

Budget Proposal is Lowest Increase in 15 Years Spending Among Lowest in Nassau County

- ☑ Proposed Budget Increase: 1.52%
- ☑ Proposed Tax Levy Increase: 1.56%
- ☑ Budget maintains excellent programs and class size guidelines while keeping expenses low. (Pages 3 and 4)
- ☑ Oceanside spends less per student than the Nassau County average. (Page 4)
- ☑ Budget continues to support all extracurricular and community activity programs.
- ☑ Outstanding student achievement in academics, athletics, the arts and activities. (Page 6)

Oceanside Schools...What starts here changes the world

What Am I Voting On?

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Proposition 1:
School District Budget

Proposition 2:
Public Library Budget

Election:
Two seats on Board of Education
(3 year terms)

Terms Expiring on June 30, 2015:
Seth Blau
Kimberly Grim Garrity

Voter Registration: You're registered to vote if you voted in a recent November or school district election. If you need to register, visit the District Clerk at 145 Merle Avenue by May 14. Call 678-8580 for more information.

A Message from Your Board of Education

Dear Neighbors and Residents,

These are tumultuous times in education and often children are caught in the middle of competing political agendas. As a Board, we are charged with keeping one concern in focus: what is right for our students and our community. The Board believes we share this common goal with all of our residents: the best education for our children in a school district that maintains the character of our community.

During the last few months there have been many meetings and discussions between the Board and the Administration, with input from teachers, clerical and facilities staff and residents who attended budget workshops. This allowed us to trim where we could while maintaining the quality of our educational program and our key community asset – our schools.

The Board of Education and the Administration this year were challenged to prepare a budget that addresses the needs of the students, properly provides infrastructure support, meets additional federal and state mandates, remains at the forefront of educational and technological needs, and stays within the 2% Tax Cap aka Tax Levy Limit.



We are happy to report that we were able to accomplish this with a budget-to-budget increase of 1.52% and a tax levy of 1.56%.

As we continue to weave through the educational budget process, we will continue to lobby our legislators to reduce unfunded mandates and provide more equitable state aid. We will also continue to work hard at maximizing your hard-earned tax dollars with programs that prepare our bright young men and women for whatever career paths they may choose.

We will remain a district that supports our children and our residents and provides the best educational “bang for the Buck” on Long Island. We ask that you be informed and vote on May 19.

Sincerely,
Oceanside Board of Education
Robert M. Transom, *President*
Donald Maresca, *Vice President*
Seth Blau
Michael D’Ambrosio
Kimberly Grimm Garrity
Mary Jane McGrath–Mulhern
Sandie Schoell



We carefully examined all of our operational needs and budget lines to ensure that expenditures are warranted, allocating funds where needed, and trimming where possible.

How does this budget preserve the quality of our educational program?

Oceanside School District remains a leader in educational excellence and student achievement. Our programs reflect the increasing importance of technology and social emotional skills to prepare students for college and careers.

The budget preserves the district's comprehensive instructional and extracurricular programs. For example:

- **Use of iPads** in the middle school and in grades 9 and 10 of the high school
- **A new Elementary Technology Initiative** to explore emerging technologies that will foster student engagement and learning
- **An exciting Big History** integrated social studies and English course for 9th graders



- **A hands-on STEM program** for all students in grade 4, expanding to grade 5 in 2015-16
- **An upgraded state-of-the art film production studio** at the high school that has led students to win many awards



- **A stellar research program** at the middle and high school levels that has produced numerous awards for students in Intel, Siemens and other prestigious competitions
- Reading and Math **programs that emphasize critical thinking** and reading, rigorous writing, and higher-level math skills
- **Anti-bullying programs and supports** that exceed the requirements of New York State's Dignity Act Legislation (DASA) and state guidelines for social emotional literacy (SEL)
- **World Language course offerings** including Spanish for grades K-6 and Spanish, Italian, French, Hebrew, Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Language for middle and high school students
- **Parent education programs** on curriculum, internet safety, substance abuse prevention, technology, and more
- **Extensive support programs for students** who need additional help to be successful

continued

LI Spending Per Pupil

Highest Spending K-12 District..... **\$37,011.00**

\$34,424.00
 \$33,893.00
 \$33,469.00
 \$32,943.00
 \$32,294.00
 \$32,197.00
 \$31,212.00
 \$30,493.00
 \$30,412.00
 \$30,236.00
 \$28,630.00
 \$28,307.00
 \$28,116.00
 \$27,761.00
 \$27,538.00
 \$27,507.00
 \$27,475.00
 \$27,347.00



