

Special Meeting to Finalize 2021-2022 Budget - Northport High School (Thursday, May 27, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, May 28, 2021

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Mr. Steven Goodstadt, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

Public Attendance: 14 people in-person, 210 virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet in public in the Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School at 6:00 p.m. to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to current litigation.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to current litigation.

Motion by David Stein, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, David Stein

No: David Badanes, Allison C Noonan

At 7:07 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Auditorium at Northport High School.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools, stated that the Board meeting being held this evening is to consider what to do after the results of last Tuesday's election. Mr. Banzer stated that he received a phone call yesterday from Senator Gaughran who notified him that the district was the recipient of a \$1 million allocation from the state because of the significant tax certiorari event. Mr. Banzer thanked Senator Gaughran and all the legislators in the area who have been advocating and fighting for us in this entire process. Mr. Banzer stated that he is recommending that the district present a budget that has a zero percent tax levy increase for the 2021-2022 school year. The tax levy is reduced by \$1.126 million. There is an increase to the assigned fund balance of \$111,265 and \$1 million increase into miscellaneous revenue.

There was a brief discussion about the \$1 million allocation, playgrounds at East Northport Middle School and Northport Middle School, and COVID related expenses.



2021-2022 Post Vote Budget Consideration

Northport-East Northport UFSD *Board of Education Meeting*

May 27, 2021



NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT SCHOOLS

A Tradition of Excellence

Mission:

Educate, inspire and empower all students to pursue their aspirations and contribute as responsible members of society.

Vision:

Excellence in all areas without exception.

Core values & beliefs:

- Students are our first priority.
- Everyone can learn and grow.
- Students, families, staff and community are essential partners.
- We collaborate in a spirit of trust to make thoughtful and informed decisions.
- We value creativity and innovation.
- We challenge and support the whole child.
- We embrace the uniqueness of every student.
- We treat everyone with dignity, empathy and respect.
- We provide a safe, secure and supportive environment.
- We use district resources effectively and responsibly.

Revenue Changes Since May Vote

CATEGORY	May 2021-22	June 2021-22	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
TAX LEVY	\$150,843,867	\$149,717,642	(\$1,126,225)	-0.75%
STATE AID	\$16,925,660	\$16,925,660	\$0	0.00%
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$2,300,000	\$2,411,265	\$111,265	4.84%
USE OF RESERVES	\$336,721	\$336,721	\$0	0.00%
MISC. REVENUE	\$4,298,500	\$5,298,500	\$1,000,000	23.26%
TOTAL	\$174,704,748	\$174,689,788	(\$14,960)	-0.01%

Revenue Increases

- **"Million dollar phone call"**- \$1,000,000 In Miscellaneous Revenue from New York State Power Plant Relief Fund
- \$111,265 In Assigned Fund Balance to reduce the tax levy

Revenue Reductions

- \$1,126,225 In the Tax Levy to result in a 0% Levy Increase

Estimated Tax Rate Calculation

$\frac{\text{Tax Levy}}{\text{Assessed Valuation}} =$ $\text{Tax Rate per } \$100$
$\frac{\$150,843,867}{\$77,901,186} =$ $\$192.120 \text{ per } \100
Estimated Increase of \$0 per year for property assessed at 3800

Expenditure Changes Since May Vote

CATEGORY	May 2021-22	June 2021-22	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
SALARIES	\$89,702,991	\$89,512,991	-190,000	-0.21%
EQUIPMENT	\$1,355,023	\$1,355,023	0	0.00%
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$32,374,645	\$32,217,685	-156,960	-0.48%
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$2,123,516	\$1,955,516	-168,000	-7.91%
DEBT SERVICE	\$5,501,359	\$5,501,359	0	0.00%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$40,282,800	\$40,282,800	0	0.00%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$3,364,414	\$3,864,414	500,000	14.86%
TOTAL	\$174,704,748	\$174,689,788	(\$14,960)	-0.01%

General Fund Budget Reductions

- \$190,000 Summer Program Moved to the ARP Grant
- \$156,960 In instructional Software moved to the ARP Grant
- \$168,000 in PPE and COVID-19 Related cleaning Supplies moved to the ARP Grant

General Fund Budget Increases- Interfund Transfer Code:

