

HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1500
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743-0700
www.hufsd.edu

Dear Huntington Resident:

I am pleased to present you with the proposed budget for the 2012/13 school year. Although faced with multiple challenges, including but not limited to the new state tax levy cap, additional federal and state mandates, increased benefit costs and a struggling economy, the district has been able to limit the tax rate increase while minimizing the impact on student programs and services.

Our new superintendent, Jim Polansky, and his staff began in August to plan and prepare this budget, keeping the Board of Education and the public informed and educated about the process and the ever-changing legislation that affect our local schools. We believe this budget to be fiscally responsible and educationally sound.

Huntington has a long history of excellence in education and the coming year will be no exception. We will continue to provide a strong selection of Advanced Placement, Honors and Regents level courses at Huntington High School. We were thrilled this year to follow Juliana Coraor, a student in our science research program, as she became a finalist in the Intel Science Competition, the first Huntington High School student in 62 years to realize such a prestigious goal.

This budget continues to support a variety of music, art and athletic programs, including the renowned Blue Devil marching band. All of our secondary programs help students remain competitive as they prepare for college and careers. We are pleased that this budget, at no additional cost, allows for a greater number of accelerated sections at Finley Middle School than ever before, enabling more students to challenge themselves in math and science.

At the elementary level, this budget supports a rigorous curriculum, transitioning toward the new Common Core standards, to help prepare our youngest students for the challenges that lie ahead. We will continue to fund SEARCH and Math Olympiad programs, and maintain kindergarten through sixth grade class sizes within existing district guidelines. With the need to remain competitive in an ever-changing technological world, this budget funds the first phase of a four-year technology plan, replacing outdated computers and hardware, so that our teachers can further incorporate technology within their instruction plans.

Finally, this budget protects our taxpayers' investment by funding the purchase of tools, equipment and supplies needed to maintain our buildings and grounds. It also allows authorized community organizations to use our facilities for practices, games, meetings and performances.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I thank you for taking the time to read this document and for voting on May 15. We are committed to our students and grateful to you, our taxpayers, for understanding the value of public education.

Sincerely,

Emily Rogan

Emily Rogan
President, Board of Education

Voter Information

Election Day:

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Huntington High School
Oakwood & McKay Roads
Huntington, New York

Board of Education:

Residents will have an opportunity to elect three members to the Huntington Board of Education on Election Day, Tuesday, May 15. The individuals will serve from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Resident of Huntington School District for at least 30 days.
- Registered to vote in a general election or with the school district.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the District Clerk's office at the Administrative Offices, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or up to the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15 for them to be counted in the 2012 election and budget vote.

Inspection of Budget:

The public may inspect a copy of the proposed budget on the district website (www.hufsd.edu), the District Clerk's office (District Office, 50 Tower Street) or at any school building on school days between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Questions: Call the District Clerk at 673-2126.

Important Capital Project Proposition on the Ballot

Protecting the substantial investments taxpayers have made over the years in our school facilities requires constant attention. In order to keep our buildings and grounds well maintained, safe and efficient, school trustees have placed an important capital project proposition on the ballot.

Instead of resorting to expensive borrowing, the Huntington School Board is asking residents on May 15 to approve the release of monies from the district's Building Improvement Fund. In May 2008, voters established the fund, also known as the Capital Reserve Fund, to finance renovation and reconstruction projects.

The projects include chemistry lab renovation and replacement of the security, clock and public address systems at Huntington High School; replacement of the clock, security and public address systems at J. Taylor Finley Middle School; replacement of the fire alarm and clock systems at Woodhull School; installation of a building access control system and replacement of the security system at Flower Hill School; security system replacement at Jack Abrams School; installation of a building access control system and replacement of the security system at Jefferson School; installation of a building access control system, replacement of the security system, and parking lot and sidewalk renovations at Southdown School; and installation of a building access control system, replacement of the security and public address systems, and roadway, parking lot and sidewalk renovations at Washington School.

If voters support release of the funds, taxes will not increase since the monies are already in place. No new revenues will be required. The funds represent dollars already provided to the district by taxpayers that were not needed to pay for regular school operations because of tight fiscal management and economizing.

