

Dear Beacon Community:

I am very excited to share some details about the 2023-2024 budget. This budget supports all of our students and helps us move in exciting directions as a district.

Upcoming Budget Information Opportunities:

Monday, May 8 at 7:00 pm, Beacon High School the budget hearing will take place at the BCSD Board of Education meeting.

Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 pm we will host a Zoom webinar on the budget. We will post the link next week. Viewers can submit questions and it will be recorded and posted to Youtube. Click here for more budget information: <https://www.beaconk12.org/domain/583>.

Budget Vote

May 16, 2023 6:00am-9:00pm at Beacon High School for City of Beacon Residents and Glenham Elementary for Town of Fishkill and Town of Wappinger Residents

Proposition #1

This proposition proposes a budget of \$81,340,700 and allows us to levy the necessary tax. It is a 3.48% increase over the previous year's budget, and the levy increase is 3.61%. The 2023-2024 budget maintains all of the gains we have achieved in the past few years: small class sizes, instrumental music beginning in 4th grade, an expansion of full-day pre-k, Italian as a second world language, expanded course offerings at the high school, and robust offerings of extracurricular activities for our students.

We are also adding positions for the 2023-2024 school year. A full-time social worker will join the mental health team at Rombout Middle School. We are also adding a full-time world language teacher at Rombout to reduce class size and allow us to grow the program for Italian as a second world language. We are adding a half-time music teacher at Rombout to further strengthen the program. We are also adding a full-time pre-k teacher so we can offer six full-time pre-k classes. In addition to these new positions, we are using federal monies to fund support staff for our academic interventions in elementary schools and the middle school.

Proposition #2

This proposition allows us to issue bonds of up to \$530,000 to purchase vehicles for our bus fleet. We would purchase four buses: three seventy-two passenger buses, and one school bus van.

Proposition #3

This proposition will allow us to purchase an electric-powered school bus for up to \$466,000, but only if we subsidize the cost with grants of up to \$250,000. We have a team of people working on developing our infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Proposition #4

This proposition will allow us to bus students who live more than 1 mile from their home school. Currently, we offer bussing for students who live 1.5 miles from their school. Our estimated budget impact for this proposition is around \$10,000.

Board of Education Member Election

The following people – Anthony White, Kristan Flynn, Eric Schetter, and Semra Ercin – are running for three three-year terms commencing July 1, 2023, and expiring June 20, 2026, and a one two-year term commencing May 16, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Landahl