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PROPOSED BUDGET PRESERVES AND ENHANCES PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS, SUSTAINS THE DISTRICT'S MISSION

PROPOSED BUDGET IS TAX LEVY CAP-COMPLIANT

As a result of our collaborative efforts to preserve and nourish educational excellence in our schools, the North Salem Board of Education and the school district's administration adopted the 2019-20 proposed budget of \$43,873,001.

Throughout the budget planning process, we prioritized several areas, including maintaining low class sizes, sustaining the district's mission and continuing to focus on mental health initiatives while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. We are confident that we have crafted a school budget that addresses these priorities and ensures that all students may continuously learn, question, define and solve problems through critical and creative thinking.

Our proposed budget continues to support the full implementation of the world language program at the elementary school level, which is now in its second year and aligns with a comprehensive learning experience for students. It also supports STEAM activities and maintains all existing programs. At the secondary school level, our course of study encompasses advanced courses and maintains robust offerings for our students. Additionally, this budget illustrates the district's commitment to providing mental

health assistance to our students as we have allocated resources for an additional school psychologist at the middle and high school campus. We have also allocated resources to explore options and determine what a potential turf field would cost our district.

On Tuesday, May 21, the North Salem community is invited to vote on the spending proposition – a proposal that, for the eighth consecutive year, meets the state-mandated tax levy cap. We are pleased that our budget continues our district's pattern of responsible multiyear budget planning as we endeavor to continue to save our taxpayers' money and increase internal program revenues.

Community members are encouraged to stay engaged in our budget development process year-round by reviewing the proposals, attending Board meetings and reaching out to us. In addition, all Board



of Education meetings are livestreamed online and are available afterward to view on demand.

For more information on the 2019-20 proposed budget, please visit the district website at www.northsalemschools.org. Send questions and comments to boe@northsalemschools.org. The formal budget hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the middle/high school library.

Sincerely,

The North Salem Board of Education

North Salem Central School District
230 June Road
North Salem, NY 10560

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Budget Highlights:

- The proposed 2019-20 budget represents a tax levy increase of 1.65 percent, which is at the New York State allowable tax levy cap.
- The budget-to-budget proposed spending increase is 2.31 percent.
- The budget maintains all current programs and services.
- The budget continues to focus on mental health initiatives.
- The budget preserves all current class size guidelines.

Your Investment Paying Off...

- The district is a member of the national EdLeader 21 Consortium, which is comprised of outstanding school districts across the country. North Salem educators present at national and regional consortium conferences about how our students are learning to integrate critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication and digital learning into problem-solving.
- The profile of a North Salem Graduate as a Problem-Solver outlines the aspirations of graduates as critical and creative thinkers, collaborators, communicators, citizens and continuously improving learners.
- Five students from the NSHS Class of 2019 were named a National Merit Commended Student.
- One student from the NSHS class of 2019 was named to the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- In 2018, 56 students earned Advanced Placement Scholar Awards as recognized by the College Board. In addition, two students were named National AP Scholars.
- In May 2018, 265 Advanced Placement exams were administered to 140 students.
- High school students have the opportunity to enroll in 16 AP courses commencing in grade 10.
- 98% of the Class of 2018 accepted to colleges.
- The high school boasts a 55% participation rate in the co-curricular program and 66% participation rate in the athletic program.
- 24 athletic teams were designated as Scholar Athlete teams maintaining a cumulative average of 90% or better during the 2016-17 school year, demonstrating real-life application of their problem-solving skills.
- 66% of students volunteer 30 hours or more of community service each year.
- Middle school students experience education outside the traditional classroom with trips to local museums, Washington, D.C., New York City and Clearpool Challenge.
- Our students apply critical and creative problem-solving skills through course-specific, problem-solving tasks incorporated into every grade.
- 98% of the Class of 2018 earned Regents diplomas; 53% of graduates earned Regents diplomas with honors.
- High school seniors participate in the OPTIONS internship program, solving authentic problems in fields such as business, medicine and education by using critical and creative thinking skills. Seniors present their work to the community at a senior exhibition. This year, the presentations will be held on June 4.

