

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2021-22

Executive Summary

The management of the budget is a process that continues throughout the entire fiscal year. It is a process that occurs not only in the Business Office, but also extends to each building and every department in the school district. This process results in taxpayer dollars being both efficiently and effectively put to use. The proposed 2021-22 budget was developed with input from the instructional and administrative staffs.

As prescribed within Education Law, a school district's annual appropriations budget is required to be adopted by the Board of Education and voted upon by the public. The budget, as approved and adopted, serves as the authorized financial plan for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, and ending on June 30.

The appropriation budget is comprised of five main functional or categorical sections. They are:

- General Support
- Instruction
- Transportation
- Community Service
- Undistributed

Each of the main functions listed above is composed of sub groups of related units, which further identify services. Control and accountability are achieved through the budget coding structure. Each unit sub group is broken down to identify salaries, equipment, contractual items, and supplies. The Budget Code Overview in section 2 of this book provides a detailed analysis of the budget coding structure. It will be helpful to use this section in identifying a particular type of expenditure, location, building, or program contained within the budget.

In addition to the appropriation side of the proposed budget (also referred to as proposed expenditures), the school district is also required to establish an estimate of funding and/or revenue sources. Projected total revenues must always equal projected total expenditures. Some of the main classifications of revenue sources are:

- State Aid
- STAR Aid
- Investment Income
- Other Miscellaneous Income
- Fund Balance Applied
- Use of Reserve Funds
- Property Tax Levy

Please refer to Section 5 in this book for detailed analyses of revenues.

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In the past, budget votes have taken place in May or June, with the Board of Education determining the budget vote date. However, legislation was passed beginning with the 1996-97 school year, requiring all budget votes in Nassau County and Suffolk County school districts to be held on the third Tuesday in May. This legislation was expanded to include all New York State school districts for the 1998-99 school year. Therefore, all New York State school districts will be voting on their 2021-22 budgets on May 18, 2021.

Furthermore, pursuant to a new subdivision added to Section 2007 of the Education Law, which became effective on April 1, 2006, all school district budget re-votes must be held on the third Tuesday in June. Therefore, all New York State school districts whose budgets are defeated on May 18, 2021 and choose to present the voters with a second budget vote, must do so on June 15, 2021.

Normally Suffolk County school districts set their tax levy during the months of August through October. At that time, districts usually have confirmed projected available revenues to fund the adopted budget.

2021-22 Property Tax Levy Cap Overview

New York State Legislature and the Governor enacted legislative amendments that are legally known as Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011. This amendment established a Property Tax Levy Cap for most municipalities including public K-12 school districts while excluding the “Big 5” city school districts (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers). Regarding school districts, the effective date of these changes in law began with the funding of the 2012-13 school year.

As per this law, the increase in the property tax **levy**, not tax **rate**, is limited to the **lesser of 2% or the rate of inflation**. The law details a specific property tax cap calculation with several formula inclusions and exclusions such as a tax base growth factor, building aid adjustments for voter approved projects, and pension exemptions. Therefore, the increase in a school district’s property tax **levy** may be lesser or greater than 2%. Additionally, regardless of the increase or decrease in the tax **levy**, the actual change in the tax **rate** is subject to the fluctuations of a school district’s assessed value.

The law maintains the requirement for residents to approve budgets through the current public voting process. In order for a budget to be passed by the voters, school districts that present budgets that are within the property tax levy cap still need to pass by a simple majority. School districts that present a budget that exceeds the property tax levy cap, “pierces the cap,” need to pass their budget by a super majority of 60%.

Should the May budget be defeated by the district residents, a Board of Education may elect to present a second budget to the voters in June. This applies to a defeated “within the cap” budget or a “pierced” budget that was not approved by the 60% margin. If the second budget fails, the majority of the current contingency budget laws are still in effect, along with a new provision that requires the property tax levy to be less than or equal to the previous year’s levy. If a Board of Education adopts a contingency budget after one voter defeat, the new provision requiring the property tax levy to be less than or equal to the previous year’s levy is in effect.

