

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

Dear Huntington Resident:

I respectfully present you with the proposed Huntington Union Free School District budget for 2013/14. Now in the second year of the state's tax levy limit law, our district has met required mandates and maintained the programs so vital to our students.

The budget process begins shortly after the budget vote in May of the prior year. Since last summer, Superintendent James W. Polansky and his staff have been poring over the numbers, looking for ways to maximize funds available for academic programs while being mindful of the economic challenges that our community faces. The result, we believe, is a budget that is both fiscally and educationally sound.

Huntington has a long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics and the arts; this year is no exception. There are many outstanding examples: our science research students won awards in numerous local, state and regional competitions; we have teams of students competing on the state level in the National History Day competition and on the national level in the United States Department of Energy's Science Bowl; many of our student-athletes have earned all-division and all-county honors; many athletic varsity teams reached the Suffolk playoffs and we boast a two-time state swimming champ who is now a state record holder; our fine and performing arts students continue to exhibit their work and achieve honors in local and regional competitions; the Blue Devil marching band placed third in the State Field Band Conference competition and made it home safely from the event in Syracuse on the eve of Superstorm Sandy.

We are particularly proud that our guidance department has processed the highest number of college applications by our seniors in recent memory: 2,025 applications have been processed to date during the current school year. As always, our students will attend a wide range of schools from the Ivy League to out-of-state colleges and New York State universities.

This budget will continue to provide for a wide range of core courses and electives at the secondary level, with a full complement of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of our wonderfully diverse student body. We will continue to maintain academically responsible class sizes at all grade levels, a challenge for many districts today. At the primary level, we will continue to offer both SEARCH and Math Olympiads.

In addition, this budget includes cutting edge technology to enhance classroom instruction, preparing our students for the world they'll face beyond our walls. Students will continue to be challenged by integrated, interactive technology through the use of SMART Boards, iPads and other innovative tools.

Finally, this budget funds the tools, equipment and supplies to maintain our buildings and grounds, not just for our students and faculty but for the authorized community groups that use our facilities.

The board of education thanks you for your time in reading this brochure and for voting on May 21st. You are our partners in providing quality education for the students of the Huntington school community.

Sincerely,
Emily Rogan
Emily Rogan
President, Board of Education

Voter Information

Election Day:

Tuesday, May 21, 2013
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Huntington High School
Oakwood & McKay Roads
Huntington, New York

Board of Education:

Residents will have an opportunity to elect two members to the Huntington Board of Education on Election Day, Tuesday, May 21. The individuals will serve from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

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 21 for them to be counted in the 2013 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 Propositions on the Ballot

Protecting the substantial investments taxpayers have made over the years in our school facilities requires constant vigilance. In order to keep our buildings and grounds well maintained, safe and efficient, school trustees have placed two important capital project propositions on the ballot. **Passage of these propositions will not increase taxes.**

The first Capital Reserve Proposition, if passed, would allow the district to spend existing Building Improvement Fund monies for library masonry wall repair and roof replacement, renovation of the girls' locker room and kitchen and basement hallway electrical updates at Huntington High School; removal and replacement of the original in-ground oil tank at Jack Abrams School; replacement of the original clock system and stage wiring at Jefferson Primary School; renovations to the boys' and girls' locker rooms at J. Taylor Finley Middle School; replacement of the original public address system and the purchase of the modular classroom complex at Woodhull Intermediate School. **Passage of this proposition will not increase taxes.**

The second Capital Reserve Proposition requests permission to create a new **Building Improvement Fund** for the purpose of completing district-wide renovation and reconstruction projects. Existing budget monies would be used to capitalize the new fund. For example, if in any given year, the district spends less money than it had earlier anticipated, these surplus monies could be transferred by the school board into the Building Improvement Fund. The fund could only be used for capital projects, including new school roofs, windows, doors, boilers, facility improvements, etc. The school district would be able to apply for state aid on any capital project it completes. This fund would utilize existing budget monies and allow the district to avoid borrowing funds through a bond issue and associated interest costs. **Passage of this proposition will not increase taxes.**

Your Vote Counts on Tuesday, May 21

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, 2013 - June 30, 2014:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend \$114,707,235 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, 2013, 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 estimated amount of \$560,000 for boys' and girls' locker room renovations at Finley Middle School, \$445,000 for girls locker room renovation, kitchen and basement hallway electrical upgrades, and library masonry wall repair and roof replacement at Huntington High School, \$192,500 for fuel oil tank replacement at Jack Abrams School, \$66,000 for clock system replacement and stage wiring replacement at Jefferson Primary School, and \$452,000 for the purchase of modular classrooms, and public address system replacement at Woodhull Intermediate School.