- This year at PequenaKonck Elementary, our students began learning to speak Spanish while also studying the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries around the world. This new program helps children develop a global perspective of the world around them.
- PequenaKonck Elementary students and faculty continue to promote the idea of intentional kindness. Students and faculty are recognized through nominations identifying the many kind things they do for others. We have recognized 28 different individuals thus far this year with a Ben's Bells mini-bell. PQ uses Ben's Bells Kind Campus program as our teaching tool throughout the year. This year, a kindness club for students was introduced. Students in this club led initiatives to promote kindness throughout the school.
- Connecting students with experts in their fields takes shape through our annual author visits as well as a collaboration with a local singer/songwriter. These individuals inspire our children to read, write, create and collaborate. Kevin Briody worked with our 5th graders to compose the music and lyrics to their own class song, "One and Only." They will debut their song at the transition ceremony in June. The authors, sponsored by the PQ PTO, included Kate and Sarah Klise, Helen Lester, Natalie Kinsey Warnock and Mark Tyler Nobleman.
- Students continue to develop their critical and creative thinking skills, which are central to our district's mission. This year, fourth graders participated in the EdLeader 21 4C's writing project about 21st century learning. We continue to focus on developing students' skills and dispositions through Habits of Mind and Visible Thinking Routines. These are taught in all the different subject areas, as well as in activities such as our Genius Hour for all third, fourth and fifth graders, as well as our after-school enrichment program sponsored by the PTO.
- In concert with our health and wellness initiative at PQ and our mission, students have been engaging in health education with our new curriculum program called The Great Body Shop. This program's goal is to equip children with the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy choices throughout their lives. In addition to the new curriculum, students have enjoyed participating in Jump With Jill, a rock-and-roll nutrition show. To further enrich students, PQ Wellness Fair and Wellness Week are filled with fun activities and events to support physical fitness, nutrition, and mental health and wellness.



Budget Increases: A 5-Year Perspective

2015-16	1.12%
2016-17	0.75%
2017-18	1.98%
2018-19	2.19%
2019-20	2.31%
Average:	1.67%

Tax Levy Trends: A 5-Year Perspective

2015-16	0.46%
2016-17	0.58%
2017-18	1.43%
2018-19	2.47%
2019-20	1.65%
Average:	1.32%

PROPOSED THREE-PART BUDGET 2019-20

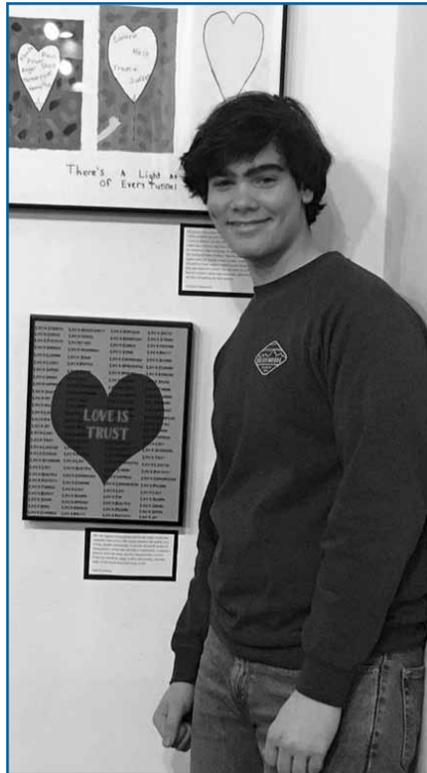
	2018-19 ADOPTED BUDGET	2019-20 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADMINISTRATION				
Board of Education/District Meeting	\$70,981	\$71,108	\$127	0.18%
Central Administration	355,159	360,615	5,456	1.54%
Finance/Auditing	656,813	663,456	6,643	1.01%
Legal – General Counsel, Labor Counsel & Special Education Litigation	150,000	150,000	-	0.00%
Human Resources/Public Information and Services	121,371	120,860	(511)	-0.42%
Insurance	176,202	183,138	6,936	3.94%
BOCES Administrative	235,056	237,377	2,321	0.99%
BOCES Capital Expenses	14,731	21,978	7,247	49.20%
Curriculum Development – Supervision	637,089	647,748	10,659	1.67%
Supervision – Regular School	1,252,678	1,275,813	23,135	1.85%
Employee Benefits	831,945	849,668	17,723	2.13%
Total Administration	\$4,502,025	\$4,581,761	\$79,736	1.77%
CAPITAL				
Operation of Plant	\$2,048,617	\$2,049,702	\$1,085	0.05%
Maintenance of Plant	896,459	822,116	(74,343)	-8.29%
Security	227,443	271,227	43,784	19.25%
Employee Benefits	942,481	964,271	21,790	2.31%
Serial Bonds	1,775,217	1,788,213	12,996	0.73%
Total Capital	\$5,890,217	\$5,895,529	\$5,312	0.09%
PROGRAM				
Teaching	\$12,516,070	\$12,782,074	\$266,004	2.13%
Program for Students with Disabilities	6,260,358	6,662,604	402,246	6.43%
Computer-Assisted Instruction	796,623	794,931	(1,692)	-0.21%
Counseling/Psychological/Social Work Services	1,059,723	1,178,940	119,217	11.25%
Health Services	257,813	270,509	12,696	4.92%
Co-curricular Activities/Interscholastic Athletics	847,229	854,279	7,050	0.83%
District Transportation Services	2,139,258	2,218,582	79,324	3.71%
Employee Benefits	8,550,196	8,568,792	18,596	0.22%
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	65,000	65,000	-	0.00%
Total Program	\$32,492,270	\$33,395,711	\$903,441	2.78%
Grand Total	\$42,884,512	\$43,873,001	\$988,489	2.31%