Your Vote Counts on Tuesday, May 15

Vote at Huntington High School 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sample Ballot

On Election Day voters will be asked to vote on Proposition No. 1 to fund school district operations from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend \$111,858,780 the amount set forth in the proposed budget and to accumulate the balance proposed in the said budget during the school year beginning July 1, 2012, and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Residents will also be asked to vote on Proposition No. 2 to expend monies that already exist in the current Building Improvement Fund for a variety of projects in district buildings. Passage of this proposition will not result in a tax increase:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be authorized to expend from the Building Improvement Fund, established by voters of the district at the annual district meeting held May 20, 2008, an amount not to exceed \$242,000 for security system replacement, clock replacement and public address system replacement at Finley Middle School; \$25,000 for building access control and security system replacement at Flower Hill Primary School; \$815,000 for security system replacement, clock replacement; public address system replacement and chemistry laboratory renovation at Huntington High School; \$27,000 for security system replacement at Jack Abrams School; \$25,000 for building access control and security system replacement at Jefferson Primary School; \$630,000 for building access control, security system replacement and roadway, parking lot and sidewalk renovation at Southdown Primary School; \$350,000 for security system replacement, public address system replacement, building access control and roadway, parking lot and sidewalk renovation at Washington Primary School; and \$185,000 for replacement of the fire alarm system and clock replacement at Woodhull Intermediate School.

The proposed budget is available for public inspection on the district website at www.hufsd.edu, in each school building, at the central administrative offices located at 50 Tower Street in Huntington Station and at the Main Street and New York Avenue branches of the Huntington Public Library. Call 673-2111 for more information or to request a copy of the budget.

The Huntington School District community mirrors our nation's population, with students and teachers of every race, creed and ethnic background. It is in this atmosphere that our young people are challenged academically, artistically, musically and athletically and where they grow socially and culturally. Lasting friendships are frequently forged. New experiences are enjoyed and personal horizons are expanded. Our schools are a model of brotherhood and understanding. Our diversity makes us stronger.

Huntington School District

2012/13 Proposed Budget

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

| Description | Approved Budget 2011/12 | Proposed Budget 2012/13 | Amount Change |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| General Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education • Central Administration • Buildings Operation and Maintenance | \$10,023,531 | \$10,064,298 | \$40,767 |
| Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Curriculum • Salaries • BOCES | \$58,482,590 | \$59,712,172 | \$1,229,582 |
| Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public, private and parochial school | \$8,975,008 | \$9,233,918 | \$258,910 |
| Employee Benefits | \$28,765,440 | \$30,056,560 | \$1,291,120 |
| Debt Service/ Inter-fund Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest/Bond principal • Capital • Special Aid • TAN Borrowing | \$2,790,732 | \$2,791,832 | \$1,100 |
| Grand Total | \$109,037,301 | \$111,858,780 | \$2,821,479 |
| Budget Increase | | 2.59% | |

The district is committed to economizing wherever possible. During the development of this proposed budget, extensive reductions in spending totaling more than \$860,000 were made. Despite these efforts, the district anticipates increases in several state-mandated costs. The district will continue exercising tight fiscal management and cost-cutting throughout the 2012/13 budget year.

Revenues

| Description | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | Amount Change |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| State Aid | \$10,918,014 | \$11,620,014 | \$702,000 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$1,866,100 | \$2,025,000 | \$158,900 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$2,245,000 | \$2,127,376 | (\$117,624) |
| Property Taxes | \$94,008,187 | \$96,086,390 | \$2,078,203 |
| Grand Total | \$109,037,301 | \$111,858,780 | \$2,821,479 |

Estimated Tax Rate to Fund the Budget

| Description | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Estimated tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation for school district | \$207.15 | \$213.14 |
| Estimated percentage of increase (for school district taxes only) | | 2.89% |
| Projected increase per household based on average home assessment for school district | | \$218.64 Before the STAR program |
| Total Assessed Value (tentative for 2012/13) | \$45,381,530 | \$45,081,530 |

The state fiscal crisis has resulted in a net school aid reduction of \$500,000 to the Huntington School District over the past two years. The loss of these funds, coupled with dramatic increases in state mandated costs and a declining property tax base, has required the district to make an overall total of \$6.5 million in spending reductions since July 2011.

