



Jose L. Carrion, Superintendent of Schools
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April 18, 2018

Dear WCSD Community:

On the evening of Monday, April 16, 2018, the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) approved the proposed 2018-2019 school district budget. The recommended budget shows a 2.72% increase from the previous budget for a total amount of \$231,312,631. We are proud to share that the budget is within the State's allowable tax cap.

In early May, you will receive the official Budget Newsletter which will highlight, in further detail, the propositions which will be submitted to the voters on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Proposition 1 on the ballot is the [2018-2019 Proposed Budget](#). The Superintendent's recommended budget, approved by the Board of Education, maintains all current instructional programs, opportunities, and offerings for all fine and performing arts-related activities and programs, as well as athletics and after-school clubs. Our elementary, middle and high schools continue to offer an instructional program built upon highly-qualified administrators, teachers, and support staff as well as instructional resources and opportunities that are aligned to our mission statement and core values.

Proposition 2 on the ballot is for the [2018 Capital Project proposition](#) for \$33,822,560. This is for much-needed capital improvements for our schools. While over the past four years we have worked diligently to make the necessary [improvements](#) throughout our district through the 2016 Capital Project, more work is needed. To date, several schools in the district have had window replacements, newly paved parking lots, remodeled cafeterias, as well as new athletic fields for our students. During the summer of 2018, as part of phase two of the 2016 Capital Project, our Fine and Performing Arts facilities will be upgraded. We invite you to take a peek at the vast improvements we have made by visiting our schools for community events or even walking the track. When we began these capital improvements, our Five-Year Building Conditions Survey stated that there was a need for approximately 90 million dollars in facilities improvements.

Proposition 2 includes window replacements, new roof installation, unit ventilator systems and steam systems improvements for several schools. Aging systems have expended the useful life expectancy of our internal systems. Students of the WCSD deserve buildings that are conducive to the high-quality educational program they are offered.

Proposition 3 on the ballot is the [Bus Purchase proposition](#) for the purchase of 23 student transportation vehicles for \$1,968,576. WCSD has the largest District-owned and operated fleet out of all of the 733 districts in New York State. Our school vehicles accumulate many thousands of miles. Replacement vehicles are necessary on an annual basis to keep WCSD students safe, and the fleet is running as efficiently as possible.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to seeing you at our community [budget presentations](#). If you have any questions about the budget or the propositions, please email us at budget@wcsdny.org. All questions are answered within two business days. Responses are posted on our website for the entire community to stay engaged in the conversation. **Remember to vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.**

Sincerely,
Jose L. Carrion
Superintendent of Schools