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The property tax levy cap process is overseen, in part, by the Commissioner of Education, Office of the State Comptroller and Commissioner of Taxation and Finance.

A component of the property tax levy cap includes the allowable growth factor or CPI which decreased this year from 1.81% to 1.23%. Please see the below analysis of the District's tax levy cap history.

**Tax Levy Cap Analysis
2012 to 2022**

Year	CPI	Miller Place Tax Cap Limit %	Miller Place Actual Tax Levy %
2012-13	2.00%	2.96%	2.96%
2013-14	2.00%	4.28%	3.94%
2014-15	1.46%	1.51%	1.51%
2015-16	1.62%	2.85%	2.85%
2016-17	0.12%	-0.14%	-0.14%
2017-18	1.26%	0.61%	0.61%
2018-19	2.00%	2.80%	2.80%
2019-20	2.00%	1.38%	1.38%
2020-21	1.81%	1.46%	1.46%
2021-22	1.23%	2.42%	2.42%

The following is the current *draft* of the 2021-22 Property Tax Levy Cap calculation as it relates to the proposed 2021-22 budget:

Prior Year (2020-21) Tax Levy		\$ 47,616,059
+ Tax Base Growth Factor (x .0015)	+	71,424
- BOCES Capital Exclusion (new)	-	73,444
- Debt Service Less Building Aid	-	530,670
= Subtotal prior to applying CPI factor	=	\$ 47,083,369
+ Allowable Growth Factor - CPI (x 1.23%)	+	579,125
+ Debt Service Less Building Aid	+	1,046,084
+ BOCES Capital Exclusion (new)	+	60,989
+ ERS Cost Exemption	+	0
+ TRS Cost Exemption	+	0
Total Allowable Tax Levy for 2021-22	=	\$ 48,769,567
Total Tax Levy Increase \$		\$ 1,153,508
Total Tax Levy %		2.42%

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The following is the current *draft* of the 2021-22 Estimated Revenues as it relates to the proposed 2021-22 budget:

Total Allowable Tax Levy		\$ 48,769,567
+ State Aid – Governor’s Proposal	+	23,150,501
+ Tuition, Interest Income, Misc.	+	577,000
+ Unemployment Reserve	+	200,000
+ Workers Comp Reserve	+	15,460
+ ERS Reserve	+	618,654
+ TRS Reserve	+	534,168
+ Fund Balance Applied	+	2,655,101
Total Maximum 2021-22 Budget	=	\$ 76,520,451
Budget Increase \$		\$ 806,556
Budget Increase %		1.07%

Please refer to section 5 in this book for the detailed tax levy cap calculation. Governor Cuomo has proposed many changes again this year to the state aid formulas and these changes may have a negative impact on the District if enacted. Please see the revenue section of this summary for additional information.

2021-22 Budget Overview

The proposed 2021-22 budget is \$76,520,451, an *increase* of \$806,556 or 1.07% from the current voter approved 2020-21 budget. The proposed budget sustains programs at pre-COVID pandemic levels. This proposed budget **is within** the limitations of the Property Tax Levy Cap calculation already described. Please refer to section 3 in this book for the detailed budget document for specific funding by budget code.

The Superintendent’s proposed budget **sustains** the current educational programs that were budgeted during the 2021-22 budget cycle and includes the following enhancements to the current **Instructional Programs**:

The Superintendent’s budget proposal includes new course offerings at Miller Place High School that would be funded through a reallocation of existing course sections and staff as follows:

- AP Government - “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” – This course promotes civic competence and responsibility utilizing interactive strategies, relevant content and simulated congressional hearings. All students will be required to take the related AP exam.
- AP Capstone - Seminar Experience – This course allows students to develop and strengthen their analytic and inquiry skills. Students will explore two to four relevant issues chosen by the student with the support of their educator.