- \$500,000 For Playgrounds

RESERVES & FUND BALANCE

	Actual 6/30/2017	Actual 06/30/18	Actual 06/30/19	Actual 06/30/20	Projected 06/30/21
Restricted Reserves					
Capital	3,193,323	2,802,966	1,671,067	1,692,155	1,700,000
Unemployment					
Insurance	824,190	821,008	825,922	831,073	835,000
Insurance	49,694	49,957	50,564	51,189	52,000
Employee Benefit					
Accrued Liability	3,860,578	3,006,311	2,992,231	2,978,612	2,980,000
Workers' Compensation	2,408,599	2,695,673	2,637,332	2,528,212	2,530,000
Retirement Contribution	2,611,114	2,780,992	3,523,720	3,423,818	4,125,000
TOTAL RESTRICTED RESERVES	12,947,498	12,156,907	11,700,836	11,505,059	12,222,000
Fund Balance					
Assigned - reduce tax levy	2,500,000	2,400,000	2,375,000	4,391,473	2,411,265
Assigned - encumbrances	1,034,901	527,824	661,527	501,594	600,000
Unassigned	6,532,273	6,672,414	6,843,106	5,754,880	6,876,924
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	10,067,174	9,600,238	9,879,633	10,647,947	9,888,189
FUND BALANCE & RESERVES	23,014,672	21,757,145	21,580,469	22,153,006	22,110,189

Contingent Budget

- The tax levy can be no greater than the prior year actual tax levy. No increase in the tax levy is permitted.
- The District must adhere to the contingent budget administrative cap.
- All non-contingent expenditure items must be removed from a contingent budget.
- Examples of non-contingent expenses include, but are not limited to, capital projects, most equipment and school bus purchases.

Key Considerations	Included In New Budget 0% Tax Levy Increase	Included in Contingency Budget 0% Tax Levy Increase
Middle school playground equipment	YES	NO
Non-mandatory summer program bussing/transportation	YES	NO
Funds for necessary roof replacement/HVAC	YES	NO
Usage of fields and school grounds by external organizations (soccer clubs, girl scouts, boy scouts etc.)	YES	Usage Fees to be charged
All Extra & Co-curricular programs and related transportation services	YES	Discretionary
Desired class size ratios	YES	Discretionary
School Bus Purchase-replacement cycle	YES	NO

FISCAL RESPONSIVENESS

Town of Huntington Budget Comparison between districts

	BUDGET 2010-2011	BUDGET 2020-2021	BUDGET DIFF \$	BUDGET DIFF %
District 1	207,881,882	264,612,680	56,730,798	27.3%
District 2	138,465,260	174,657,264	36,192,004	26.1%
District 3	56,795,990	71,092,749	14,296,759	25.2%
District 4	108,786,539	135,938,167	27,151,628	25.0%
District 5	71,467,605	88,943,177	17,375,572	24.3%
District 6	160,732,838	199,759,525	39,026,687	24.3%
District 7	51,914,687	64,443,174	12,528,487	24.1%
Northport- E Npt	147,487,339	172,752,759	25,265,420	17.1%

The Northport-East Northport UFSD had the lowest budget increases in the last 11 years in the Town of Huntington.

Town of Huntington Tax Levy Comparison between districts

	LEVY 2010-2011	LEVY 2020-2021	TAX LEVY DIFF \$	LEVY LEVY DIFF %
District 1	38,111,112	48,475,302	10,364,190	27.2%
District 2	52,045,304	65,819,125	13,773,821	26.5%
District 3	54,207,166	68,465,006	14,257,840	26.3%
District 4	170,108,277	213,700,033	43,591,756	25.6%
District 5	96,608,177	120,641,023	24,032,846	24.9%
District 6	119,645,607	145,375,230	25,933,623	21.7%
District 7	92,643,863	112,350,000	19,706,137	21.3%
Northport- E Npt	129,876,167	149,717,642	19,841,475	15.3%

The Northport-East Northport UFSD had the lowest levy increase over the last 11 years in the Town of Huntington.

Data is from <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/propertytax/>

FISCAL RESPONSIVENESS

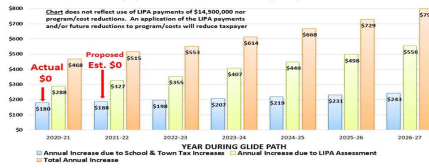
Town of Huntington Comparison based on a \$500,000 home

The Northport-East Northport UFSD had the lowest levy increase over the last 11 years in the Town of Huntington

	500K Home 2010-2011	500K Home 2020-2021	11 Year Change \$	11 Year Change %
District 1	8,001	11,034	3,033	38%
District 2	6,437	8,744	2,307	36%
District 3	7,956	10,738	2,782	35%
District 4	7,895	10,257	2,362	30%
District 5	8,568	11,012	2,444	29%
District 6	7,083	9,042	1,959	28%
District 7	7,628	9,515	1,887	25%
Northport- E Npt	6,053	7,301	1,248	21%

