



# Presentation of Tentative Budget, 2022-2023

March 24, 2022



# Introduction and Overview

George P. Alexis  
Superintendent

# Vision

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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.



# Vision

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## **A Culture of Inquiry, Equity, and Collaboration**

- Student engagement in an authentic learning process and a standards-aligned curriculum
- Innovative instruction, design thinking, and creative problem solving
- Communication and collaboration
- Social-emotional learning with focus on a growth mindset
- Safe, culturally vibrant, inclusive, and supportive learning environment



# Budget Objectives

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- 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



# Past Year's Budgetary Accomplishments, 2020-21

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Improve teaching and learning and operational efficiency while reducing expenditures

- Create special services positions previously outsourced (behaviorist, speech therapist, in-house aides)
- 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



# Current Year's Budgetary Accomplishments, 2021-22

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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



# Key Decisions to Meet Objectives, 2022-2023

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Improve teaching and learning and operational efficiency while reducing expenditures

- Use federal grant funds to enhance academic and social-emotional opportunities
- Use federal grant funds to expand counseling services at Bayberry
- Address staffing shortage for ELL students pursuant to state requirement
- Maintain all other staffing levels
- Continue professional learning and collaboration







# Tentative Budget 2022-2023

Richard Pepe  
Business Administrator

# Budget Timeline

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|---------------------|---|
| Nov 2021 - Jan 2022 | Tentative budget developed collaboratively by district staff  |
| Jan - Mar 2022      | Tentative budget reviewed and revised by Operations Committee |
| March 24, 2022      | Board of Education vote on tentative budget                   |
| March 28, 2022      | Tentative budget due to county office                         |
| April 28, 2022      | Public Hearing on the Budget                                  |
| April 30, 2022      | User Friendly Budget posted on the district website           |



# Anticipated Enrollment - District

Valley View	Bayberry	Valley View	Out of District	Total
FY18	368	341	3	712
FY19	358	295	4	657
FY20	340	271	8	619
FY21	344	268	8	620
Mar 2022	373	258	7	638
<b>FY23 Projected</b>	359	263	7	629



# Anticipated Enrollment - Bayberry ES

Bayberry	Pre-K	MD / Autistic	K	1	2	3	4	Total
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
Mar 2022	34	*	56	65	76	72	70	373
<b>FY23 Projected</b>	34	*	56	56	65	76	72	359

\* students with autism included in grade level counts



# Anticipated Enrollment - Valley View MS

Valley View	5	6	7	8	Total
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	67	68	58	65	258
<b>FY23 Projected</b>	70	67	68	58	263



# General Fund Revenue Projections

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★ **General fund budgeted revenues:** **\$14,840,322**

- Local tax levy \$12,536,093
- Other local revenues \$220,000
- Budgeted Fund Balance (from FY21) \$456,977
- State Aid (includes anticipated extraordinary aid) \$1,037,252
- Withdrawal from Capital Reserve \$642,807

★ **Changes in general fund revenues from FY22 to FY23: \$707,100**

- Local tax levy increase (2%): +\$245,806
- State Aid increase: +\$154,148
- Budgeted excess surplus: -\$282,854
- \*Budgeted withdrawal from capital reserve: +\$642,807

*\*not available for increased operating costs*

★ **Amount available for increased operating costs: \$117,100**



# Increased Fixed Operating Costs

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★	<b>Salaries &amp; Health Benefits - Total Increase:</b>		<b>\$281,804</b>
	○ Salary increases (includes FICA)	\$128,080	
	○ health benefits	\$153,724	
★	<b>Student Transportation</b>		<b><u>\$205,198</u></b>
★	<b>Total Increase in Fixed Operating Costs:</b>		<b>\$487,002</b>
★	<b>Amount available for increased operating costs:</b>		<b>\$117,100</b>

**Result:** Without adding any additional programs or services, the district budget has a **deficit of \$369,902.**



# Tax Impact

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
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$1,908,500,900</b>	<b>\$12,536,093</b>	<b>0.00644</b>	<b>\$760,895</b>	<b>\$4,997.98</b>
<b>Increase</b>	<b>\$72,424,946</b>	<b>\$1245,806</b>	<b>(0.00025)</b>	<b>\$30,327</b>	<b>\$107.72</b>

*Estimated School Tax incremental change per \$100k assessed value is \$14.16*