The Superintendent’s proposed budget sustains current budget elementary class sizes. Please see the below chart for a review of elementary class sizes:

	2020-21 Current Budget		2020-21 Current Pandemic Budget		2021-22 Proposed Budget	
Class	2020-21 Class Sections	Average Class Size	2020-21 Class Sections	Average Class Size	2021-22 Class Sections	Average Class Size
Kindergarten	7	21.4	8	18.6	7	21.4
1st Grade	7	20.1	9	15.8	7	21.3
2nd Grade	7	22.4	10	16.1	7	20.3
3rd Grade	7	22.3	10	15.4	7	23.0
4th Grade	7	24.3	11	15.4	7	22.0
5th Grade	7	22.7	10	16.6	7	24.1
6th Grade	7	22.9	8	20.5	7	23.7
Totals	49		66		49	

As per the negotiated Miller Place Teachers’ Union contract, the maximum number of students per elementary class without the District potentially providing additional classroom support is as follows:

Kindergarten	23	1 st Grade	24	4 th Grade	28
		2 nd Grade	24	5 th Grade	28
		3 rd Grade	28	6 th Grade	28

Executive Summary 2021-22 cont'd.

The Superintendent's proposed budget **sustains** current Student Support Services.

The Superintendent's proposed budget **sustains** current District funded Co-Curricular Activities and continues to support independent athletes and combined teams to promote opportunities for our student athletes.

The Superintendent's proposed budget **decreases** the current Capital Projects to the funding level from 2019-20 since the increase last year was based on the one-time expenditure that was funded by the one-time state aid revenue for the MPHS gymnasium. Please see the detailed description in the Inter-fund Transfers for Capital Projects section of the Executive Summary.

Salaries & Benefits Overview

The total for salaries and benefits reflects an *increase* of \$2,288,312 or 4.44%, due to contractual increases in salaries, additional staffing needed, and contractual employee benefits. The District has projected savings into the budget from retirements. The District will continue to adjust class sections based on student enrollment as needed. The District is projecting the retirement system contributions will increase due to a change in the required system contribution rates. The specific changes are as follows:

Salaries	\$1,990,453 or 5.72%
Employee Benefits	\$297,859 or 1.77%

Employee Contracts:

Below is a listing of all the Miller Place School District bargaining units and the expiration of their contracts, as of the submission of the Superintendent's proposed budget to the Board of Education:

<u>Employee Bargaining Unit:</u>	<u>Contract Expiration Date</u>
1. Miller Place Secretarial and Clerical Unit	6/30/2021
2. Miller Place Administrators' Association	6/30/2021
3. Miller Place Teachers' Assoc. Chapter of Registered Nurses	6/30/2021
4. Miller Place Operations' Unit	6/30/2022
5. Miller Place Teachers' Association	6/30/2025

Retirement Systems:

The District has budgeted the contribution rates as projected by the respective retirement systems as follows:

- The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is projecting a rate increase from 14.60% to 16.2%, ERS is budgeted at \$957,077 resulting in a budget line *increase* of \$12,304 or 1.3%.
- The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is projecting a rate increase from 9.53% to a range of 9.5%-10.00%, resulting in a TRS budget of \$3,065,290 which is a budget line *increase* of \$93,663 or 3.15%. An historical analysis of TRS Employer Contribution Rates is included in section 10 in this book.

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Minimum Wage:

The minimum wage in New York State will increase from \$14.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour on December 31, 2021. This is the final year of the state authorized increases of \$1.00 each year to reach this new minimum wage level. Moving forward increases will be based on percentage increases determined by the Director of the Division of Budget, based on economic indices, including the Consumer Price Index. The change in the minimum wage affects substitute positions and clerical staff within the District.

Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)

The 2021 calendar year social security employer rate remains at 6.20%, with the maximum earnings cap increasing to \$142,800 for each employee. The Medicare employer rate remains at 1.45%, with no maximum salary level. FICA is budgeted at \$2,766,797 which represents an *increase* of \$107,921 or 4.06%.

Life Insurance is budgeted at \$28,000, which represents *no increase* from last year.

Disability Insurance is budgeted at \$30,300, which represents *no increase* from last year.

Unemployment Insurance is budgeted at \$200,000, which represents *an increase* from last year because of one-year staff appointments for positions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District is also projecting use of unemployment reserve funding of \$200,000 for 2021-22.