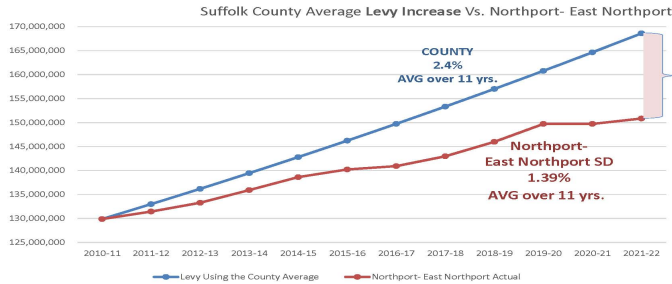
*Data is from the Town of Huntington www.huntingtonny.gov/content/13749/13853/17258/17268/default.aspx

Projected Increases During Glide path For Assessed Value of \$3,800 - Market Value of \$500,000



FISCAL RESPONSIVENESS

The Northport-East Northport UFSD is far below the County average of tax levy increases over the last 11 years



If District levied at County average over 11 years the levy would be \$17,745,036 higher in 21-22

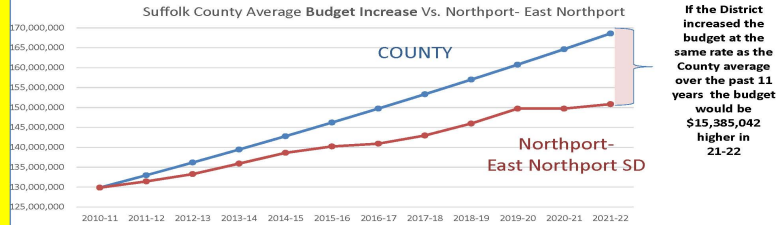
Tax Levy History under the "Tax Cap"

Year	Tax Levy Increase	Allowable Levy Limit	% Under Levy Limit	\$ Under Levy Limit*
2012-13	1.68%	2.43%	-0.75%	(1,363,411)
2013-14	1.98%	3.43%	-1.45%	(1,940,056)
2014-15	1.99%	2.18%	-0.19%	(258,358)
2015-16	1.15%	1.81%	-0.66%	(912,917)
2016-17	0.50%	0.55%	-0.05%	(77,000)
2017-18	1.46%	1.67%	-0.21%	(298,989)
2018-19	2.10%	2.38%	-0.28%	(397,381)
2019-20	2.56%	3.22%	-0.66%	(965,166)
2020-21	0.00%	1.01%	-1.01%	(1,510,417)
2021-22	0.00%	1.68%	-1.68%	
TOTAL	13.42%	18.68%	-5.26%	(\$7,723,695)

*As reported on the NYSED Property Tax Report Card

FISCAL RESPONSIVENESS

The Northport-East Northport UFSD is **far below** the County average of Budget increases over the last 11 years



FISCAL RESPONSIVENESS

The Northport-East Northport UFSD is **below** the County average of Fund Balance & Reserves

(As a percent of the total budget)	Reserves	Assigned Fund Balance	Unassigned Fund Balance	Totals
County Average	12.5%	2.2%	4.0%	19%
Northport- East Northport	7.0%	1.4%	3.9%	12%
Difference	-5.5%	-0.8%	-0.1%	-6%
Balances if using county average	21,838,094	3,843,504	6,988,190	32,669,788
Northport- East Northport Balances	12,222,000	2,411,265	6,876,924	21,510,189
\$ Difference	(9,616,094)	(1,432,239)	(111,266)	(11,159,599)
% Difference	-44%	-37%	-2%	-34%

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2021-2022 BUDGET - BOARD MOTION TO CONVENE INTO COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS THE BUDGET

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Joe Sabia	Stated that shutting down schools should have saved millions of dollars and spending \$30k per student is driving people out of the community. The community is being overcharged by the school district.
Doug Roberts	Stated that last Tuesday he sat in a room while people cheered and his kids budget got voted down. A big talking point and concern was a zero percent levy. Mr. Roberts stated it was time to move past this and vote on June 15 th . The district does a great job teaching kids and he hopes with a zero percent levy all can be on board.
Joe Stewart	Stated that he believes the district has tightened its budgets over the last 10 years but not once has the budget been lowered. We are down 1,900 kids and the

budget has to come down at some point. Stated that we don't need two libraries and the Brosnan building should be closed.

