



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday,
May 15, 2018
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Weldon E. Howitt
Middle School
East Gymnasium

50 Van Cott Avenue
Farmingdale

Voter parking will be available at the Van Cott Avenue parking lot. All voters are asked to enter through the Howitt Main Entrance by the flag pole.



The full budget is available in the public library, all District schools, and the District Clerk's office. It is also available on the District's website, farmingdaleschools.org.

A Message From Your Board of Education

In this edition of the *Our Schools* newsletter, you will find all the essential budget information you'll need to make an informed, educated decision when you go to the polls on May 15 and vote on Farmingdale School District's proposed 2018-2019 school budget. All relevant numbers, percentages and proposition information is located here, and we urge you to read them carefully. That's what is included herein; what isn't included in this newsletter is the *intrinsic* value of public education. You can't put a number on the importance of public education. It's priceless. Public education is a pillar of communities, it's woven into the fabric of towns, and it sets a strong foundation for the future of Farmingdale. Every individual who comprises the Farmingdale School District—every educator, staff member, coach or administrator—is unique and individual. But we all share at least one thing in common; we all take great pride in the opportunity we have to serve the community through public education.

Each year, the Farmingdale School District designs and proposes its annual school budget while making sure program decisions aren't negatively affected by outside influences, such as the economy or politics. Through diligent planning and a conservative budget approach, we have protected students from large-scale, budget-driven program changes. This year, the tax levy limit is set at 2.98 percent. We can deal with such a low increase in our budget due to years of support from the community and a conscientious approach to the budget design process.

As we have done with our annual budgets since the inception of the tax cap several years ago, we worked to develop the proposed 2018-2019 budget within the tax cap constraints set by Albany. We believe that, despite these constraints, we've been able to safeguard the academic excellence of the education you have come to expect your children will receive in the Farmingdale School District; year after year, our core values remain unchanged. That which characterizes our District—the innovation, creativity and academic excellence—will continue unabated. The quality of our academic programs and the arts, athletics and extracurricular activities your children participate in will continue next year and beyond. The dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff is unparalleled, and our students will continue making our community proud with their accomplishments.

The participation of parents and community members played a vital role in developing the proposed 2018-2019 budget, and we thank all of you who participated with us in this process. We urge all of you to stay actively involved with our schools and the education of your children. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Superintendent's office at 516-434-5100. Please review this newsletter carefully, visit the District's website for additional information, and come out and cast an informed vote on **Tuesday, May 15**. Your vote is your voice. We want to hear from all of you.

Sincerely,

The Farmingdale Board of Education

Michael Goldberg, *President* • Ralph Vincent Morales, *Vice President*
Trustees: Suzanne D'Amico • Mario Espinosa • Anthony Giordano • Kathy Lively • Arlene Soete



REVENUE

The District plans to maintain appropriated fund balance for the 2018-2019 school year from the current school year. Appropriated fund balance is used to help reduce the tax impact on residents and to fulfill the Board of Education's commitment to the community to stay at the tax levy cap determined by the state.

	Approved Budget 2017-2018	Proposed Budget 2018-2019	Change
State Aid	\$ 31,860,542	\$ 31,648,422	\$ (212,120)
Other Revenue	\$ 4,697,889	\$ 4,735,841	\$ 37,952
Appropriated			
Fund Balance	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 0
Tax Levy	\$ 120,240,900	\$ 123,823,161	\$ 3,582,261
Revenue Budget	\$ 162,299,331	\$ 165,707,424	\$ 3,408,093
Tax Levy % Increase	0.83%	2.98%	

The tax levy increase has been limited to 2.98%.

EXPENDITURES

Budget Increase Limited to 2.10%
Tax Levy Increase of 2.98%

Proposed Budget (2018-2019):	\$165,707,424
Approved Budget (2017-2018):	\$162,299,331
Increase:	\$3,408,093
Budget % Increase:	2.10%
Tax Levy % Increase:	2.98%

DID YOU KNOW

Over 100 Farmingdale student-musicians were selected to perform in the prestigious All-County Music Festival

One hundred sixteen Farmingdale students were selected to perform in the festival, held at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. This is one of the largest groups of Farmingdale students ever selected to perform. Students were chosen based on their scores in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Adjudication Festival and by teacher recommendations.

Two of Farmingdale's very best educators recently won prestigious awards

Dr. William Brennan, our Assistant to the Superintendent for Innovation, has won the prestigious Making IT Happen award and Dr. Samuel Thompson, Farmingdale High School Principal, has received the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award.

For the 26th consecutive season, the Farmingdale High School Varsity Teams have achieved scholar-athlete status

At the end of each season, the NYSPHAA honors those teams that excel in the classroom.

Both Farmingdale varsity volleyball squads were Nassau County Conference champions

The Varsity Girls' Volleyball team not only clinched the Class AA-2 Conference championship, but completed their season undefeated (16-0). The Varsity Boys' Volleyball team also captured the Conference A title with an incredible 12-1 record for the season.

Farmingdale students are participating in a landmark virtual reality program through Google

Albany Avenue Elementary School students were selected to participate in Google Expedition's new Augmented Reality (AR) core program. As part of the program, Google representatives connect Android phones with age-appropriate AR science learning programs to selfie sticks to let students look at the world from a new perspective.