Health Insurance is budgeted at \$9,543,000, which represents a *decrease* of \$66,029 or -0.69%. Please note that this is the amount of premium costs for active and retired employees, net of employee and retiree contributions. The health insurance employee rate increased for the individual policies 4.17% and family policies by 2.71% as of January 1, 2021. This budget line also includes health insurance declination payments to employees and Medicare reimbursement for retirees.

Workers' Compensation is budgeted at \$400,000, which represents *no increase* from last year. The costs budgeted are based on open employee claims and NYS Workers' Compensation Board mandatory fees. The District is projecting use of Worker's Compensation reserve funding of \$15,460 for 2021-22.

Building Allocations

The building allocations for equipment, contractual, supplies, textbooks, furniture and furnishings, and library books are based on a per pupil basis using the projected enrollment for 2021-22. Per pupil allocations for the 2021-22 proposed budget were increased by 2% from the 2020-21 per pupil allocations.

The detailed analysis of enrollment and per pupil allocations may be reviewed in sections 8 and 9 respectively in this book.

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Enrollment

The following 2021-22 enrollment projection was derived using the cohort survival method and employing five-year average ratios. The cohort survival method is the most common method used to project enrollment and is the method required by the State Education Department when submitting projections for purposes of building aid.

This method is a form of trend analysis that is designed to account for the random inward and outward migration of students as they move from grade to grade and from year to year. The method does not account for non-random conditions such as, significant increases in the annual number of residential construction or re-sales, or a change in Board policy or administrative or instructional practice that either attracts or repels students. The accuracy of the method is dependent upon the identification and continuation of a stable trend.

The detail of the enrollment calculations may be reviewed in section 8 in this book. There are four scenarios incorporating the variables of three and five-year averaging, and kindergarten projections based on averaging and maximum prior year enrollment.

The projected 2021-22 student enrollment, without any adjustments for new construction or programmatic changes is as follows:

<i>School</i>	<i>Actual 2020-21</i>	<i>Projected 2021-22</i>
Andrew Muller Primary School	455	458
Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School	491	484
North Country Road Middle School	569	550
Miller Place High School	876	835
Out of District	116	125
Totals	2,507	2,452

Equipment & Supplies

Equipment and supplies district wide reflects a *decrease* of \$9,388 or -0.82%. The proposed budget continues the current funding for athletic uniforms and equipment. The specific analysis of equipment and supplies may be reviewed in section 6 in this book.

Contractual

A large variety of other contractual expenses have been *increased* and *decreased* district wide. Some of the more significant items are described below:

Debt Service reflects a *decrease* of \$4,163 or -0.11% due to the principal and interest payments on outstanding serial bonds and interest payments for the annual tax anticipation notes (TAN's). The Space Bond was refinanced in the 2019-20 school year saving the District approximately \$2.3 million dollars over the next 11 years. The debt service schedule for serial bonds is included in section 6 in this book.

Water is budgeted at \$14,500, which represents a *decrease* of \$15,000 or 50.85%.

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Electricity is budgeted at \$330,093, which represents no *increase* from last year based on projected usage.

LP Gas is budgeted at \$68,000, which represents no *increase* from last year based upon projected usage.

Heating Oil is budgeted at \$221,629, which represents no *increase* from last year based on projected usage.

Repair & Service – Maintenance is budgeted at \$150,500, which represents an *increase* of \$2,000 or 1.35% from last year.

Insurance is budgeted at \$415,000, which represents no increase from last year.

Postage is budgeted at \$35,500, which represents *no increase* from last year.

Textbooks are budgeted at \$215,499, which represents a *decrease* of \$205,909 or -48.86%. The District budgeted \$200,000 for 2020-21 to replace the Social Studies textbook (7-12). The District in future years will be replacing other textbook series to comply with new state curriculum requirements. The remaining funding is the budget line allocations which are based on per pupil allocations each year.