Despite these significant cuts, our students will continue to be offered the courses, academic programs and extracurricular activities that the Huntington community has long valued and which make our schools special.

As residents enter the voting booth on Tuesday, May 15, they can be assured the 2012/13 budget does not rely on fiscal gimmicks or unrealistic assumptions. The plan is designed to keep the district educationally strong and financially secure.

2012/13 Huntington School Budget Highlights

- The proposed school budget continues Huntington's 355 year commitment to providing a first rate education for the young people of our community by improving our exceptionally strong academic program for 4,400 students in grades K-12.
- Provides for an extensive array of Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement courses in all academic areas and funds academic intervention services (AIS) for students who need additional assistance in meeting state graduation requirements.
- Allocates \$420,311 for new textbooks, \$150,588 for new workbooks, \$37,644 for new library books, \$90,000 for new computer software and \$560,257 for new instructional equipment, including computers.
- Funds 63 athletic teams for high school and middle school students, 93 coaching positions and a full-time athletic trainer.
- Provides a full program of wholesome, adult supervised after-school extracurricular activities, including dozens of clubs for students.
- Supports comprehensive art, music and physical education experiences, including band, orchestra, chorus, marching band, music ensembles and specialized art courses.
- Funds student drama club productions, newspapers, concerts, science fairs and the district art show.
- Supports a strong program of special education classes and services for students.
- Funds the purchase of 430 desktop computers and 150 printers for use in all four primary school buildings and the Woodhull School computer lab. This is the first year of a four year plan to update the district's technology equipment.
- Continues the SEARCH and Math Olympiad programs for academically talented fifth and sixth graders.



It's been a banner year for Huntington School District students, who have achieved in every possible academic and co-curricular endeavor. Colleges continue to put a premium value on a Huntington High School diploma, as our seniors are being accepted into many of the leading colleges and universities in the United States. Our student-artists, musicians and athletes have continued the district's long tradition of excellence.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Tom DiGiacomo



Tom DiGiacomo is a 1979 Huntington High School graduate. He holds an associate's degree in business and has a professional background in the technology field.

Mr. DiGiacomo has handled products and solutions for businesses ranging from small companies to Fortune 50 ones. His experience includes project and budget management, finance and implementing technology solutions.

A regular attendee of Huntington School Board meetings for the past seven years, Mr. DiGiacomo is co-chair of the district's Shared Decision Making Committee. He and his wife, Nancy are Woodhull School PTA members and she serves as the group's treasurer. The couple has one child, a Woodhull sixth grader.

Bill Dwyer



Bill Dwyer and his wife, Karen, have resided in Huntington for the past 15 years. They have three boys attending district schools.

Mr. Dwyer, who previously served three years as Huntington School Board president, works as an account executive for a Hauppauge company advising school districts throughout the Northeast on how to make the best use of their student information system. His most recent focus has been on building cutting edge tools to analyze student performance data.

An officer in the Huntington Village Lacrosse Club for the past six years, Mr. Dwyer is a member of St. Patrick's Church and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

This year's transportation budget reflects the costs associated with transporting 5,016 eligible students residing within in the Huntington School District, primarily to the seven district schools, but also to 29 parochial/private schools and 19 special needs schools on Long Island as required by law. The district currently contracts for 54 large buses and 67 vans to transport students. The 2012/13 budget maintains all current mileage limits for student transportation.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Xavier A. Palacios



Xavier Palacios graduated with Huntington High School's Class of 1988. He earned degrees at Columbia University and Boston University School of Law and is the owner and managing partner of a Mineola-based law firm.

Mr. Palacios and his wife, Laura have three children, including a daughter attending Finley Middle School and two other daughters not yet of school age. In 2008, he purchased and renovated a distressed property in Huntington Station where he conducts a satellite law office along with a community revitalization non-profit organization.

Mr. Palacios has made mentoring a priority in his life. At Columbia, he taught SAT prep and biology courses to inner city students. He has been recognized for his work in the community and his efforts to strengthen opportunities for young people.