- Paul Darrigo
Commended the administration for their efforts. He is concerned that from now until 2027 the budget cycle will be more difficult. The Board should be supported when they unanimously say they are proud of the budget put forward. Going forward we need to let the administration deliver the programs and let Board members do what they are supposed to do.
- Tammie Topel
Thanked Mr. Banzer for the zero tax levy increase. Stated there is so much money in the budget and reserves. There was no reason to raise the budget in the first place and the budgets can't keep going up. Asked the Board to give the community information regarding things such as Mattinecock Court if they receive correspondence.
- Joe Dragone
Stated that the million dollar phone call may not happen again next year and the federal funds are not going to happen either. Thanked the administration and Board for thinking longer term and not one year at a time. Stated as an education professional he would rather depend upon the elected trustees and professionals hired to make long term decisions in the best interest of the homeowners, taxpayers and parents. We are the only district with a tax cap compliant budget that has failed on all of Long Island. Urged the Board to think about the long term interests of the taxpayers of the community and to continue on the glidepath.
- Bethany Pokorny
Thanked the Board for preserving the district. The past three years have been difficult and issue after issue has divided us. Now is the time where we must find places of agreement, compromise and acceptance to move forward as a community and start on a path of improvement that is in the best interest of the children. The community needs to know more about programs that make our district different, need to know the opportunities the children have. Moving into the 2021-2022 school year our smallest community members deserve nothing less than everything our schools have to offer which requires our budget to pass.
- Nicole Ragarella
Stated that in the beginning of the budget season a slide showed the budget would have been \$180 million if we didn't close schools and we were told we would have \$5 million in savings from closing schools. Stated that the Board is tone deaf as people were speaking out against the budget. Asked the Board to start representing the community.
- Denise Schwartz
Stated that enough is enough and that the issues over the years were handled poorly. The Board never surveyed the community if they would have listened they would have put up an acceptable budget. Asked where Senator Gaughran's cancer study went. Stated the district wasted \$14 million in legal fees on LIPA and that Mattinecock Court is a big concern and she is worried what the district will do with the Dickinson property.
- Shawne Albero
Asked if the district can guarantee that the playgrounds will comply with ADA standards. Stated that not enough emphasis is put on reading and that only 34% of 4th graders are reading at or above New York State levels and asked the district reconsider using balanced literacy. Asked how the district is going to fund the \$86 million needed for capital projects.

- Christina Karman Asked if the transportation hub is still being proposed in the budget and if the budget is remaining the same minus the \$1 million. Stated that the bus depot is a big problem and that the district heard from over 2,000 people saying that something was wrong with the proposed budget but nothing had been done about it.
- Rosanne Fischer Stated that the original budget did not pass by 167 votes and urged the Board to inform community members as a lot of folks are misinformed. We need to unite the community and educate them on the facts about small class size and per pupil costs. Stated that with a contingency budget there could be potential for things being cut.
- Kyle Halm Commended the administration on a zero tax levy and echoed the statements that we need to come together for the kids. Stated that students who qualify for one on one transitional counseling should get it. Stated that the district needs to address the community in acceptance.
- Phyllis Clements Thanked the administration for presenting the budget and stated she was sad to see it voted down. There are many people who support the school district even if they don't have kids. It is important to pass the budget to maintain the integrity and reputation of the community. We need to move forward and maintain a positive outlook for the children in the district.
- Julie Hendricks-Atkins Thanked Senator Gaughran for his advocacy on behalf of the district. Thanked Mr. Banzer for his presentation and for the prudent financial planning for the district. Stated that a thoughtful and well planned budget was originally proposed and the \$1 million will alleviate short term concerns. Stated that the last thing the district needs is negative headlines that the community no longer supports it. Stated that community members need to vote yes on the revised budget on June 15th.
- Moriah Heuer Stated that the presentation of a zero percent budget for two years in a row is a mistake. Being the only school district whose budget was voted down that was not facing a super majority vote is a major negative. The vote difference was 167 votes and that is hardly a majority of the community. People need to get out and vote. Stated she is worried about what will happen going forward and if in two or three years will we have to have a budget that will need to pierce the tax cap.
- Nicole Richichi Asked with school ending and the temperatures rising will the students still need to wear masks. Asked if the Pulaski classrooms will be equipped with working air conditions throughout July while the students have to wear masks.
- Leigh Boodoo Thanked Mr. Banzer and Mr. Bonadonna for confirming that no services will be cut due to the lower budget. Stated that as a parent she wanted to speak on comments on the division in the community. As a parent some people need to stop reacting. We need to stop bringing up the divide and talk about how we can move forward.

Action: 6.02 Committee-of-the-Whole

Recommendation to approve a motion to convene into Committee-of-the-Whole to informally discuss the 2021-2022 budget

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 9:04 the Board convened into Committee-of-the-Whole.

7. RECONVENE INTO SPECIAL MEETING

At 10:09 p.m. the Board reconvened into public Special Meeting.

8. FINALIZATION OF PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Action: 8.01 Resolution to Finalize 2021-2022 Budget

Recommendation to approve the following resolution

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts a budget in the amount of \$174,689,788 to be presented to the qualified voters at a Budget Re-Vote to be held on June 15, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is directed to take all the requisite steps to conduct the Budget Re-Vote including, but not limited to, the publication of the required legal notice."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

9. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 9.01 Upcoming Meetings

PUBLIC HEARING ON FINALIZED BUDGET AND REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 3, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

BUDGET RE-VOTE

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING TO ACCEPT VOTING RETURNS

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Approximately 9:30 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 17, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

Action: 9.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn meeting

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 10:11 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk