A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pearl River School District Community,

On Tuesday, April 12, the Pearl River School District Board of Education adopted a $77,509,312 budget for the 2022-23 school year. This spending plan represents a 4.78% increase in spending over the 2021-22 budget and will rely on a proposed 2.84% tax levy increase, which remains below the legally prescribed tax cap. Once again, we are committed to proposing a budget that advances our mission to prepare our students for lifelong success while honoring our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.

The budget we have prepared for the coming academic year continues to allocate resources in a manner that preserves all of our current programs and services and allows for sustained growth in key areas that support student learning and well-being. New staff positions include:

- One full-time English as a New Language teacher: Franklin Avenue
- One full-time English as a New Language teacher: PRMS (funding from IDEA COVID)
- One full-time speech teacher: District-wide
- One full-time teaching assistant: Franklin Avenue
- One full-time counselor: PRHS (funding from American Rescue Plan)
- One part-time English teacher: PRHS
- One full-time security officer: District-wide

Every area of the proposed budget was examined with the intention of providing the very best education and supports for our students and families.

I urge all Pearl River residents to exercise their right to vote in the Annual School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election on Tuesday, May 17 at PRHS Pirate Cove between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Please visit our website or contact Sandra Romano, District Clerk, at 620-3924 for more information.

As always, we are grateful for the support of the Pearl River School District community and the privilege of serving the educational needs of our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marco Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed 2022–23 Budget Highlights</th>
<th>Tax Levy Increase</th>
<th>Budget-to-Budget Increase</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.84%</td>
<td>4.78%</td>
<td>$77,509,312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Proposed Tax Levy increase is 1.41% less than the 4.25% NYS Property Tax Cap allowed.

VOTE: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 • 7:00 am - 9:00 pm
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Pearl River Union Free School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at Pearl River High School’s Pirate Cove, 275 East Central Avenue in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in each location, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

### OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year</th>
<th>Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</td>
<td>$73,976,753</td>
<td>$77,509,312</td>
<td>$75,833,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,532,559</td>
<td>$1,856,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.78%</td>
<td>(2.40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in the Consumer Price Index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</td>
<td>$58,926,118</td>
<td>$60,602,084</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</td>
<td>$58,926,118</td>
<td>$60,602,084</td>
<td>$58,926,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</td>
<td>$723,535</td>
<td>$1,102,060</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</td>
<td>$58,202,583</td>
<td>$59,500,024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)</td>
<td>$58,202,583</td>
<td>$59,400,024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Component</td>
<td>$6,071,382</td>
<td>$6,475,050</td>
<td>$6,277,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Component</td>
<td>$58,016,069</td>
<td>$60,537,322</td>
<td>$59,630,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Component</td>
<td>$9,889,302</td>
<td>$10,496,940</td>
<td>$9,924,942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provide a statement of assumption made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget requires that the 2022-23 tax levy be no greater than the previous year’s levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling $1,675,966 would be required, resulting in significant impact to program offerings. In addition, the following budget items would be non-allowable: equipment purchases, transfers to capital, certain school supplies. Non-school groups using the District Facilities would be required to pay the full cost of operations.

### Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year</td>
<td>$1,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.
BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION CANDIDATES

DAN ROBINS
- 8-year resident
- Advertising and marketing professional
- Two children (Evans Park Elementary School)

“Thank you to the Pearl River community!”

KRISTEN SWEENEY
- 24-year resident
- Formal special education teacher; completing licensure requirements for Art Therapy
- Three children (college-level and Pearl River High School)

“I very strongly believe in the importance of public education and its ability to positively impact students. I am very dedicated to Pearl River, the community I love!”

NICOLE LEHOCZKY
- 3-year resident
- Elementary education teacher
- Two children (Franklin Avenue Elementary School and Good Shepherd Creative Play)

“I am running for the Board of Education because I am committed to public education, hope to make a positive impact within the school community and want to serve this wonderful community. I feel I am a good candidate as I am dedicated to the success of all children, have experience being a classroom teacher and have two small children in the District. I know my work ethic, knowledge of education and ability to confront challenges in education will make me an ideal board member. We should be focusing on education for the next generation!”

DENISE CAUNITZ
- Lifelong resident
- Teacher in the South Orangetown Central School District
- Three children (Pearl River Middle School, Franklin Avenue Elementary School, Tall Pines Nursery School)

“As a lifelong community member, I hope to support teachers and staff to ensure a supportive learning environment that strives to maximize educational opportunities for all students while nurturing responsibility, creativity and open mindedness to empower all to make positive contributions to our world.”

ROBERT WELLS
- 6-year resident
- TBM/DX clinical liaison for medical company
- Two children (Lincoln Avenue Elementary School and The Starting Place)

“Transparency on decisions being made for children; restore and maintain the traditional learning system; restore parental rights over their children’s health; support teachers in their efforts; address bullying; support children’s mental health.”

TERRENCE CORTELLI
- 18-year resident
- Staff attorney at Stolzenberg Cortelli, LLP
- Two children (Pearl River High School)

“I am running for the school board because I love this town and I love this school district. I hope I can help make the schools even better.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the Pearl River High School Class of 2022 valedictorian, Edward Real (pictured right), and salutatorian, Matthew Balison (pictured left)!

Both Edward and Matthew serve as outstanding students and community members – dedicating themselves to academic excellence and achievement; extracurricular activities and honor societies; accomplishments in the arts and athletics; and participation in a multitude of programs. This time-honored tradition is well-deserved for these two dedicated individuals!
The Pearl River School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on May 17, 2022:

**PROPOSITION #1**
2022-23 TOTAL BUDGET: $77,509,312

**ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**
An election will be held for two (2) Board of Education seats currently held by Robert Davis and Bruce Bond. The full three-year term for each seat is July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies, in the order they will appear on the ballot based on a random selection process administered by the District Clerk on April 19:
• Dan Robins
• Nicole Lehoczky
• Robert Wells
• Kristen Sweeney
• Denise Caunitz
• Terrence Cortelli

Voters may cast their ballot for only one candidate per seat.

Detailed school budget information and school board election information can be found on pearlriver.org under the Board of Education School Budget Vote 2022-23 tab.

Editor: Gina Carbone
This newsletter was produced in cooperation with Rockland BOCES Communications Department.