Therapists are budgeted at \$421,000, which represents a *decrease* of \$55,000 or -11.55%. This allocation is for the anticipated services for special education children as determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

Contractual-Special Education are budgeted at \$511,000, which represents no *increase*. This allocation is for the anticipated services for special education children as determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

BOCES is a cooperative agency, not a vendor. Increased participation generally has the effect of decreasing rates and vice-versa. The BOCES budget reflects a *decrease* of \$591,459 or -8.03%. Budgeted services include mandated student testing, occupational education, instructional technology, and special education student services. For your reference, a detailed analysis of the BOCES budget may be reviewed in section 6 in this book.

Instructional Software is budgeted at \$64,353, which represents a *decrease* of \$647 or -1.00%. This budget allocation will maintain existing software agreements.

Association Memberships are budgeted at \$55,356, which represents an *increase* of \$280 or 0.51%.

Conferences are budgeted at \$35,398, which represents an *increase* of \$1,104 or 3.22%.

Student participation fees are budgeted at \$24,503, which represents a decrease of \$107 or 0.43%. These budget line allocations are based on per pupil allocations.

Executive Summary 2021-22 cont'd.

The detailed analysis of the funding for contractual codes may be reviewed in section 6 in this book.

Transportation Services

Transportation services are budgeted at \$4,225,573 which reflects an *increase* of \$130,149 or 3.18% and is based on the District's contractual transportation rates.

Community Service

The function code community service is budgeted at \$50. The funding in this code is the direct result of various costs associated with responding to subpoenas for information from the U.S Department of Education, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Suffolk County Grand Jury, as well as other municipalities.

The History of funding Capital Projects is as follows:

- In prior years, the District made a commitment to fund capital projects at \$200,000 annually.
- During the 2002-03 budget development process, the funding was reduced by \$25,000 to \$175,000.
- During the 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 budget development processes, the funding was further reduced by \$75,000 to \$100,000.
- In 2006-07 the funding was reduced by another \$15,000 to \$85,000.
- In 2007-08 the funding was reduced by another \$38,500 to \$46,500.
- In years 2008-09 through 2010-11 funding remained at \$46,500.
- Inter-fund transfers for capital projects budget allocation was eliminated for the first time in the 2011-12 fiscal year.
- During the 2014-15 budget development process, the District resumed the Board's commitment by funding \$100,000 towards future capital projects.
- The District budgeted \$150,000 in 2015-16 to continue the Board's commitment towards funding future capital projects.
- The District budgeted \$250,000 for 2016-17 to continue the Board's commitment towards funding future capital projects.
- The District increased the funds budgeted to \$350,000 for 2017-18 to continue the Board's commitment towards funding future capital projects. The District was projected to receive additional state aid of \$180,000, which the Board applied to the Capital Fund bringing the 2017-18 total funding to \$530,000.
- The District budgeted \$530,000 for 2018-19 to continue the Board's commitment towards funding capital projects.
- The District budgeted \$352,335 for 2019-20 for Transfer to Capital fund line of \$280,000 and one-time addition of \$72,335 for anticipated state building aid for the AMPS playground equipment replacement/asbestos abatement project.

Executive Summary 2021-22 cont'd.

- The District budgeted for 2020-21 totals \$1,353,011 of funding as follows:
 - Transfer to Capital funding of \$352,335
 - Projected state building aid for 2019-20 school year of \$792,666 and projected state building aid for 2020-21 school year of \$208,010
 - The projected state aid above is due to the District being forced to undertake an emergency project at the Miller Place High School gym due to mercury vapor being discovered. NYSED Facilities Planning approved this project as an emergency project which was immediately undertaken in the 2018-19 school year and completed in the 2019-20 school year. This funding will go into unapplied fund balance if received by June 30, 2020 and then will be applied to Transfer to Capital budget line on July 1, 2020 due to the timing issue. Please note that these projections are based on the District's current state building aid ratio of 72.4% for capital projects.
- The Superintendent's budget proposal for 2021-22 totals \$352,335 to maintain funding for future capital projects.

Revenues

Under most or ordinary circumstances, revenues are not known at the time a proposed budget is developed; the budget process focuses mainly on expenditures rather than revenues. Please reference section 5 in this book for detailed analysis with reference to projected state aid and other revenues.

