2014-15 Budget Proposal Keeps Tax Levy at 1.45% Limit

Two Other Propositions on Ballot

Eligible residents will vote on a $55,719,454 school budget proposal for 2014-15, as well as two additional propositions, on Tuesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Queensbury Elementary School Gymnasium, 431 Aviation Rd. Find budget highlights below or visit www.queensburyschool.org/budget to learn more.

Investing in Education

The proposed budget is $1,195,435 or 2.19 percent more than the budget for the 2013-14 school year.

• Budget maintains current education program (Queensbury ranked 13th highest for academics among 91 Capital Region school districts in 2013).

• Grants to fund forward-thinking programs (e.g., Early College High School, International Baccalaureate, Project Lead the Way).

Tax Impact

The proposed budget includes a $435,752 or 1.45 percent increase in the school tax levy (i.e., total amount collected from local taxpayers).

• Results in an additional $44 in school taxes next year for a property assessed at $165,000 with a market value of $206,250.

• District at tax levy cap.

• Budget approval requires a simple majority vote of 50 percent plus one.

Closing the Budget Gap

The district will reduce one elementary teaching position next year for a total of 86 staff positions lost since 2009-10. This is less than what was projected in January, when the district faced a $750,000 budget gap based on the governor’s executive budget proposal.

Helping further close the budget gap is a state aid increase of $696,520 or 3.49 percent. The recently adopted state budget restored a fifth of the $2.6 million in state aid Queensbury schools stood to lose to the gap elimination adjustment. Additional measures helped close the gap:

• Savings from retirements.

• Reallocating funds from the only one of the district’s four grants that allows it.

• Savings from a health insurance premium increase that is less than anticipated.

• Reducing fund balance to apply more as revenue.

Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014-15 School Budget</th>
<th>$55,719,454</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Budget Change</td>
<td>$1,195,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+ 2.19%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tax Levy Change</td>
<td>$435,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(at tax levy limit)</td>
<td>(+ 1.45%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget Vote Information

What exactly will I be voting on?

• Proposition I: School budget for 2014-15

• Proposition II: Capital project

• Proposition III: School bus purchase

• Candidates for three open seats on the Queensbury Board of Education

Where do I go to vote?

Queensbury Elementary School Gymnasium, 431 Aviation Rd.

When is the best time to vote?

The polls are open from 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Busy traffic times on campus will be during school dismissals from 2-3:45 p.m.

Who is eligible to vote?

District residents who are U.S. citizens, 18 years old or older and residents for at least 30 days prior to the vote are eligible.

Do I need to register to vote?

Pre-registration is required. Those registered with the county for general elections are automatically registered for school elections. Registration for the budget vote is on May 12 from 1-8 p.m. in the Queensbury High School Lobby, 409 Aviation Rd. Proof of residency is required.

What if I am unable to vote on the day specified?

Applications for absentee ballots are made available in April and must be returned to the district clerk’s office, 429 Aviation Rd., by May 13 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by May 19 if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk’s office by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.
Proposition II: Infrastructure Capital Project
Making School Infrastructure Work for Students, Community

A proposed $8.9 million capital project would prevent infrastructure failures by replacing 25-year-old roofs and by improving health, safety, security and energy efficiency in all four school buildings. The proposal will be the second proposition on the ballot at the annual school budget vote.

Purpose of the 2014 Capital Project
The capital project will primarily address issues with aging infrastructure at all four school buildings (highlights below). The scope of work includes high-priority items identified in a 2010 building condition survey and energy study that, if left unaddressed, could lead to state violations, safety hazards, infrastructure failures, expensive maintenance costs and operational inefficiencies.

Cost of the 2014 Capital Project
Voters have the opportunity to authorize up to an $8,921,000 investment in school infrastructure with no additional local tax impact. Here’s how that happens:
- **State building aid** – Covers 70.9 percent of the principal and interest costs over the 15-year life of the bond and returns to the local community some of the taxes it pays to the state.
- **Energy savings** – Energy-efficient projects will yield $2.1 million in cost-avoidance/savings over time.
- **Efficient use of local funds** – The $300,000 already budgeted annually for small infrastructure projects will cover the local share of the cost, allowing the district to leverage a smaller amount of money for a much larger amount of work sooner than otherwise possible.

Proposition III: School Bus Purchase
Maintain Fleet, Keep Kids Safe

A Queensbury school bus is a workhorse in disguise. Bright yellow school buses and their smaller counterparts together log more than 615,000 miles a year safely and efficiently transporting local students. Replacing nine aging buses will be on the ballot at the annual school budget vote.

Purpose of the Bus Purchase
The third proposition before voters in May is for the purchase of eight 72-passenger school buses and one 32-passenger wheelchair bus to replace nine buses from 2002 and 2003.
- **Maintains current bus fleet and moves it toward a 10-year-replacement cycle**
- **Avoids steep increases in repair costs when warranties run out and rust erosion begins**
- **Clean diesel technology** available in newer buses helps keep emissions near zero

Cost of the Bus Purchase
Voters have the opportunity to authorize up to an $8.9 million investment in school infrastructure with no additional local tax impact. Here’s how that happens:
- **State building aid** – Covers 70.9 percent of the principal and interest costs over the 15-year life of the bond and returns to the local community some of the taxes it pays to the state.
- **Energy savings** – Energy-efficient projects will yield $2.1 million in cost-avoidance/savings over time.
- **Efficient use of local funds** – The $300,000 already budgeted annually for small infrastructure projects will cover the local share of the cost, allowing the district to leverage a smaller amount of money for a much larger amount of work sooner than otherwise possible.

Cost Project Scope of Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Highlights</td>
<td>$1,770,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.H.B.I. School Highlights</td>
<td>$602,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Highlights</td>
<td>$2,145,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Highlights</td>
<td>$4,057,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Building Highlights</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q&A at [www.queensburyschool.org/budget](http://www.queensburyschool.org/budget)