Emily Rogan



Emily Rogan is completing her second term and is the Huntington School Board president. A Huntington High School graduate, Mrs. Rogan earned a Bachelor's Degree at Cornell University and a Master's at New York University. She works as a freelance writer.

Mrs. Rogan's husband, Bob, is also a Huntington graduate. Their son, Henry, is a Huntington High School sophomore and their daughter, Julia, is a Woodhull School sixth grader. The family is active in local leagues and community organizations.

Mrs. Rogan has been a member of the Lowndes Avenue Task Force and Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee. She participated on a team of educators working with NYU experts to improve the school climate. She regularly attends conferences and advocacy workshops on behalf of her fellow trustees.

Visit the Huntington School District's website at www.hufsd.edu for the latest news and information about our schools and students.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Susan Tully



Susan Tully grew up in the Town of Huntington and has resided in the Huntington School District for over 15 years. A Walt Whitman High School graduate, she earned a Bachelor's degree in accounting at C.W. Post College.

As a CPA and senior financial executive, Ms. Tully has over 30 years experience working with multinational and entrepreneurial companies.

Ms. Tully has held positions at Ernst & Young and Universal Music Group. She has served as chief financial officer at Palm Entertainment, Ryko Corp and BASE Entertainment. Ms. Tully is currently the chief financial officer of West Brands.

Ms. Tully is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Huntington. She regularly attends school board meetings and is a frequent speaker during public commentary.

School Board Overview

Huntington School Board members are elected to three-year terms by the residents of the community. They serve without any form of compensation and oversee every aspect of district operations. Trustees are responsible for the district's educational program, as well as its personnel, financial affairs, buildings and properties.

The Huntington School Board is legally empowered to establish the policies and regulations it believes are needed to fulfill its responsibilities under state education law to provide for the education of school-age residents. Trustees appoint all instructional and support staff members, as well as the administrators who conduct the district's day-to-day operations.

Trustees meet regularly in executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters and in public to handle the district's educational and financial affairs and to receive pertinent reports from central office, building level and department administrators.

An agenda is published prior to each meeting and posted on the district website. Residents are given an opportunity to address trustees during a portion of each public meeting. The minutes of each meeting, as kept by the district clerk, are later posted on the district website.

The proposed budget also provides transportation, textbooks and related services as required by New York State law to about 1,000 Huntington School District residents who are students attending private and parochial schools.

School Budget/Tax Cap Questions and Answers

How does the New York State tax cap work?

New York's new property tax cap law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may boost their tax levy limits to more than 2 percent or the inflation rate. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase is within its limit, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval. If a district's proposed tax levy increase exceeds the levy limit, a supermajority of voters – 60 percent or more – would be required for budget passage. Note that HUFSD's proposed 2012/13 budget does not exceed the legal limit.

What was the Huntington UFSD permitted to exempt from its tax levy limit?

There are a limited number of specific exemptions to the tax cap that school districts may take. For HUFSD, these include contributions toward employee pensions above a certain amount and a portion of the district's capital expenditures.

Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No. The tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on assessed property values and equalization rates, and may exceed 2 percent.

How was the proposed budget developed?

School administrators and teachers, after extensive planning and study, submitted budget requests in the fall. These requests were extensively reviewed and reduced wherever possible and a draft budget was developed and submitted to the School Board. Trustees examined the budget line-by-line, debating priorities, discussing goals and finalizing the proposed budget that is outlined in this brochure. The School Board

held a series of well-attended public meetings during which residents offered input and feedback.

What will happen if voters reject the proposed tax levy and the school budget does not pass?

If district voters reject the proposed budget on May 15, the school board may put up the same or a revised budget for a second vote, or adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than that levied the previous year—essentially a zero percent cap. If voters reject the spending plan twice, schools must adopt the contingency budget with that same zero percent cap. Should the district operate under a contingency budget, certain items, including the purchase of equipment, cannot be included. For 2012/13, the difference between the proposed budget and a contingency budget amounts to \$2,078,203.

Has the district done anything to trim spending and costs to hold down taxes?