State Aid

As the Board of Education is aware, all projections relative to state aid are just that, projections. These projections are fluid; changing during the school year, after the fiscal year closes, and finally after actual expenditures have been audited and verified. Education Law requires a school district to conduct an annual audit following the close of each fiscal year, June 30th. Once the audit is completed, school districts are required to file several final annual cost reports with the State Education Department. The State report that affects state aid the greatest is the ST-3. The ST-3, in part, provides the State Aid Department with actual expenditure information, which in many cases, determines the subsequent year's actual state aid.

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, Education Law §3614—which was passed by the Legislature and became law as Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2018—requires school districts to “annually submit to the commissioner [of the State Education Department] and the director of the budget ... a detailed statement of the total funding allocation for each school in the district for the upcoming school budget year” in a “form developed by the director of the budget, in consultation with the commissioner [of the State Education Department].” The New York State School Funding Transparency Form is the outcome of this process. Based on existing financial information that school districts already report to the State Education Department on a district-wide basis, the form seeks to capture school districts' methodologies and/or rationales for school-level funding determinations, including funding from State, local, and federal sources. In addition, the form surveys school districts' projected centralized district costs, school-level student and staff information, school-level allocations for various programs, and—if applicable—school-level allocations under any locally implemented funding formula. The District was required to file this report for first time for the 2019-20 budget year and annually thereafter.

Executive Summary 2021-22 cont'd.

The Governor has proposed a reduction in state aid due to the pandemic and a new budget line to offset this reduction in Federal CARE ACT funding. This funding for each district is determined by the existing federal Title I formulas with some adjustment for average and low wealth districts. The District will need to apply for these funds. The Governor's proposal reflects a local district funding adjustment reduction which will be the lesser of STAR or the new federal aid (COVID-19) stimulus. The Governor has not requested changes in the formula for Public and Private High-Cost Excess Cost Aid and Building Aid.

The Governor has again proposed the consolidation of eleven (11) existing aid categories including Transportation Aid(including Summer), BOCES Aid, High Tax Aid, Supplemental Public Excess Cost Aid, Charter School Aid and four Instructional Materials Aids (library, textbook, software, and computer hardware) into a new Service Aid category in 2021-22. The aid categories would then effectively be eliminated after 2021-22. Going forward aids would not be expense driven and any increased spending would not directly generate additional aid in the following years. The new aid category would be implemented immediately and would effectively limit the predictability and potential growth of these collective aids if they had been allowed to continue running as individual categories.

The Governor has proposed multiple changes to the STAR program. The Governor is reflecting the STAR exemption as state aid instead of as a property owner exemption which has never been historically done since its inception. STAR historically has been a reduction to the final tax levy assessed on school district residents. The Governor also wants to require any property owner receiving a STAR exemption and wishing to switch from the basic STAR to the enhanced STAR to give up the exemption in favor of the STAR credit. This also requires any property owner switching from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit program to do so by May 1, 2021 in order to receive the credit on the current school year's tax bill. Those who do not make the change on time will receive the exemption for the current year, and any difference generated by the credit as a check. The current deadline is June 15, 2021.

The District is projected to receive Foundation Aid of \$14,090,960. Overall projected state aid for 2020-21 is projected at \$26,504,991 which includes STAR reimbursement of \$3,704,490 and one-time Federal CARES Restoration aid of \$2,302,297.

Revenue, Assessed Value and Tax Rate

Projections for tax rates are not being calculated as the District is subject to the Property Tax Levy Cap. This cap limits the funds a district can raise by taxes each year for instructional and non-instructional programs. The 2021-22 proposed budget is in compliance with this levy cap. The District has utilized the Governor's estimated state aid projection, and projected changes in other revenue sources to complete the budget.

Executive Summary 2021-22 cont'd.