Farmingdale High School Robotics Teams Competed at the 2018 VEX Robotics World Championship

The FHS Robotics teams took second place in the New York VEX Championships to qualify for the world championship, which is held annually in Louisville, Kentucky.

2018-2019 BALLOT

PROPOSITION I

Shall the following resolution be adopted:
RESOLVED: to adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2018-2019 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

PROPOSITION II

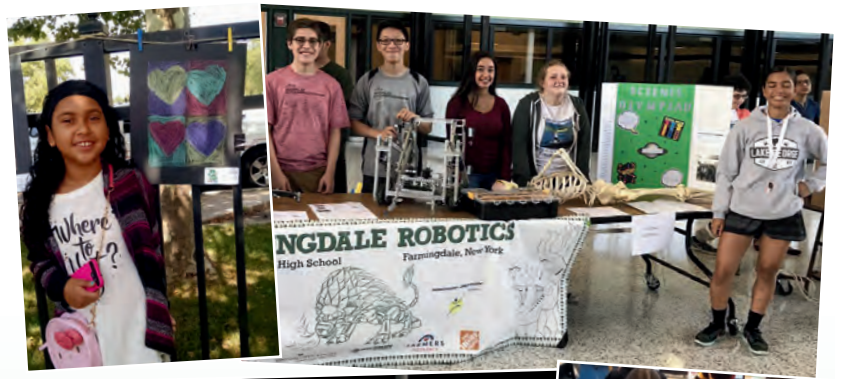
Shall the following resolution be adopted:
RESOLVED: that the Farmingdale Youth Council Appropriation for the fiscal year 2018-2019, as submitted, shall be approved and the requisite amount thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as members of the Board of Education for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2018, and expiring on June 30, 2021. You may vote a separate write-in candidate for each vacancy. You may not vote the same candidate for more than one vacancy.

VOTE FOR THREE (3):

Anthony Giordano • Kathy Lively
Korin Cloghessy • Ray Webb
Mario Espinosa



VOTER INFORMATION

A qualified voter is defined as:

- ❖ A citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age or over on the date of the election.
- ❖ A resident in the District for 30 days or more preceding the day of the vote.
- ❖ Those who are registered for either School District or general elections and have voted in a general or school election within the last four years may vote on this budget and in the Board trustee election.

Please note: If you have not voted in a general or School District election in the past four years, you must register to vote in this election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available. If you will be away or unable to be at the polls on Tuesday, May 15, please request an application for an absentee ballot from the District Clerk. After receipt of the application, the ballot will be sent. Note that individuals who are designated as “permanently disabled” by the Nassau County or Suffolk County Boards of Election will be sent an absentee ballot automatically. All absentee ballots must be filed with the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the election. If you have any questions regarding registration, eligibility to vote or absentee ballots, you may call Ms. Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk, at 516-434-5170.

ELECTRONIC VOTING BOOTHS

The District is required by law to use electronic polling stations. Residents should be familiar with this system of voting, as it has been in use throughout Nassau County during the November general elections for many years. Qualified voters will be provided with ballots, and privacy screens will be set up for confidential completion of voting decisions. A handicap-accessible AutoMark machine will also be available.



Farmingdale School District
 Administrative Offices
 50 Van Cott Avenue
 Farmingdale, New York 11735

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CONTINGENT BUDGET: WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EVENT OF A DEFEATED BUDGET?

If the budget does not pass, and the District must adopt a contingent budget, program and personnel cuts would be necessary. Reductions may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- ❖ Increased class size at the elementary level
- ❖ Reduced elective opportunities at the secondary level
- ❖ Reductions in athletic teams
- ❖ Reductions in musical performing groups
- ❖ Reductions in extracurricular activities
- ❖ Reductions in equipment
- ❖ Reductions in maintenance projects
- ❖ Reductions in support services

FARMINGDALE BUDGET Q&A

The state set the tax levy limit at 2%, yet our District has a tax levy limit of 2.98%. How is this possible?

Although there are numerous factors that impact an individual District’s tax levy limit, it is largely controlled by the current year’s Consumer Price Index. This year’s Consumer Price Index is 2.13%, therefore our District’s tax levy limit is 2.98%. The District has provided a budget for the community’s consideration that is within this year’s tax levy limit.

Are there any program reductions in this year’s budget?

No. As a result of sound financial planning, no program reductions are planned for 2018-2019.

Does Bond 2016 increase the tax levy?

No! Bond 2016 does not impact the 2018-2019 tax levy.

When it Comes to School Spirit, No One Beats Farmingdale High School on Long Island

The Dalers of Farmingdale High School have won the 2018 Bethpage Best of Long Island “Best High School Spirit” award! The school will now be prominently featured on bestoflongisland.com and in the Bethpage Best of Long Island 2018 Winner’s Guide, which is widely distributed across Long Island. While those of us in the District have seen firsthand for years the enthusiasm and energy of FHS students, we are very excited that the rest of Long Island will now get to see a little bit of that passion as well. “As educators, coaches and mentors, we try to instill a sense of pride, integrity and sportsmanship in our students,” said Farmingdale Superintendent John Lorentz. “We are honored that the rest of Long Island recognizes the character and spirit of our students.”