During the budget process, the administration and school board examined every single program and position. Efforts have been made to reduce costs, especially those not affecting classroom instruction. More than \$860,000 in reductions were made to the budget, bringing the two year decrease to more than \$6.5 million. Budget requests were reduced and all areas of spending were subject to economizing. Staffing and scheduling efficiencies have allowed the district to eliminate several full-time equivalent positions.

How does this budget improve the district's classroom education?

Despite significant spending reductions, this budget includes the teachers and support staff needed to help students meet New York State requirements. Every school will be provided with the books, supplies and materials that our academic program demands. This budget also contains funds to replace 430 computers and 150 printers at all four primary school buildings and in the Woodhull Intermediate School computer lab. Future years will see technology improvements at the district's other school buildings.

Focus on Huntington's Top Students

Juliana Coraor



Class of 2012 valedictorian Juliana Coraor is one of the top seniors in the country. She recently met President Barack Obama while being feted as one of 40 Intel Science Talent Search finalists.

Ms. Coraor has been accepted for the fall semester by Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Columbia, UC Berkley, Stony Brook, Northwestern, Harvey Mudd College and the Univ. of Chicago.

"I plan on double majoring in physics and chemistry so that I can eventually get a PhD in condensed matter physics or solid-state chemistry and pursue my goal of becoming a professor at a research university in that field of study," Ms. Coraor said.

Huntington's valedictorian has been taking classes at Stony Brook University since the fall of her junior year and has continued doing so every semester since. By the close of the spring semester she will have completed 22 credits. She is also involved in the Columbia University science honors program, which allows Ms. Coraor to enroll in courses there

Ms. Coraor's formal research activities began in earnest when she participated in the Garcia program at Stony Brook in the summer of 2010, between her sophomore and junior years. Last summer, she participated in Stony Brook's Simons research program, conducting research on the effects of strain on ferroelectric superlattices.

That work led to Ms. Coraor reaching the pinnacle of the Intel competition. Over the course of a week in Washington, DC, she not only met the president but even had an asteroid named after her, but that's another story.

Justin LoScalzo



Class of 2012 salutatorian Justin LoScalzo has never taken a course that he didn't enjoy. A high-achieving scholar, he is leaning toward attending Wesleyan University where he plans to study economics and political science.

Faculty members respect Mr. LoScalzo. "The teachers have been extremely supportive and have always been there to provide me with advice and help," the teenager said. "I hope that as I continue on to college, I am lucky enough to have professors as dedicated to their students as the teachers here are."

Mr. LoScalzo has pursued a challenging course of study, including numerous Advanced Placement classes. He has been a leader throughout high school and is currently working with National Honor Society members on the Relay for Life, which will raise monies and awareness to battle cancer.

Among Mr. LoScalzo's achievements is reaching the National History Day state finals. A member of the marching band since eighth grade, he was a drum major this past year.

In addition to marching band and the junior and senior bands, Mr. LoScalzo has participated in the wind ensemble, jazz band and orchestra winds. He's participated in the pit orchestra for three years and is the first chair trumpet in each of the ensembles.

Mr. LoScalzo's advice for freshmen is clear. "Take advantage of every opportunity given to you and do not be afraid to try new things," he said. "You may find a passion you never knew existed. Enjoy every moment of high school, because time flies by and it will be over before you know it."

A campaign to save energy dollars continues to provide impressive results. Since February 2001, the district avoided \$3,652,041 in energy costs through a variety of conservation efforts. The drive has not impacted classroom instruction. After school hours, weekends and vacation periods have been targeted and energy awareness efforts have raised the consciousness of all employees. At Huntington High School alone, \$1,730,309 in costs were averted.

Huntington Union Free School District
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School Budget Vote and Trustee Election
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
at Huntington High School

****ECRWSS****
To: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Huntington Union Free School District

The Faces of Huntington's Schools



Our Mission: Recognizing the strengths of our district's traditions, its history of community support, the diversity of our population and our commitment to educational excellence, the mission of the Huntington Union Free School District is to educate students by effectively teaching an enriched body of knowledge through the active participation of all students, building upon their unique talents and abilities to produce creative, self-assured, responsible citizens who are capable of critical thought and action.