



Presentation of Tentative Budget, 2021-22

March 11, 2021



Introduction and Overview

George P. Alexis
Superintendent

Vision

The Watchung Borough School District is committed to inspiring learners to explore, inquire, and collaborate on their joyful journey toward discovery, independent thinking, and creative problem solving. Our culture of acceptance and inclusion provides the foundation for learning and social and emotional growth. Through reflection and ethical decision-making, we continue to learn and grow, embrace differences, and prepare for an increasingly complex, ever-changing world.



A Culture of Inquiry, Equity, and Collaboration

- Student engagement in an authentic learning process
- Critical and creative thinking
- Communication and collaboration
- Problem solving
- Standards-aligned curriculum and instruction
- Safe and supportive learning environment



Response to Pandemic

- Hybrid model
- Schools open for in-person instruction
- Budget and finances
- Student engagement in an authentic learning process
- Critical and creative thinking
- Communication and collaboration
- Problem solving
- Standards-aligned curriculum and instruction
- Safe and supportive learning environment



Budget Objectives

- Improve teaching and learning according to district vision
- Improve operational efficiency and reduce expenditures
- Stay within the 2% cap
- Balance budget without decreasing fund balance



Current Year's Budgetary Accomplishments

Improve teaching and learning and operational efficiency while reducing expenditures

- Create special services positions previously outsourced (behaviorist, speech therapist)
- Stabilize special services costs
- Redesign preschool
- Reduce number of systems (move to Genesis for multiple purposes: student database, lesson planning, curriculum, and teacher evaluation)
- Restructure technology support services



Key Decisions to Meet Objectives, 2021-22

Improve teaching and learning and operational efficiency while reducing expenditures

- Restructure music staffing (move to 3.0 FTEs from 3.6)
- Restructure ESL/WL staff at Bayberry (move to 1.0 FTE from 1.83)
- Maintain all other staffing levels
- Continue professional learning and collaboration





Tentative Budget 2021-22

Richard Pepe
Business Administrator

Budget Timeline

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Nov 2020 - Jan 2021 | Tentative budget developed collaboratively by district staff |
| Jan - Mar 2021 | Tentative budget reviewed and revised by Operations Committee |
| March 11, 2021 | Board of Education vote on tentative budget |
| March 22, 2021 | Tentative budget due to county office |
| May 6, 2021 | Public Hearing on the Budget |
| May 8, 2021 | User Friendly Budget posted on the district website |



Anticipated Enrollment - District

Valley View	Bayberry	Valley View	Out of District	Total
FY17	383	340	1	724
FY18	368	341	3	712
FY19	358	295	4	657
FY20	340	271	8	619
FY21	339	268	8	615
FY22 Projected	345	251	8	604



Anticipated Enrollment - Bayberry ES

Bayberry	Pre-K	MD / Autistic	K	1	2	3	4	Total
FY17	36	6	66	64	60	62	89	383
FY18	34	2	63	70	64	64	71	368
FY19	31	4	66	62	68	66	61	358
FY20	26	1	60	68	61	60	64	340
FY21	23	*	57	67	66	65	63	341
FY22 Projected	25	*	65	57	67	66	65	345

* students with autism included in grade level counts



Anticipated Enrollment - Valley View MS

Valley View	5	6	7	8	Total
FY17	72	78	102	88	340
FY18	95	67	76	103	341
FY19	66	89	69	71	295
FY20	59	63	81	68	271
FY21	71	62	63	78	274
FY22 Projected	63	71	62	63	259



General Fund Revenue Projections - Overview

- ★ Budgeted revenues = **\$13,614,785**
 - \$12,290,287 Local tax levy
 - \$220,000 Other local revenues
 - \$200,525 Budgeted Fund Balance (from FY20)
 - \$883,104 State Aid (includes extraordinary aid)

- ★ Changes in general fund revenues from 2020-2021 = **(\$47,612)**
 - 2% tax levy increase: \$240,986
 - State Aid increase: \$68,522
 - Extraordinary Aid increase: \$65,000
 - Miscellaneous revenues increase: \$5,000
 - Budgeted excess surplus: (\$129,120)
 - Budgeted withdrawal from capital reserve: (\$298,000)



