

SOUTH HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
THE 2021/2022 BUDGET SUMMARY
BUDGET VOTE MAY 18, 2021, FROM 3 P.M. TO 10 P.M. AT WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education adopted the budget at the April 20, 2021, Board of Education meeting. The proposed budget is \$184,937,763 and includes \$46,421,675 in state aid. For the first time in many, many years, a shift in educational funding provided a significant increase in state aid. With this welcome state aid, the tax levy increase is .99%. Currently, the South Huntington School District educates almost 5,700 in-district students and employs approximately 1,100 personnel, including over 500 teachers.

The 2021/2022 budget includes:

- The purchase of two large buses and 2 mini-vans
- Academic Pandemic Response positions to address the “unfinished learning” of the pandemic—Speech teachers, Special Education teacher, ENL teacher, Reading teacher, Social Studies/Science/Behavior Specialist (partial positions), Technology Integration Coach, Makerspace teacher, Teaching Assistants, and Office Support Staff
- Technology Upgrades and Enhancements
- Much needed Capital Projects

The potential maintenance and Capital Projects include:

- Silas Wood lockers, casework and a Makerspace (a collaborative work space for construction, learning, explaining and sharing using high tech to no tech tools)
- Stimson Middle School PAES Lab and Science Labs
- Memorial Baseball Field and the Memorial sump
- Walt Whitman High School DNA/Research Lab
- Maplewood Stormwater Improvements
- Birchwood/Maplewood Fitness Labs and Tower Gardens

In addition to the budget proposition on the ballot, there will be two other propositions, as follows:

Proposition No. 2 - EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. The ballot will read:

Shall a student attending high school within the District be permitted to serve as an ex-officio member of the board of education pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section 1702.3 of the Education Law, and provided that such student member shall not have a vote, nor attend executive sessions of the board, nor receive any compensation for such participation?

For explanation purposes, the Board of Education received a request from a high school student to act in this capacity, which is provided for under Section 1702.3 of the Education Law. In accordance with Education Law, a public vote is required. If approved by the residents of the District, the student acting in this capacity would not have a vote, would not attend executive session meetings of the Board, nor would receive any compensation. A board policy would be developed to outline the selection process in accordance with Section 1702.3 of Education Law.

Proposition No. 3 – AUTHORIZATION TO SELL 310 WEST HILLS ROAD PROPERTY. The ballot will read:

Shall the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District be authorized to sell to 310 West Hills Road, L.L.C. at a price at or about NINE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$910,000.00), subject to adjustment in accordance with the contract of sale, certain real property known by street address 310 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, Tax Map No. 0400-195.00-02.00-020.000 containing approximately +/- 1.029 acres of land with a building thereon as more fully described in a legal description on file in the Office of the District Clerk; which sale shall be on substantially the terms and conditions set forth in a contract of sale, as amended, on file in the Office of the District Clerk?

As governed by law, final sales are subject to voter approval, and, therefore, this proposition will be on the May 18th ballot. Proceeds from the property sale, if approved, will be used for capital projects for safety, security and infrastructure upgrades throughout the District.

Board of Education Candidate Information: Three board of education seats are open and incumbents Edward Nitkewicz, J.D., and Mrs. Linda LaCara have filed candidate petitions, as has Mrs. Erin Meijer, a parent of elementary-age children in the District. Mrs. Meijer has served on the Audit Committee for several years and is an active participant at Board of Education meetings.

We urge our residents to visit the District’s website—www.shufsd.org—under the “Board of Education” tab that provides the previous budget development presentations. Should you have questions or concerns, you may email the Board at: boe@shufsd.org

Mrs. Laura McLean, District Clerk for the Board of Education of the South Huntington U.F.S.D. – lmclean@shufsd.org 631-812-3071