allow for additional meetings for discussion of proposals*