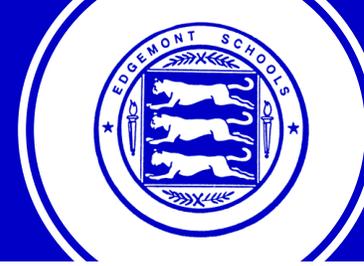


BUDGET PROPOSAL 2021-2022

Edgemont School District

May 2021

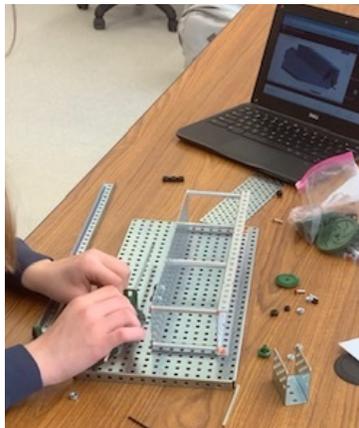
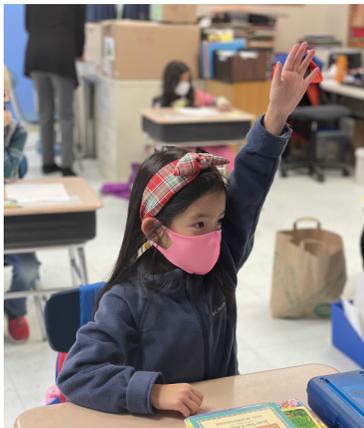


Dear Members of the Edgemont Community,

The Board of Education is submitting to the voters a \$65,251,389 budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The anticipated tax-rate increase is 2.21% with a projected budget-to-budget increase of 2.47%. The proposed budget was developed with attention to significant unknowns, including future pandemic-related health and safety guidelines and state aid cuts, as well as concern for the current financial stress for taxpayers. Based on how the state's tax cap is calculated, this budget is at the tax cap.*

Despite staying within the tax cap, why have a tax rate increase at all in such an economically challenging time? Over 77% of this budget covers salary and benefits for personnel - faculty, teaching aides, custodians, administrators and support staff. They work as a team to create Edgemont's excellent education, and this past year has demonstrated the vital role they all have in that mission. The vast majority of the overall increase comes from compensation and special education. There are essentially no increases in the areas in which the Board has discretion. **If all of the educationally necessary and legally mandatory expenses, which constitute 97.3% of the budget (salaries, benefits, special education, support services, transportation, legal, audit, insurance, debt service) are excluded, the overall increase for all remaining expenses (\$41,914) amounts to a bare 0.064% of the total budget.**

The Board of Education believes the adopted budget preserves the core values that distinguish an Edgemont education in a fiscally responsible manner. If we were to hold the tax rate flat, we would be effectively instituting an austerity budget, which would require cuts that would dramatically devalue the education our students receive.



What are the main drivers of this budget? As mandated by NYS, we must expand program requirements in science, technology, arts and math in order to teach problem solving in real-world contexts. The budget maintains existing academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs. Health and safety priorities are included in the facilities plan. The pandemic has changed the way we educate our students, both physically and academically. The state has not yet issued its requirements for the coming year, but the decisions to be made have the potential to impact our classrooms and all programming. Professional development for our educators to adapt to these changes is essential.

If the community does not approve the proposed budget on May 18th and subsequently fails to support a second attempt by June 30th, a contingency budget automatically goes into effect. If this were to occur, the budget would need to be reduced by \$1,005,828 to ensure that property taxes collected in 2021-2022 would be no more than what was collected this current year. To do so, cuts would need to be made to personnel (increasing class size), programs and athletics.

The 2021-2022 budget presentations can be found on the district's website (www.edgemont.org). For questions about the budget, please contact Bryan Paul, Assistant Superintendent, at (914) 472-7767 or bpaul@edgemont.org; Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent, at (914) 472-7768 or vkniewel@edgemont.org; or the Board of Education at boe@edgemont.org.

