Dear Huntington Resident:

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the proposed 2014/15 school district budget, one that remains within state-mandated tax levy limit guidelines, maintains all current academic programs and, after three years of a half-day program, restores full-day kindergarten for our youngest learners.

This budget is the result of a collaborative effort from Superintendent James Polansky and his staff, the Board of Education and the Associated Teachers of Huntington, who, by accepting a true salary “freeze” for the coming school year, helped save the district enough money to make full-day kindergarten a reality.

This budget continues to support a comprehensive academic program at all grade levels, with a full complement of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of our wonderfully diverse student body. We will continue to maintain class sizes below established maximum guidelines at the elementary level. In addition, this budget supports the expansion of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) magnet school, as well as increased STEM education at all grade levels.

We continue to receive national attention for excellence; Huntington High School moved up 100 spots on The Washington Post’s Most Challenging High School list. The NAMM Foundation, once again, recognized Huntington as a Best Community for Music Education. Senior Aron Coraor won sixth place nationally in the renowned Intel Science Competition. And in its inaugural year, the high school robotics team, the Devildroids, won All-Star Rookie Team and, at the time of this printing, is heading to the national competition in St. Louis.

During a year when acceptances to the most competitive colleges and universities are at an all-time low, Huntington students were admitted to Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale, MIT and the University of Chicago, as well as countless other outstanding private and public institutions.

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

Huntington is a community that values education. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you for taking the time to read this brochure and understand our budget.

Sincerely,

Emily Rogan
Emily Rogan
President, Board of Education
Voter Information

Election Day:
Tuesday, May 20, 2014
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 20. The individuals will serve from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

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 20 for them to be counted in the 2014 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 vigilance. 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. Passage of this proposition will not increase taxes.

Since the funds for the proposed projects already exist in the capital account, the district will not have to borrow any money, incur interest or raise taxes. The district will also be eligible for state aid on a percentage of the expenditures associated with the projects.

The projects on the May 20 ballot include:

**Huntington High School**
Phase II of parking field reconstruction: $1,300,000

**Districtwide**
Computer Network and Technology Upgrade: $1,250,000

**Nathaniel Woodhull Intermediate School**
Replacement of interior doors, locks and related hardware: $100,000

**Total**: $2,650,000 (Estimated and subject to the bidding process.)

The work would be completed with a mix of monies drawn from three different sources:
- $33,870 would come from the remaining balance of available EXCEL project funds allotted to the district on May 15, 2007;
- $385,946 would come from the unexpended portion of projects previously approved by voters;
- $2,230,184 would come from the Building Improvement Fund authorized by voters on May 20, 2008.

The district’s capital reserve accounts would still contain more than $4.7 million following expenditure of the monies for the proposed projects.
On Election Day voters will be asked to vote on Proposition No. 1 to fund school district operations from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend $117,614,370 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, 2014, 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 Building Improvement Funds 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 be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed $2,650,000, consisting of $1,250,000 for technology and network upgrades, $1,300,000 for parking lot renovations (Phase II) at Huntington High School, and $100,000 for door replacements at Woodhull Intermediate School; said improvements to be paid from the following sources: $33,870 from the remaining balance of available EXCEL project funds allotted to the district on May 15, 2007, $385,946 from the unexpended portion of projects previously approved by the voters, previously funded from the Capital Reserve and New Renovation funds, which expired on June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2012, and the balance of $2,230,184 from the Building Improvement Fund established by the voters of the district at the annual district meeting held May 20, 2008.

The complete line-by-line 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.

This year’s transportation budget reflects the costs associated with transporting 5,301 eligible students residing within the Huntington School District, primarily to the eight district schools, but also to 32 parochial/private schools and 26 special needs schools on Long Island as required by law. The district currently contracts for 57 large buses and 73 vans to transport students. The 2014/15 budget maintains all current mileage limits for student transportation.

More information about the budget and capital reserve fund propositions can be found on the Huntington School District’s website at www.hufsd.edu.
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 last year, which significantly offsets increases in non-discretionary/mandated benefit costs. The district will continue exercising tight fiscal management and cost-cutting throughout the 2014/15 budget year.
# Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>Amount Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$11,972,315</td>
<td>$12,561,982</td>
<td>$589,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>1,744,113</td>
<td>2,589,374</td>
<td>845,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>2,180,953</td>
<td>2,049,074</td>
<td>(131,879)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes (Levy)</td>
<td>98,809,854</td>
<td>100,413,940</td>
<td>1,604,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$114,707,235</td>
<td>$117,614,370</td>
<td>$2,907,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Estimated Tax Rate to Fund the Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated tax rate per $100 of assessed valuation for school district</td>
<td>$219.85 (actual)</td>
<td>$224.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated percentage of increase (for school district taxes only)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected increase per household based on average home assessment for school district</td>
<td></td>
<td>$183.64 Before the STAR program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assessed Value (tentative for 2014/15)</td>
<td>$44,943,315</td>
<td>$44,643,315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The state’s continuing fiscal challenge has resulted in a net school aid reduction of more than $10 million in the form of GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment) over the past five 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 the significant cuts, students will continue to be offered the courses, programs and activities that the Huntington community has long appreciated and depended upon, and which make our schools special.