Finally, residents will have an opportunity to vote on Proposition No. 3 to create a new Capital Reserve Fund from surplus monies to fund future building projects, including the renovation and reconstruction of facilities at all eight buildings in the district. Passage of this proposition will not result in a tax increase now or in the future:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3651 of the New York Education Law, the Board of Education is authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund, known as the "2013 Building Improvement Fund," for the purpose of district wide renovation and reconstruction projects. Such 2013 Building Improvement Fund shall be capitalized in the ultimate amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 (ten million dollars), plus interest. The probable term of the Reserve Fund shall be eight years, effective June 30, 2013. The source of funding of said 2013 Building Improvement Fund shall be the annual transfer of surplus monies, if any, from the District's General Fund, not to exceed \$2,000,000 in any given year, as may be available at the end of each fiscal year from June 30, 2013 through and including June 30, 2021.

More information about each of the three propositions can be found on the Huntington School District's website at www.hufsd.edu.

Huntington School District

2013/14 Proposed Budget

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

Description	Approved Budget 2012/13	Proposed Budget 2013/14	Amount Change
General Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education • Central Administration • Buildings Operation and Maintenance 	\$10,064,298	\$10,165,076	\$100,778
Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Curriculum • Salaries • BOCES 	\$59,712,172	\$60,087,842	\$375,670
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public, private and parochial school 	\$9,233,918	\$9,354,168	\$120,250
Employee Benefits	\$30,056,560	\$33,238,980	\$3,182,420
Debt Service/ Inter-fund Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest/Bond principal • Capital • Special Aid • TAN Borrowing 	\$2,791,832	\$1,861,169	(\$930,663)
Grand Total	\$111,858,780	\$114,707,235	\$2,848,455
Budget Increase		2.55%	

The district is committed to economizing wherever possible. In addition, the payoff of a 1993 bond issue last July led to a nearly \$931,000 reduction in debt service for the coming year, which significantly offsets increases in non-discretionary/mandated benefit costs. The district will continue exercising tight fiscal management and cost-cutting throughout the 2013/14 budget year.

Revenues

Description	2012/13	2013/14	Amount Change
State Aid	\$11,620,014	\$11,972,315	\$352,301
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,025,000	\$1,744,113	(\$280,887)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,127,376	\$2,180,953	\$53,577
Property Taxes (Levy)	\$96,086,390	\$98,809,854	\$2,723,464
Grand Total	\$111,858,780	\$114,707,235	\$2,848,455

Estimated Tax Rate to Fund the Budget

Description	2012/13	2013/14
Estimated tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation for school district	\$212.99 (actual)	\$220.49
Estimated percentage of increase (for school district taxes only)		3.52%
Projected increase per household based on average home assessment for school district		\$273.75 Before the STAR program
Total Assessed Value (tentative for 2013/14)	\$45,113,410	\$44,813,410

The state's continuing fiscal crisis has resulted in a net school aid reduction of more than \$6 million over the past three years. The loss of these funds, coupled with huge increases in state mandated retirement system costs and a declining property tax base, has required the district to make significant reductions in virtually every area of operations.

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

The proposed budget was developed to keep the district educationally strong, financially secure and well positioned to meet the future needs of the community.

2013/14 Huntington School Budget Highlights

- The proposed school budget continues Huntington's 356 year commitment to providing a first rate education for the young people of our community by maintaining our exceptionally strong academic program for nearly 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 \$373,161 for new textbooks, \$153,078 for new workbooks, \$37,168 for new library books, \$90,000 for new computer software and \$523,521 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.
- Funds comprehensive art, music and physical education opportunities, 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.
- Includes a strong program of special education classes and services for students.
- Funds the purchase of 409 desktop computers, 55 printers and 33 SMART Boards.
- Continues the SEARCH and Math Olympiad programs for academically talented fifth and sixth graders.
- Continues the district's commitment to the high school science research program.



