



Presentation of Budget, 2022-2023

April 28, 2022

Board of Education

- Dorie Harvey, Board President
- Jennifer Scharf, Vice President
- Joseph Barbella
- Richard Buccarelli
- Anthony Ingrassia
- Adam Kraft
- Kevin McDonald
- Amber Murad
- Rita Sadhvani





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.



Vision

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

- 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

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

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

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





Budget 2022-2023

Richard Pepe
Business Administrator

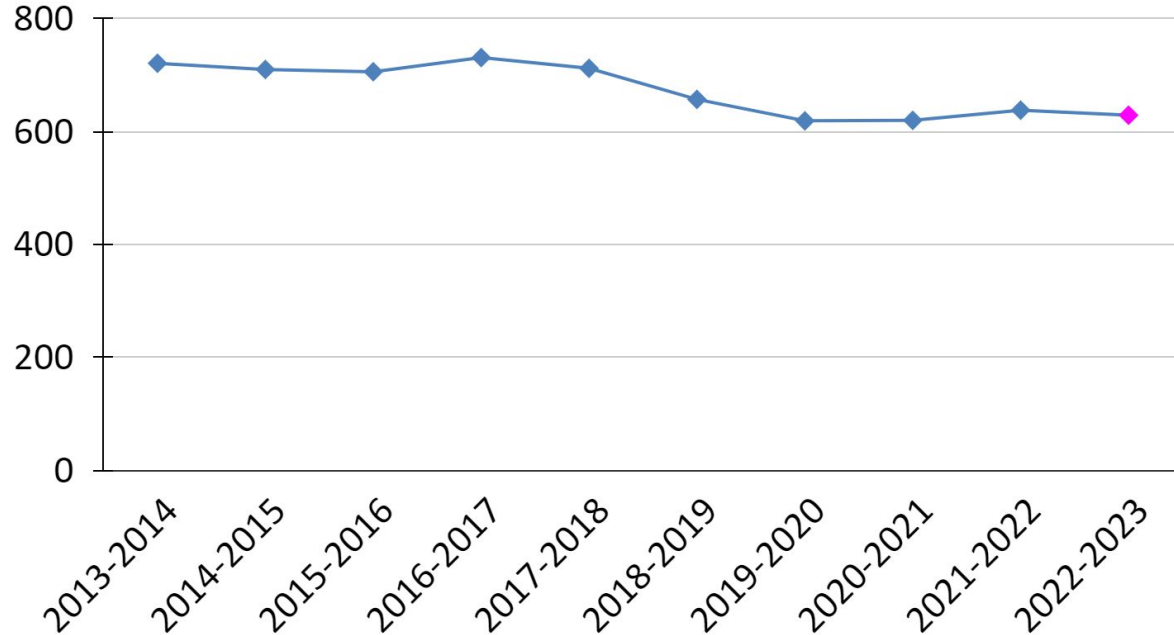
Budget Timeline

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 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 - Historical Perspective

Historical Enrollment



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
FY23 Projected	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
FY23 Projected	70	67	68	58	263



Anticipated Enrollment - District

Year	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
FY23 Projected	359	263	7	629



Anticipated Enrollment - Average Class Size

2021-2022	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
# Students	34	56	65	76	72	70	67	68	58	65
# Sections	2	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
Average Class Size	17	14	16.25	19	24	23.3	22.3	22.7	14.5	16.25

2022-2023	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
# Students	34	56	56	65	76	72	70	67	68	58
# Sections	2	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
Average Class Size	17	14	14	16.25	25.3	24	23.3	22.3	17	14.5



General Fund Revenues

★ General fund budgeted revenues:	\$14,893,129
○ 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
<i>* earmarked for specific projects - not included in operating revenues</i>	



Shared Services

- ★ Custodial and Maintenance Services
 - Municipality assists with snow removal and field maintenance at no cost
 - Waste management services purchased through joint purchasing agreement with Watchung Hills Regional High School

- ★ Transportation Services, including Fuel
 - Regular education transportation purchased through joint purchasing agreement with Watchung Hills Regional High School
 - Fuel for district vehicles supplied at cost by municipality