County Median K-12 Districts..... **\$26,765.00**

\$26,206.00
 \$25,736.00
 \$25,686.00
 \$25,555.00
 \$25,034.00
 \$25,022.00
 \$24,538.00
 \$24,304.00
 \$24,008.00



Oceanside..... **\$23,874.00**

\$23,856.00
 \$23,466.00
 \$23,173.00
 \$23,114.00
 \$23,011.00
 \$22,965.00
 \$22,704.00
 \$22,335.00
 \$21,899.00

Lowest Spending K-12 District..... **\$21,441.00**

Source: State Education Department, 2012-13 school year.
 Most recent data available.

County Median of K-12 districts:	\$26,765
Oceanside:	<u>-\$23,874</u>
	\$ 2,891

*Oceanside spends \$2,891 less per student than the average Nassau County K-12 district, for a total savings of \$16,276,330 when per pupil savings is multiplied by the total number of students.

What is the Budget and how does it differ from the Tax Levy and the Tax Cap?

The proposed expenditure budget for 2015-16 is **\$144,399,509**. This represents a **1.52%** budget-to-budget increase over the 2014-15 school year.

The **tax levy** is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its expenditure budget after accounting for all other revenue sources, including state aid. The District's tax levy for the 2015-16 school year is estimated to be \$118,831,706. This represents an increase of 1.56% over the current year and is in compliance with our allowable **levy limit ("Tax Cap")**.

In June 2011, the New York State Legislature passed a law that restricts how municipalities can raise revenue. Although it has been referred to as a **"2% Tax Cap,"** it is more accurately defined as a **Tax Levy Limit**.

Each municipality is required to calculate its specific levy limit based on a multi-step formula prescribed by the state. This formula contains certain exclusions that could result in tax levy increases above or below 2%.

It is important to understand that the new law applies to the school district tax *levy*, not to tax *rates* or individual tax *bills*.

continued



Therefore, **the percent tax levy increase does not mean your school taxes will go up by that amount.** In fact, individuals may see their taxes go up OR down based on many factors that determine an individual homeowners' school taxes. The school tax levy is only one of those factors.

Shifts in assessed values, property classes, (which represent how the tax levy is distributed between commercial properties, utilities and different types of residential properties), and STAR exemptions from year to year will contribute to the calculation of a homeowner's individual school taxes.

If the voters do not approve the proposed budget on May 19, the Board of Education may authorize a second vote or adopt a contingency budget which under the tax levy limit law must be equal to, or less than, the 2014-15 tax levy.

In recent years, OHS graduates have been inspired by high school courses to pursue careers in research, medicine, international relations and film, to name just a few.

This would require the Board to cut \$1,820,884 from the budget. Reductions at this scale would mean the Board would need to cut from non-mandated programs.

The \$30 million dollar bond issue will have a minimal impact on the 2015-16 budget. A short-term borrowing was secured to finance start-up costs on certain projects (see below). Interest expense of approximately \$14,000 will be due in the 2015-16 school year. The District continues to work with the architect and State Education Department on the approval process for various projects. The impact on future budgets will be determined by how and when funds are borrowed in connection with project approvals.

The completed bond projects thus far are roof reconstruction projects at Schools #3 and #4, Wi-Fi internet access at Oceanside High School, and security improvements districtwide including surveillance cameras and door access control systems.