Budget History

Over the past several years, the Board of Education and Administration have continued focusing on controlling costs. Prior year budget increases were as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Increase Over Prior Yr.</u>	<u>% Increase Over Prior Yr.</u>
1997-98	\$ 27,662,694	\$ 1,398,584	5.33%
1998-99	29,376,430	1,713,736	6.20
1999-00	31,076,397	1,699,967	5.79
2000-01	34,296,006	3,219,609	10.36
2001-02	37,515,646	3,219,640	9.39
2002-03	39,110,000	1,594,354	4.25
2003-04	42,892,713	3,782,713	9.67
2004-05	45,783,264	2,890,551	6.74
2005-06	49,588,475	3,805,211	8.31
2006-07	52,397,397	2,808,922	5.66
2007-08	55,583,183	3,185,786	6.08
2008-09	57,778,569	2,195,386	3.95
2009-10	60,085,085	2,306,516	3.99
2010-11	61,884,625	1,799,540	2.99
2011-12	64,252,252	2,367,627	3.83
2012-13	64,954,995	702,743	1.09
2013-14	67,320,399	2,365,404	3.64
2014-15	69,014,259	1,693,860	2.52
2015-16	70,006,880	992,621	1.44
2016-17	70,602,887	596,007	0.85
2017-18	71,190,675	587,788	0.83
2018-19	72,685,864	1,495,189	2.10
2019-20	73,958,607	1,272,743	1.75
2020-21	75,713,895	1,755,288	2.37
24 Year Average Increase		\$ 2,060,408	4.55%
Proposed 2021-22 Budget Increase		806,556	1.07%
25 Year Average Increase		\$ 2,010,254	4.41%

Reserve Funds

The proposed 2021-22 budget does not specifically allow for the additional funding of reserve funds that are desirable and necessary to the long-term financial health of the school district. Each year strong consideration should be given to the replenishment of any depleted reserve funds, to the establishment and specific funding of reserves for post-employment health benefits, and to the continued funding of compensated absences reserve.

Future Considerations

Capital Projects

During the 2019-20 school year, the District completed capital project work at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School including a playground blacktop top coating, asbestos abatement work and the reduced pressure zone (RPZ) replacement and during the 2020-21 school year, the District has completed capital project work at Andrew Muller Primary School including an ADA accessibility project, water reduced pressure zone (RPZ) replacement, and asbestos abatement work

The District has planned capital project work as follows:

- Miller Place High School – Replacement of the underground electric transformer to an above ground location, paving of the student parking lot, replacement of student courtyard due to replacement of the transformer, water reduced pressure zone (RPZ) replacement and some asbestos abatement work.
- The District request that the District architect and his assembled team complete a feasibility study to review different ventilation systems to potentially replace the current NYSED compliant systems. They are reviewing what systems are feasible and will be determining projected costs of each proposed system as part of the study. The Board will then have this information available for their reference.

The District anticipates additional capital project work, within the next two to three years, to include, but is not limited to: district-wide paving, minor district-wide asbestos removal, creating various points of entry and exit at the Miller Place High School, a boiler replacement at North Country Road Middle School, univent replacement, construction to support elementary and secondary instructional initiatives, and improvements to District fields and buildings. Other unanticipated projects may arise which would then be added to the project list, as needed.

Sustainability of Program Offerings Under the Property Tax Levy Cap

Most communities do not want tax relief to come at a devastating expense to their public school instructional and non-instructional programs. Many school districts may experience the financial pressure to use and over use reserve funds in order to maintain programs. Drawing down on reserve funds without replenishing them has the double negative impact of compromising the District's financial position, as well as using these "one shot revenues" that are not available in subsequent years causing undesirable spikes in the tax rate. The result will most likely be the further decrease of program offerings with an increase in property taxes.

Other Documents

In an effort to assist the Board of Education in the budget development process, the following analysis and information is provided in section 10 in this book:

- ❑ Additional Analysis
 - TRS Employer Contribution Rates
 - ERS Employer Contribution Rates
 - Consumer Price Index Data
- ❑ Library Data – Comsewogue and Port Jefferson Public Libraries
- ❑ Voting Results
 - Budgets
 - Bond Issues
- ❑ Brookhaven Town – School Tax Rates, 1990-2020
- ❑ Historical Data Analysis – 1982-2020
 - Financial Statements
 - State Aid
 - Budget vs. State Aid
 - Enrollment
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