It's been another great year for Huntington School District students, who have excelled in every possible academic and co-curricular endeavor. Colleges continue to value a Huntington High School diploma, as Class of 2013 members are currently being accepted into many of the leading colleges and universities in the United States. Our academic scholars, student-artists, musicians and athletes have continued the district's long tradition of excellence.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Deniqua Crichlow



Deniqua Crichlow was born and raised in Huntington. A 1995 graduate of Friends Academy, she holds a bachelor's degree and a Master of Industrial & Labor Relations, both from Cornell University.

Ms. Crichlow is a human resources professional with a background in higher education administration. She has experience in employee and labor relations, negotiations, executive coaching and diversity management. Under her leadership, Cornell's MBA Office of Diversity and Inclusion received the Brillante Award for Educational Excellence from the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. She currently works for GE in Global HR operations.

Since returning to Huntington, Ms. Crichlow has volunteered her time mentoring a high school senior through the college application process. She lives in Huntington Station with her 9-month-old daughter, Amaya.

William P. Dwyer



William P. Dwyer and his wife Karen have resided in Huntington for 16 years. The couple has two boys attending Huntington High School. A third son graduated last June is now at Syracuse University.

Employed as an account executive for a Hauppauge company that advises school districts on educational technology, Mr. Dwyer has a deep understanding of public education in New York, including mandated changes in the education program, budgeting and the use of technology to improve education.

Mr. Dwyer's recent focus has included consulting with districts to make a smooth transition to the Common Core standards and building cutting edge tools to analyze student performance data. He is interested in using these skills and his energy and enthusiasm to make a positive impact on the Huntington School Board.

This year's transportation budget reflects the costs associated with transporting 5,308 eligible students residing within in the Huntington School District, primarily to the seven district schools, but also to 30 parochial/private schools and 21 special needs schools on Long Island as required by law. The district currently contracts for 56 large buses and 79 vans to transport students. The 2013/14 budget maintains all current mileage limits for student transportation.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Bari Fehrs



Bari Fehrs is a 22-year resident of Huntington. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at New York Institute of Technology. She has been involved in the Huntington School District for more than 10 years and served as president of the Southdown Primary School and J. Taylor Finley Middle School PTAs.

Mrs. Fehrs, who has been attending school board meetings for the past nine years, is currently in her third year as PTA Council president. She has been a member of the district's Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee, District Shared Decision Making Committee and District Safety Committee and volunteers with the Booster Club. She has traveled to Albany to fight for Huntington's fair share of state aid.

Mrs. Fehrs and her husband have three children currently attending district schools.

Jennifer Mosden



Jennifer Mosden is a Huntington High School graduate. A lifelong Huntington resident, she is eager to give back to the district that has given her so much.

Ms. Mosden obtained an undergraduate degree in economics and sociology at American University, a Master's degree in school counseling at C.W Post College and a Master's in management and policy at Stony Brook University. She holds an advanced certificate in health care management from Stony Brook.

Passionate about educating the whole child, Ms. Mosden advocates for a rich array of courses and opportunities. As a financial manager, she is experienced in budgeting and identifying efficiencies for successful management.

A team builder and volunteer, Ms. Mosden looks forward to working with the community to elevate Huntington as a district of first choice.

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

Huntington: Providing Quality Education Since 1657

Huntington High School Ranked in the Top 3% Nationally

A new set of rankings compiled by *The Washington Post* newspaper puts Huntington High School in the top three percent of all public high schools in the United States and among the best in the state.

Huntington is ranked 62nd in the state out of more than 1,000 high schools and 727th in the country out of about 22,000 high schools. Huntington's Challenge Index was 2.404, placing the school in the top tier in the country. The school also has an "Equity and Excellence" rate of 36.10 percent, more than double the national average.

