



# WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSE CARRION, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 2016

Dear WCSD Community:

While Spring is in the air, snow continues to be a possibility for the month of April. Please remember that once a decision is made to have a delay or close our schools, it is posted on our website, social media sites, as well as shared with local and national radio and TV stations.

The District continues our search for two great leaders to take on the role of principal for Gayhead Elementary School and Roy C. Ketcham High School. As we look to welcoming two new principals, it goes without saying how grateful we are for the long service and dedication of Mr. José Olavarría, for his support of our students and his contributions to the Gayhead Elementary School community and for Mr. Tom Stella, for his contributions as a district-level administrator and Roy C. Ketcham High School Principal. They will both be missed.

Conversations regarding the 2016-2017 school budget began in January and will continue through April leading up to the Annual Budget Vote and Board Member Election on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Ensuring a balanced budget within the tax cap is our primary responsibility to district taxpayers. Our goal is to continue to promote instruction, provide opportunities and viable programs, during and after school, for ALL students while adhering to the Mission and Core Values of our District.

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the entire Wappingers Central School District community and school districts throughout New York State we will be voting for a School District budget, as well as other propositions that may be on the ballot. Below are the five propositions that the Board of Education approved during the March 14 meeting. The column on the left is the language that will appear on the ballot. The column on the right represents a more detailed description for each proposition.

Language Required from School District Legal Counsel	Proposition Description
<p><b><u>2016-2017 School District Budget</u></b>            Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016, in the amount of \$xxx,xxx,xxx* be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?</p> <p>(*The amount will be finalized at the April 19, 2016, Board of Education meeting.)</p>	<p><b><u>2016-2017 School District Budget</u></b>            The proposed budget will be reviewed and final adoption will be on Tuesday, April 19 at the Board of Education meeting held at WJHS. New York State requires school districts to hold a Budget Hearing on May 3 to allow taxpayers to provide feedback. Taxpayers have been provided ongoing opportunities to share feedback at Board of Education meetings since January 11, in addition to sending specific questions using the <a href="mailto:budget@wcsdny.org">budget@wcsdny.org</a> email address. This has allowed the District to respond to specific areas requiring feedback.</p>
<p><b><u>Capital Project</u></b>            Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, be authorized to construct improvements to and reconstruct various School District buildings and facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, athletic field and other site improvements and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$26,723,000, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued?</p>	<p><b><u>Capital Project</u></b>            (Based on items from the Building Condition Survey report provided from New York State Education Department)            The Capital Project focuses on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Improvements</li> <li>• Arts Improvements</li> <li>• ADA Accessibility Updates</li> <li>• Facility Improvements: District-wide Repairs to various driveways, sidewalks and drainage systems (e.g. site work)</li> </ul>

Language Required from School District Legal Counsel	Proposition Description (cont.)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Change in Scope</u></b> <b><u>(Reallocation of Capital Project Funds)</u></b></p> <p>Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of \$2,550,463 to purchase the real property and improvements it currently leases for school district central administrative offices and classrooms, which real property is located at 25 Corporate Park Drive, Hopewell Junction, New York, the cost of which purchase will be financed by obligations that the qualified voters of the School District already approved and authorized to be issued at a maximum estimated cost of \$38,715,000 on May 21, 2013, to construct and reconstruct various School District facilities and sites?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Change in Scope</u></b> <b><u>(Reallocation of Capital Project Funds)</u></b></p> <p>The funds approved by the voters in 2013 included language specific to construction or reconstruction, but not purchase. This limited the District from purchasing the property located at 25 Corporate Park Drive in Hopewell Junction, NY. The District researched properties currently owned to see if they would be viable for the purpose of Central Administration offices and Orchard View Alternative High School.</p> <p>The cost of <b>renting</b> 25 Corporate Park Drive is \$390,000 per year. The debt service payment (similar to a residential mortgage) for <b>purchasing</b> 25 Corporate Park Drive is \$140,000.</p> <p>Purchasing this property will save the community of taxpayers \$250,000 annually. This savings would allow the District to pay down the debt service even further.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Purchase of Student Transportation Vehicles</u></b></p> <p>Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles at a maximum estimated sum of \$1,919,869; and said amount or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law, and for which obligations of the District</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Purchase of Student Transportation Vehicles</u></b></p> <p>Each year several of the District's vehicles break down and are too costly to repair or do not pass inspection due to rusted frames, etc. These vehicles vary in age from 10 to 17 years normally. With that being the case, the Transportation Supervisor and her staff review the District's fleet and annually make requests for purchases based on student and District need. The vehicles purchases follow the District's Purchasing policy so as to attain the best fair price. The purchase would be funded through a 5</p>

may be issued?

year bond anticipation note (short term financing) that allows for a level expense from year to year for the taxpayer.

**Repair Reserve Fund**

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District appropriate the sum of an amount not to exceed \$329,075 from the 2015-2016 School Year General Fund Balance, which the Board of Education has been permitted to carry into the 2016-2017 school year, and deposit such monies into the Repair Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding repairs to capital improvements and equipment that do not recur annually or at shorter intervals?

**Repair Reserve Fund**

The district has the opportunity to place fund balance in a separate account specifically for repairs needed around the district. This repair reserve needs voter approval to fund and will allow the district to be in compliance with NYs Comptroller regulation. This component of the reserve fund will serve as a financial resource for the district in the event of an emergency.

*Fund balance is created when the school district has money left over at the end of its fiscal year from either under spending the budget or taking in additional revenue. Part of the fund balance (called the assigned fund balance) may be applied as revenues to the District's following year budget. A portion (called the unassigned fund balance), not exceeding four percent of the total budget—may also be reserved to pay for emergencies or other unforeseen expenses.*

Our District has also created [Wappingers Central School District 2016-2017 Financial and Budget Terms](#). These terms were made for the WCSD Community to have a better understanding of the development of a District budget.

As WCSD moves forward with our teaching and learning, it is important that we stay abreast and become active participants throughout the process. The NYS Education Department (NYSED) will convene Mathematics and English Language Arts Standards Review Committees that will review the P-12 Common Core Learning Standards and make any necessary revisions to the standards (<http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny>). Thus far, we are pleased to know that WCSD administrators and teachers have submitted applications to become a part of this process. We need for our voices to be heard and see the necessary changes that will enhance our educational programs. WCSD has developed curriculum maps that are local in scope aligned to the Standards. Standards are not the curriculum. Therefore, “what we teach” (curriculum) is based on the depth and knowledge our teachers have brought to the table to design our locally created curriculum

maps. Our constant goal is the development of locally created curriculum that best meets the needs of the entire WCSD community.

Of particular note, during the month of March, a video presentation was posted on our website regarding much of the aforementioned. If you have not had the opportunity to view the video, "[The Last Straw](#)," please do so and, if in agreement, take the time to write to your legislators in order to realize the change that will serve our students best.

Sincerely,  
José Carrión  
Superintendent of Schools