- ★ Purchasing - leverage cooperative purchasing systems, state contract vendors, and educational services commissions to maximize cost savings

- ★ Insurance Coverages and Benefits - property and casualty insurance purchased through Diploma Joint Insurance Fund



Key Factors in Budget Development

Revenue Sources

- State aid (determined by state)
- Preschool Tuition (based on enrollment)
- Local Taxes (2% cap)
- Excess Surplus (from prior year)
- Reserves (for specific expenditures)

Appropriations

- Salaries
- Benefits
- General Education
- Special Education
- Student Transportation
- Facilities
- Other

Fixed Cost Increases

- Salaries
- Health Benefits
- Student Transportation



Fixed Operating Cost Impact on Budget

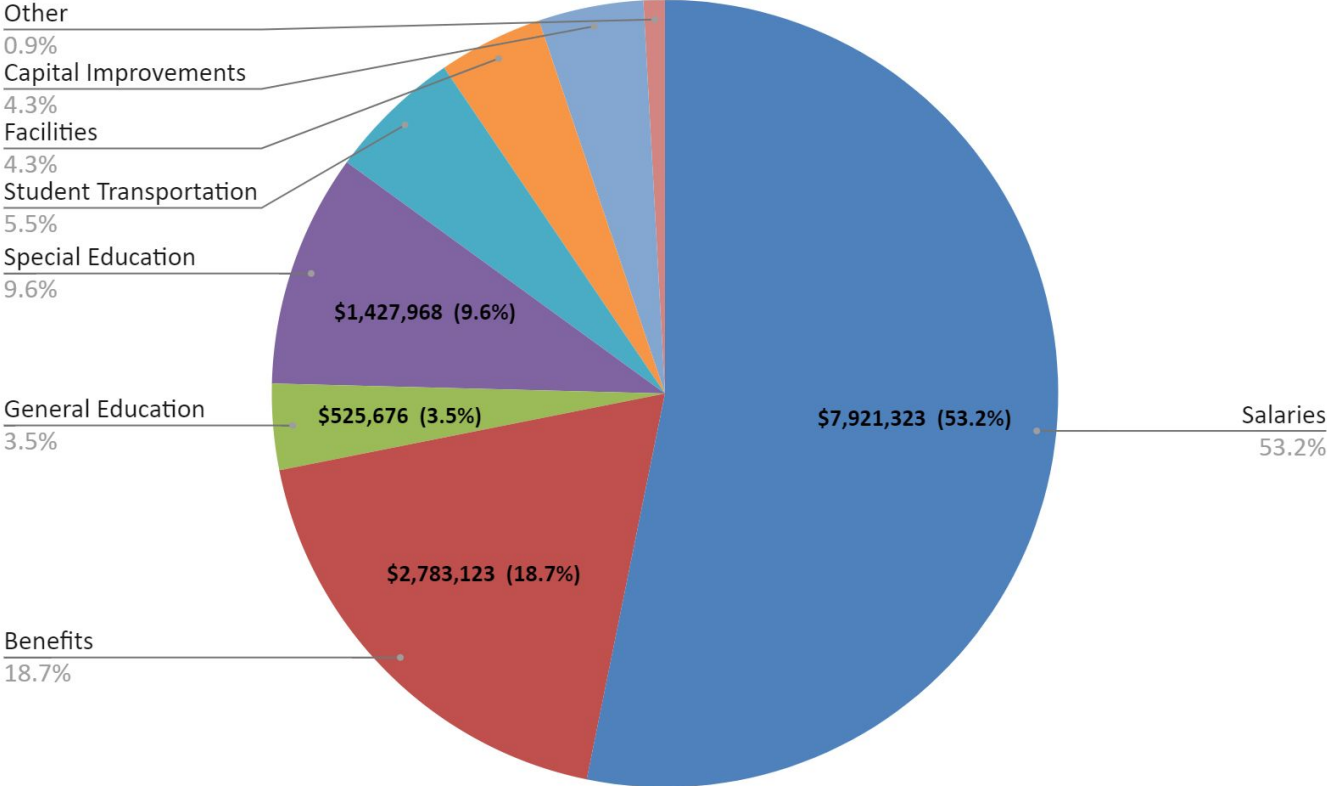
Salary Increases:	\$128,080
Health Benefits Increase:	\$153,724
Student Transportation	<u>\$205,198</u>
Increase in Fixed Operating Costs:	\$487,002