The proposed budget was developed to provide a range of academic and co-curricular opportunities for students in a cost-effective manner, with the future needs of the community in mind.
2014/15 Huntington School Budget Highlights

- The proposed school budget continues Huntington’s 357 year commitment to providing a first rate education for the young people of our community by maintaining our exceptionally strong academic program for approximately 4,400 students in grades K-12.

- Funds the restoration of FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN.

- Provides for an extensive array of Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement courses in all academic areas.

- Allocates $377,121 for new textbooks, $153,000 for new workbooks, $37,164 for new library books, $90,000 for new computer software and $322,878 for new instructional equipment, including computers and tablet devices.

- Funds 63 athletic teams for high school and middle school students, 97 coaching positions and a full-time athletic trainer.

- Provides a full program of 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 comprehensive special education program and services for students with disabilities.

- Funds the purchase of 42 desktop computers, 10 laptop carts, 55 printers, 30 SMART Boards and 380 tablet devices.

- 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 and robotics programs at several levels.
Jennifer Hebert

Jennifer Hebert is completing her first term on the Huntington School Board. She has an extensive background in education as a parent volunteer and teacher.

Mrs. Hebert and her husband Jamie have lived in Huntington for 17 years. Together they have three boys attending district schools. Mrs. Hebert grew up on Long Island and graduated from The Wheatley School in the East Williston School District in 1986. She attended Tufts University in Boston, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1990 and a Master's degree in Teaching in 1991.

Prior to returning to Long Island, Mrs. Hebert worked as a public school kindergarten teacher in Massachusetts for several years. Since settling here she has been teaching pre-school at St. John's Nursery School in Cold Spring Harbor, as well as devoting countless volunteer hours to the Huntington School District as a PTA president and treasurer.

Mrs. Hebert has served on various district committees through the years, including the Long Range Planning Committee. She can frequently be found attending academic, co-curricular and athletic events in schools across the district.

Widely known as a creative thinker who enjoys learning about all aspects of the district and its educational program, Mrs. Herbert believes in listening to all sides of every issue. She is particularly passionate about public school education and believes the learning experience offered to Huntington students should be the finest in the nation.

Adam Spector

Adam Spector is completing his first term on the Huntington School Board. A district resident for more than two decades, he lives with his wife, Meredith and their children Jackson and Jamie, who attend our public schools.

Mr. Spector spent many years in the field of corporate technology management in New York’s financial district where he worked for some of the world's largest banks. He helped develop and manage two separate technology consultant firms, including one focused on serving families and small businesses in the Huntington area. Most recently, he has focused his energy on his family, school district and community.

After growing up in Old Bethpage, Mr. Spector attended Binghamton University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Binghamton's School of Management.

An active participant in the school district, Mr. Spector serves on the district's audit committee and has a lengthy resume of PTA executive leadership. He has coached youth soccer and regularly attends and volunteers at community and school events.

Mr. Spector has been particularly interested in helping the district provide cost-effective educational programs to students while continuing to offer a diverse set of programs allowing for an enriching school experience.

Aware of the complexities of Huntington and New York’s public school landscape, Mr. Spector seeks to use his analytical skills and understanding of community sentiment to help continue Huntington’s tradition of excellence.
Aron Coraor made history when the Huntington senior won sixth place honors in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search, the premier high school science and math competition in the world.

Mr. Coraor, who is planning a career as a professor of chemistry or chemical engineering, received a $25,000 award for his research that seeks to explain why a certain mineral exists in two different forms in the highlands of the moon. His sixth place finish is the highest by anyone from New York this year. It is the best finish ever for a Huntington High School student.

One of the top students in the Class of 2014, Mr. Coraor has been an integral member of the high school science research program. He has worked closely with teacher Lori Kenny, who has mentored the teenager.

“I am completely elated with his success,” said Mrs. Kenny about Mr. Coraor’s showing in the Intel finals. “All of the students at the competition raved about how wonderful Aron is. He was described as both highly intellectual and compassionate by his peers.”

One of 40 high school seniors that reached the Intel finals, Mr. Coraor spent a week in Washington, DC presenting his research projects and undergoing a final round of rigorous judging. He received his award during a gala dinner at the National Building Museum.