"While no one index or criterion can represent a comprehensive measure of a district's success, we are proud to note that Huntington High School is listed among America's top high schools based upon the level of rigor associated with the coursework our students complete," Superintendent James W. Polansky said.

Huntington High School is led by long-time Principal Dr. Carmela Leonardi and first year Assistant Principal Brenden Cusack. The school has a long tradition of excellence, boasting graduates that have gone on to successful careers in just about every possible field.

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 NY State law to approximately 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 property tax cap work?

New York's new property tax cap law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The limit allows an increase from one year to the next of 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 result in a limit of more than 2 percent or the inflation rate. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase is at or below its limit, a simple voter 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 2013/14 budget **does not** exceed the established 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. The administration and trustees examined the budget line-by-line, debating priorities, discussing goals and finalizing the proposed budget outlined in this brochure. The school board held a series of 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 21, 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 2013/14, the difference between the proposed budget and a contingency budget amounts to \$2,723,464.

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. Budget managers are under strict instructions to look for savings wherever they can be found and to keep costs down. Budget requests were reduced and all areas of spending were subject to economizing.

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

Despite significant spending reductions, this budget maintains educationally sound class sizes at all levels and a wide range of course offerings and co-curricular activities at the secondary level. Every school will be provided with the books, supplies and materials that our academic program demands. This budget also contains funds to replace 409 computers and 55 printers at Woodhull Intermediate, Finley Middle and Huntington High Schools, which completes a multi-year technology upgrade plan. While the district is excited about the prospect of initiating a STEM Magnet School, associated costs are not incorporated into the budget. The school's opening is contingent upon receipt of grant funding.

Focus on Huntington's Top Students

Todd Colvin



Class of 2013 valedictorian Todd Colvin has been integrally involved in life at Huntington High School over the past four years, including serving as this year's G.O. president. Previous posts have included freshman and sophomore class treasurer and junior class president. "Student government has been my main priority throughout high school," he said.

The senior plans to attend the University of Virginia in the fall. He intends to study in the McIntire School of Commerce and pursue a business major as well as focusing on computer science.

As a member of the National Honor Society, Mr. Colvin has been working with an autistic fifth grader this year, helping him twice a week with homework. He is also playing a key role in this year's Relay For Life as the logistics chairperson.

Mr. Colvin began writing for the high school's student newspaper last year and assumed the post of sports editor of *The Dispatch* this year. The teenager has been on the swimming team for the past four years and served as the Blue Devils captain in each of the past two seasons.

Asked to name a few favorite teachers and Mr. Colvin admits "that's a tough one." He has developed many strong relationships with Huntington's faculty members. "I couldn't have been valedictorian without every one of the amazing teachers that I've had over the past four years," he said.

Molly Prep



Class of 2013 salutatorian Molly Prep is an accomplished scholar and also a talented writer, award-winning photographer and dedicated athlete. She's a friendly, well-spoken and energetic teenager that contributes to each of her classes and participates in many extracurricular activities.

"Molly is the kind of student that inspires pride not only for her strong work ethic and dedication to learning but also because of her creativity and talent," Huntington Principal Carmela Leonardi said. "She is well-rounded, very bright and possesses a generous spirit. She is tireless in her devotion to worthy causes and feels a great commitment to the school and the community at large. Her involvement with the Relay For Life over the past two school years is inspiring. The teachers and I have been very fortunate to get to know and love her."

Co-editor of *The Dispatch*, the senior plans to attend New York University in the fall where she hopes to expand her existing passions for writing, photography and the field of psychology as well as discovering new interests.

"My four years at Huntington High School have been among the best of my life so far," Ms. Prep said. "Everyone; staff and students alike, has been and continues to be immeasurably supportive. I also love that our school fosters creativity and the arts along with the standard core classes and academic electives. I love that I've had the opportunity to be involved in so many extracurricular activities as well."

A campaign to save energy continues to provide results. Since February 2001, the district avoided \$4,023,241 in energy costs through concerted 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, \$1,893,932 in costs were averted.

Huntington Union Free School District
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Huntington, NY 11743

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School Budget Vote and Trustee Election
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
at Huntington High School

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

Huntington Union Free School District



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.