Local tax levy increase (2%):	\$245,806
State Aid increase:	\$154,148
Budgeted excess surplus:	<u>(\$282,854)</u>
Increase in operating revenues:	\$117,100

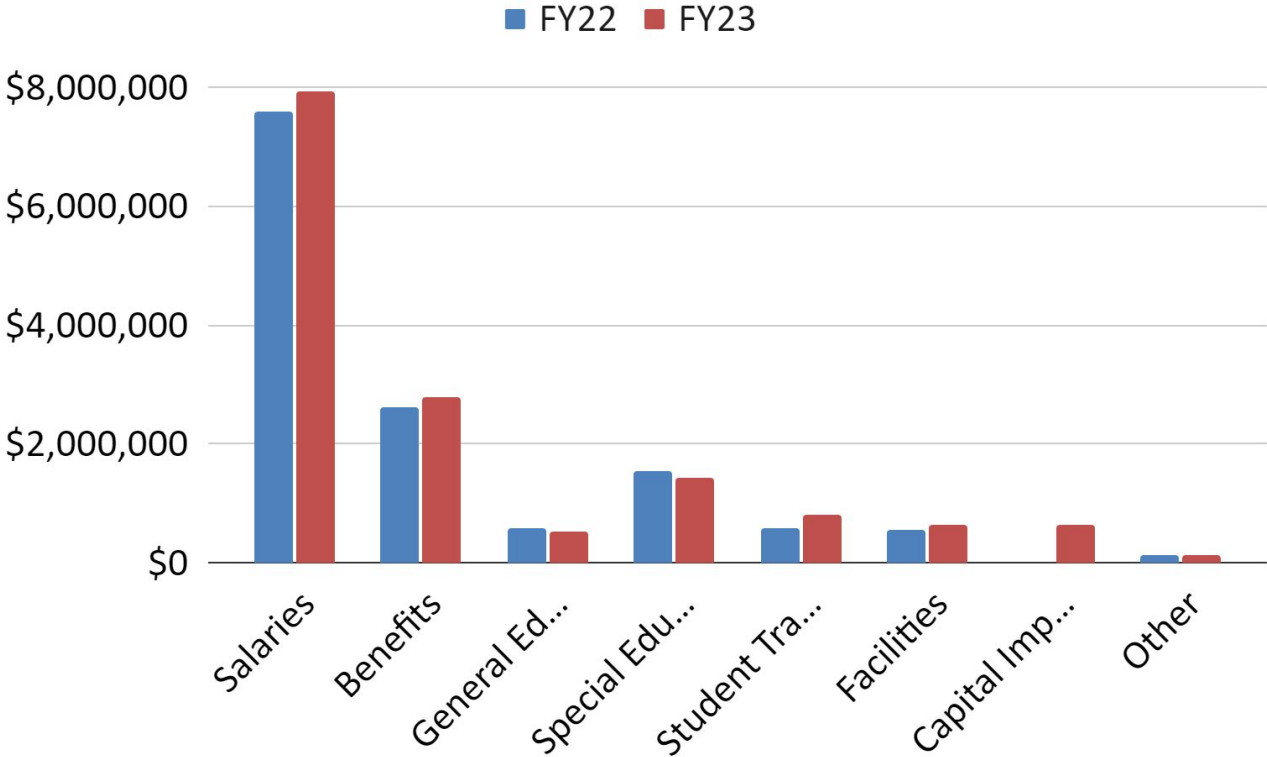
Result: Without adding any additional programs or services, the district budget has a **deficit of \$369,902.**



Budgeted Appropriations Summary by Category



Budgeted Appropriations Year-to-Year Comparison



Tax Impact for Average Household

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

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



Opportunity for Comments and Questions