In their first year of competition, the Huntington High School Devildroids robotics team earned a berth in the FIRST championships at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

“The team made quite an impression at the regional competition at Hofstra University,” said Huntington physics teacher Judyann Paziennza, who coaches the Devildroids. “Judges, volunteers and other teams were very impressed with the simple, yet elegant design of the Devildroid robot and the grassroots effort that got the team there.”

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) encourages young people to pursue careers in engineering and science by showing them how interesting and fun those fields can be.


The Devildroids spent six weeks constructing a 150 lb. robot, which has impressed judges and opponents alike.
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.

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.

Led by Principal Dr. Carmela Leonardi and Assistant Principal Brenden Cusack, Huntington is ranked No. 56 in New York out of more than 1,000 high schools and No. 635 in the country out of about 22,000 high schools. Huntington’s Challenge Index was 2.681 placing the school in the top tier in the country.

“High school staff members have been working exceptionally hard to open the door to more rigorous coursework for all students,” Huntington Superintendent James W. Polansky said. “During a time that we hear the concept of ‘college and career readiness’ mentioned quite often, they understand the importance of removing obstacles, particularly for those who may not initially express an interest in higher-level coursework. The results are an increased number of students participating and succeeding in Advanced Placement classes. Next year we look forward to expanding our Advanced Placement repertoire with the addition of an AP Psychology course.”

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.
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 2014/15 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 2014-15, there were no exemptions for which HUFSD qualified.

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 were invited to offer 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 20, 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 2014/15, the difference between the proposed budget and a contingency budget amounts to $1,604,086.

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?
As a result of non-instructional cost-saving measures and a wage freeze taken by the district's largest bargaining unit (ATH), this budget includes the return of full-day kindergarten, and maintains class sizes at or below established guidelines 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 supplies and materials that our academic program demands. This budget also contains funds to purchase of 42 desktop computers, 10 laptop carts, 55 printers, 30 SMART Boards and 380 tablet devices.

Visit the Huntington School District’s website at www.hufsd.edu for the latest news and information about our schools and students.
Focus on Huntington’s Top Students

**Brian Gilbert**

Class of 2014 valedictorian Brian Gilbert has compiled an exceptional academic record and enjoyed many extracurricular experiences.

"I’m very proud to be at the top of such a talented class,” Mr. Gilbert said. “There are plenty of equally deserving students and I’m thankful for all their support.”

The teenager has served as the vice-president of Huntington’s Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society and Mathletes and been a contributor to the high school student newspaper, *The Dispatch*.

Mr. Gilbert has captained Huntington’s Science Bowl and Quiz Bowl teams and played viola and violin in music ensembles, including the pit and chamber orchestras. He is a three-year varsity tennis player for the Blue Devils. “Outside of school I perform community service, tutoring elementary school children,” he said.

The senior was a member of Huntington’s four-man Science Bowl team that won the Long Island regional crown in 2013 and a spot in the national finals in Washington, D.C. (Aron Coroar, Marc Feldman and Jacob Roday rounded out the team.)

Mr. Gilbert will attend Brown University. He plans to major in physics.

**Marc Feldman**

Class of 2014 salutatorian Marc Feldman is an energetic young man who has worked hard in a series of challenging courses and earned impressive results.

Mr. Feldman is president of Huntington's Mathletes club and was a member of the team that finished second in Suffolk in his sophomore and junior years. He was the top scorer on Long Island as a junior.

A member of Huntington's Science Bowl team in each of the past two years, Mr. Feldman and his teammates reached the national championship round last year. He has also been a valued member of the Quiz Bowl team throughout high school.

The scholar is president of Huntington's French Honor Society chapter. He has played trumpet in the wind ensemble and pit orchestra for the past four years.

The teenager completed an internship at Stony Brook University’s Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology last summer. Mr. Feldman’s future interests involve some facet of math. He is considering a career in technology and possibly majoring in computer science.

Mr. Feldman has narrowed his college choices to the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University.

A campaign to save energy continues to provide results. Since February 2001, the district avoided approximately $4,133,880 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, approximately $1,946,015 in costs were averted.
Huntington Union Free School District
P.O. Box 1500
Huntington, NY 11743

Board of Education
Emily Rogan, President
Adam Spector, Vice President
Tom DiGiacomo
Bill Dwyer
Bari Fehrs
Jennifer Hebert
Xavier Palacios

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools

Kenneth A. Card, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Sam Gergis
Assistant Superintendent for Business

School Budget Vote and Trustee Election
Tuesday, May 20, 2014
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
at Huntington High School

**ECRWSS**
To: POSTAL CUSTOMER

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.