BUDGET COMPONENT SUMMARY	2018-19 ADOPTED BUDGET	2018-19 % OF BUDGET	2019-20 PROPOSED BUDGET	2019-20 % OF BUDGET
Administration	\$4,502,025	10.50%	\$4,581,761	10.44%
Capital	5,890,217	13.73%	5,895,529	13.44%
Program	32,492,270	75.77%	33,395,711	76.12%
Grand Total	\$42,884,512	100.00%	\$43,873,001	100.00%

ESTIMATED REVENUE	2018-19 ADOPTED BUDGET	2019-20 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
PILOT	\$75,967	\$80,777	\$4,810	6.33%
Westchester County Sales Tax	385,000	395,000	10,000	2.60%
Miscellaneous Revenue	643,517	684,939	41,422	6.44%
Basic Formula Aid – General Aid	2,510,024	2,843,089	333,065	13.27%
Unemployment Benefit Reserve	4,000	4,000	-	0.00%
Interfund Transfer from Debt Service	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
Retirement Contribution Reserve	350,000	370,000	20,000	5.71%
Appropriated Fund Balance	650,000	600,000	(50,000)	-7.69%
Total All Other Revenues	\$4,643,508	\$5,002,805	\$359,297	7.74%
Property Tax Levy	38,241,004	38,870,196	629,192	1.65%
Grand Total	\$42,884,512	\$43,873,001	\$988,489	2.31%

Please Join Us!

On Tuesday, May 21, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Pequenakonck Elementary School will host a Fine Arts Night featuring a display of artwork by the school's talented students. In addition, the fourth- and fifth-grade chorus will perform at 7 p.m. for those in attendance. The Middle School will also be holding an exhibition at 7 p.m. for students in grades 6-8, and the HS Science Research students will be hosting a symposium in the library at 7 p.m. as well.



Questions and Answers

Q. How is the Board able to present a budget at the New York State tax levy cap?

A. The Board and administration have made a concerted effort over the past several years to limit expenses and seek cost savings where possible. This careful planning has allowed the Board to present a budget that does not exceed New York State's maximum allowable tax levy cap. Factors instrumental in holding expenses to a minimum include savings from retirements and the addition of revenue from the STEP program expansion.

Q. What does the proposed tax levy increase of 1.65 percent mean for my taxes?

A. An overall tax levy increase of 1.65 percent means that we will collect \$629,192 more from the whole community than was collected last year. It does not mean your tax bill will increase by 1.65 percent in 2019-20. How the tax levy affects the amount of your tax is a product of many factors, including your town's portion of the tax levy, the equalization rates, changes in assessments to your property and others, changes in property tax exemptions within your town, tax certioraris and SCARS. Your tax assessor is the professional best able to explain the impact on your tax bill. These officials have information that is not available to the NSCSD. Nevertheless our commitment to meeting the tax levy cap illustrates our desire to exert as little upward pressure on your tax as possible. Please remember that tax rates are not the same as tax bills and are often poor barometers of the actual tax due. Put another way, the only item controlled by the district is the total amount of taxes we seek from the community. We have no control over the individual taxpayer's bill.

Q. What were the Board's priorities in developing the proposed budget for 2019-20?

A. When preparing the spending plan for 2019-20, the Board had several priorities guiding the planning process: maintaining low class sizes, sustaining the district's mission and a continued focus on mental health initiatives.

Q. What happens if the community does not approve the proposed budget on May 21?

A. If the proposed budget is defeated on May 21, New York State law allows the district to present the same budget or a revised budget for one more vote, or go directly to a contingency budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district must, by law, adopt a contingency budget, which would limit the tax levy to that of the current school year. A contingency budget would limit both nonessential school programs and community use of school grounds.

School Budget Vote and Trustee Election

The 2019-20 school budget vote and trustee election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Pequenakonck Elementary School.

Voter Information

To be eligible to vote, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 18 years old by May 21 (the date of the election).
- Be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 21.
- Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction.
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.
- Be registered with either the school district's board of registration or with the Westchester County Board of Elections. If you previously registered to vote but have not voted in either a school district or general election in the last four years, you must reregister to vote.

You may register at the office of the district clerk in the district administration offices, 230 June Road, during the office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also contact the district clerk to schedule an appointment. The last day to register to vote is Thursday, May 16.

School Trustee Election

There are a total of three trustee seats to be filled for a three-year term ending June 30, 2022.

Absentee Ballot Applications

The application may be obtained from the district website under "Board of Education," or by calling the district clerk at 914-669-5414, ext. 1011. The completed application must be received by the district clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the annual school district election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Applications received after May 14 may not be mailed, but they may be picked up at the district clerk's office until May 20. The district clerk must receive absentee ballots by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21.

Budget Information

For more details on the proposed budget, please access our website, www.northsalemschools.org. Copies of the complete proposed 2019-20 budget are available for review in the district office and online.

If you have any questions about the budget, please call the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kenneth Freeston, at 914-669-5414, ext. 1011. For further information, please call the district clerk at 914-669-5414, ext. 1011, or check the website, www.northsalemschools.org.

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