Oceanside's budget practices and long-range planning result in spending millions of dollars less each year than the average Nassau County school district. Here are some **recent examples of measures the district has taken to keep expenditures low:**

- Initiated **two retirement incentives** that will save the district \$2 million in 2015-16 and will continue to save over the long-term
- **Consolidated administrative responsibilities to reduce costs**, e.g. new Director of Technology (replacing a retiree) will also serve as webmaster; new Principal of OHS Castleton (replacing a retiree) will oversee New Horizons, the Oceanside Learning Center, and Secondary Summer School



Achievement Highlights

Oceanside Schools... What starts here changes the world



More National Board Certified teachers (17) than any high school on Long Island, with 11 more in the pipeline

Oceanside Middle School earned renewed designation as a national *Essential Elements School to Watch*

Many student awards in the National Italian, French and Spanish Exams; three winners in the Stonybrook Italian Studies Essay Contest and one winner in the Hofstra Spanish Poetry Contest

More in-depth career-oriented experiences than any LI high school, e.g. more than 100 10th grade students shadowed professionals for *Teens On The Job* day

Six Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program

14 awards at Brown University Model UN, including three Outstanding Delegates and five Best Delegates

Semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search and the Siemens Science Competition; two semifinalists at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium; four semifinalists at the LI Science and Engineering Fair plus three 2nd place wins and one 3rd place win; three 2nd place wins and one 3rd place win at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair

One gold medalist, eight silver medalists, and seven bronze medalists at the Long Island Math Fair; ranked #6 at the St. Joseph's Greater NY Regional Programming Competition; OHS student selected for New York State Mathematics League (NYSML) All Star Team; two students ranked in the top 20 at the Nassau County Math Tournament

Five DECA students qualified to attend International Career Development Conference and 10 won medals at the NYS DECA Career Conference

Named a *Best Community in America for Music Education* for the 7th consecutive year in 2015; 135 students selected for All County Music Festival; 44 students selected for All County Art Exhibit; NYS Honors Band participant; two students and one alternate selected for All State Music Conference; two *Newsday* Scholar-Artist winners, in writing and film

Varsity Cheerleading team qualified for Universal Cheerleading Association Nationals; 15 Varsity Teams made NYS Scholar-Athlete; 16 student-athletes have been signed to play collegiately; one student made All State Softball team; one student selected to Academic All-State in Basketball

Two elementary school students qualified for the finals in the National History Bee

An early foundation and ongoing commitment to develop compassionate, civic-minded citizens who take action to confront problems in our world. For example, School #6 has raised more than \$82,000 *to date* for SIBS Place and Oceanside students from K-12 annually raise approximately \$100,000 for a variety of charities

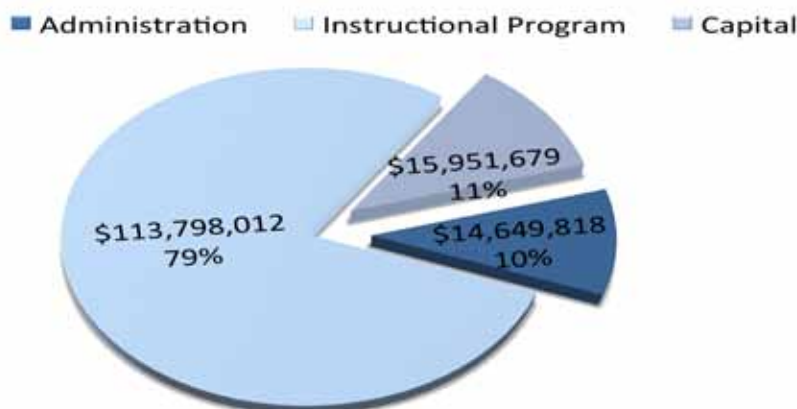
Oceanside High School consistently ranks in the top 1.5% of high schools nationwide, based on surveys conducted by The Washington Post, Newsweek and other news sources