Revenue Projections - Local Sources

Source	FY21 Final Budget	FY22 Projected	Increase (Decrease)	%
Local Tax Levy	\$12,049,301	\$12,290,287	\$240,986	2%
Tuition from Individuals	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$0	0%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$55,000	\$60,000	\$5,000	9.09%
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	\$298,000	\$0	(\$298,000)	(100%)
Budgeted Fund Balance	\$329,645	\$200,525	(\$129,120)	(39.17%)
TOTAL - Local Sources	\$12,891,946	\$12,710,812	(\$181,134)	(0.01%)



Revenue Projections - Other Sources & Total

Source	FY21 Final Budget	FY21 Projected	Increase (Decrease)	%
State Aid	\$749,582	\$883,104	\$133,522	17.81%
Federal Grants	\$301,315	\$340,650	\$39,335	13.05%
TOTAL - Other Sources	\$1,050,897	\$1,223,754	\$172,857	16.45%

Source	FY21 Final Budget	FY22 Projected	Increase (Decrease)	%
Local Sources	\$12,891,946	\$12,710,812	(\$181,134)	(0.01%)
Other Sources	\$1,050,897	\$1,223,754	\$172,857	16.45%
TOTAL - All Sources	\$13,942,933	\$13,934,566	(\$8,367)	(0.001%)



Key Appropriation Increases

★ **Salaries & Health Benefits - Total Increase: \$250,336**

○ teacher contract: 3% increase	\$171,594	
○ non-aligned staff: 3% increase	\$51,632	
○ 1 new position (technology specialist)	\$75,000	
○ breakage/consolidation	(\$168,712)	
○ health benefits: 5.68% increase	\$120,822	
■ 3% medical benefits increase:		\$ 58,482
■ impact of EHP/GSP plans on FY21 budget:		\$ 54,241
■ other increases:		\$ 8,099
■ 0% dental benefits increase:		\$ 0
		<hr/>
		\$120,822

★ **Special Education - Total Increase: \$78,001**

○ out-of-district tuition & transportation increase	\$92,031
○ other changes	(\$14,030)



Tax Impact - Historical Perspective

School Year	Rateables	Tax Levy	Tax Rate	Avg Home Assessment	Estimated School Tax
2018-2019	\$1,796,713,590	\$11,151,041	0.00620	\$710,718	\$4,410.97
2019-2020	\$1,801,789,204	\$11,813,040	0.00655	\$714,870	\$4,686.89
2020-2021	\$1,815,666,300	\$12,049,301	0.00663	\$719,783	\$4,776.69
2021-2022	\$1,836,075,954	\$12,290,287	0.00669	\$730,568	\$4,890.26
Increase	+\$20,409,654	+\$240,986	+0.00006	+\$10,785	+\$113.57

Estimated School Tax incremental change per \$100k assessed value is \$15.55



Tax Impact - Table of Increases

Home Value	Estimated School Tax (2021)	Estimated School Tax (2022)	Estimated School Tax Increase	Incremental Increase per \$100k
\$ 730,568.00	\$4,776.69	\$4,890.26	\$113.57	
\$ 100,000.00	\$653.83	\$669.38	\$15.55	\$15.55
\$ 200,000.00	\$1,307.67	\$1,338.76	\$31.09	\$15.55
\$ 300,000.00	\$1,961.50	\$2,008.13	\$46.64	\$15.55
\$ 400,000.00	\$2,615.33	\$2,677.51	\$62.18	\$15.55
\$ 500,000.00	\$3,269.16	\$3,346.89	\$77.73	\$15.55
\$ 600,000.00	\$3,923.00	\$4,016.27	\$93.27	\$15.55
\$ 700,000.00	\$4,576.83	\$4,685.65	\$108.82	\$15.55
\$ 800,000.00	\$5,230.66	\$5,355.02	\$124.36	\$15.55
\$ 900,000.00	\$5,884.50	\$6,024.40	\$139.91	\$15.55
\$ 1,000,000.00	\$6,538.33	\$6,693.78	\$155.45	\$15.55
\$ 1,500,000.00	\$9,807.49	\$10,040.67	\$233.18	5 x \$15.55