Proposed Budget 2015-16

	ACTUAL BUDGET 2014-15	PROPOSED BUDGET 2015-16
ADMINISTRATION		
Board of Education; Central Administration; Building Administration Personnel Administration; Auditing; Legal Counsel; Insurance		
Total Administration	\$14,383,532	\$14,649,818
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM		
Professional Development for Teachers and Support Staff	\$500,350	\$586,809
Salaries for Teachers and Support Staff	\$59,066,057	\$60,440,930
Support for Instruction (Equipment, Supplies, Texts, BOCES, Library Media	\$3,963,336	\$4,213,316
Special Programs (Special Education, Adult Education, Recreation, Summer School, Enrichment)	\$14,458,768	\$14,656,651
Transportation	\$5,860,370	\$5,928,388
Employee Benefits & Interfund Transfers	\$28,169,017	\$27,971,918
Total Instruction	\$112,017,898	\$113,798,012
CAPITAL		
Buildings and Ground, including Custodial Staff; Debt Service		
Total Capital	\$15,835,760	\$15,951,679
Total Expenditure Budget	\$142,237,190	\$144,399,509
		1.52%
Less Estimated Revenue and Fund Balance		
Appropriated Fund Balance (Return to Taxpayers)	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000
State Aid	\$17,385,077	\$17,996,789
Rental Income	\$45,478	\$45,478
Tuition, Fees, Admissions	\$320,000	\$320,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$325,000	\$325,000
Interest Income	\$75,000	\$75,000
Dept. Of Community Activities Revenue	\$2,290,609	\$2,290,609
Transfer from Workers Comp Reserve	\$0	\$0
Transfer from Retirement Contribution Reserve (ERS)	\$800,000	\$600,000
Unneeded Authorization from Capital	\$554,286	\$395,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$40,000	\$100,000
Reimbursement for Environmental Trips	\$140,918	\$169,927
Total Estimated Fund Balance and Revenues	\$25,226,368	\$25,567,803
Amount to be Raised by Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$117,010,822	\$118,831,706
		1.56%
Total Revenue Budget	\$142,237,190	\$144,399,509

Important Note: Oceanside's Tax Levy meets the legal NYS Tax Levy Limit, resulting in a simple majority vote needed on May 19, 2015 to pass the school district budget

Instructional Program Represents 79% of Budget



Oceanside Union Free School District Board of Education

Robert M. Transom, *President*
Donald Maresca, *Vice President*
Seth J. Blau
Michael D'Ambrosio
Kimberly Grim Garrity
Mary Jane McGrath-Mulhern
Sandie Schoell

Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington
Superintendent of Schools

Donna Kraus
Public Information Coordinator; Editor

Administrative Offices:
145 Merle Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572.

Please call 678-7525 with any questions about our schools.

Visit our website @ oceansideschools.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Oceanside, N.Y.
Permit No. 417

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Budget and Voting Information

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, May 12, 2015
7:30 pm

BUDGET HEARING
#9E Walter S. Boardman
Elementary School Aud.

For more information, please call the District Clerk at 678-8580 or visit our website at oceansideschools.org and click on [Voter Information](#).

May 5-May 19, 2015

Copy of proposed Budget statement and texts of any resolutions available at each school Monday through Friday.

NOTE: The Oceanside School District is divided into four school election districts. Voters must vote at the building within their election district. Voting locations are at Schools #5, #6, #7 (High School) and #8. Visit our website at oceansideschools.org and click on [Voter Information](#) to find your voting location.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

**BUDGET VOTE &
ANNUAL SCHOOL
BOARD ELECTIONS**

Proposition 1 - School District Budget: Resolved, that the statement of estimated expenses (budget) presented by the Board of Education of Oceanside Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, for the School year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$144,399,509 for the purposes stated, be and same is approved, and said total amount, exclusive of public monies and other lawful income shall be raised by the levy on the taxable property within the school district and collected during the ensuing year as provided by law.

Voter Eligibility & Registration

Residents are registered and eligible to vote if they: (1) Voted at or registered for a School District election subsequent to January 1, 2011 OR (2) Are validly registered to vote with the County Board of Elections for the General Election.

Registration of voters shall take place year round between 9 am and 4 pm weekdays at the District Clerk's office, 145 Merle Ave., except during the five working days prior to any school district election.

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk. Please mail your completed application to the District Clerk at least seven days before the election OR deliver by hand the day before the election. The ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 pm on the day of the election.

Proposition 2 - Library Budget: Resolved, that the Board of Education of Oceanside Union Free School District shall increase its contract with the Oceanside Library Association for the period July 1, 2015 to and including June 20, 2016 providing for free library services as is particularly described in said written contract for the sum of \$53,328 and that sum, together with the sum of \$4,324,769 heretofore authorized, for a total of \$4,378,097 to be appropriated to meet the payments due under said contract and that taxes shall be levied, assessed and collected against the taxable property of the School District for the ensuing year for above purposes.

Budget Vote & School Board Election - Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 7 am to 10 pm