The budget vote, the bond votes and the election of candidates for the Board of Education will take place **at the EHS Jim San Marco gymnasium, from 6 am to 9 pm, on May 18, 2021.**

Sincerely,

The Edgemont Board of Education

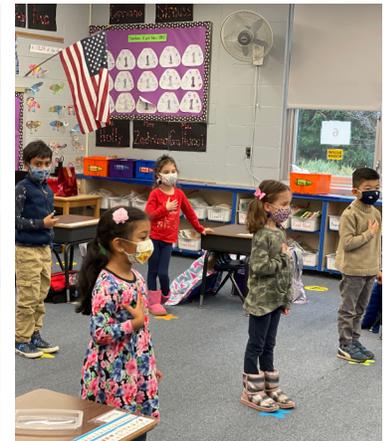
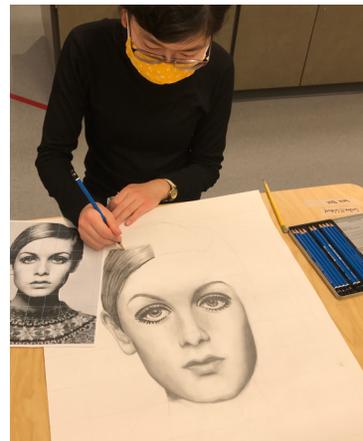
**Although commonly known as the 2% tax cap, the cap is based on a calculation that excludes debt service and capital expenses, and is based on the rate of inflation and a state calculated tax-base growth rate. In addition, changes to Edgemont's total property assessment (not published until September 2021) will affect the tax rate.*

BUDGET BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	2020-2021 BUDGET	2021-2022 PROPOSAL
Salary	\$34,138,904	\$34,948,002
Health Insurance	\$7,020,455	\$7,165,718
Other Benefits	\$1,094,197	\$1,113,206
Retirement	\$3,730,743	\$3,826,001
Medicare	\$591,479	\$639,467
Social Security	\$2,597,956	\$2,751,535
PERSONNEL TOTAL	\$49,173,734	\$50,443,929
Debt Service	\$2,536,424	\$2,554,327
Out-of-District Education	\$2,007,640	\$2,534,886
Supplies/Textbooks	\$577,948	\$547,728
Buildings/Grounds	\$1,078,675	\$1,020,425
Equip/Repairs/Contracts	\$1,685,263	\$1,588,543
BOCES, Misc. Expenses	\$584,718	\$612,787
Interscholastic Athletics	\$1,190,815	\$1,196,091
Transportation	\$1,072,700	\$710,200
Oil/Gas/Electric	\$608,000	\$608,000
Consultants	\$105,320	\$127,720
Legal/Audit/Insurance	\$583,630	\$663,180
Co-Curricular Activities	\$454,388	\$425,856
Certiorari	\$250,000	\$250,000
Prof. Development	\$130,565	\$129,429
Technology	\$987,261	\$1,088,288
Transfer to Capital	\$650,000	\$750,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$63,677,081	\$65,251,389

PRELIMINARY REVENUE AND TAX-RATE PROJECTIONS

REVENUE SOURCE	2020-2021 BUDGET	2021-2022 PROPOSAL
State Aid	\$4,695,456	\$5,097,754
Sales Tax	\$500,000	\$650,000
Interests on Investments	\$180,000	\$45,000
Additional Revenues	\$310,000	\$200,000
Tuition	\$310,000	\$250,000
Tuition (Other Districts)	\$380,000	\$250,000
Gifts	\$38,333	\$38,333
Appropriated Fund Balance TRS	\$450,000	\$160,000
Appropriated Fund Balance ERS	\$835,000	\$606,182
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,000,000	\$1,970,000
Property Taxes	\$55,978,292	\$55,984,120
TOTAL BUDGET	\$63,677,081	\$65,251,389
Actual Assessment	\$2,668,735,160	\$2,656,375,975
Estimated % Increase in Tax Rate	2.90%	2.21%
% Budget-to-Budget Increase	3.75%	2.47%



2021-2022 BUDGET Q&A

Q How is the vote going to occur this year in light of ongoing COVID-19 protocols?

A An in-person vote is scheduled to take place on May 18, 2021. For those community members unable to vote in person, absentee ballots are available (see the back page of this newsletter for additional information).

Q Were any programs or services reduced or discontinued in the proposed budget?

A No. This budget maintains all current academic and co-curricular programs.

Q What additions does the proposed budget include?

A This budget includes additional resources allocated to curriculum development and instructional practice through targeted work with consultants, including work in the areas of elementary Reading and Writing Workshop models, Math in Focus, diversity, equity and inclusion, and problem-based learning. It also includes 50 Promethean panels to outfit all classrooms that do not currently have them. Funding for new Chromebooks and upgrades to existing ones are included to meet the increasing demands of a technology-infused learning environment. It also includes two new full-time teaching positions to meet projected enrollment needs while providing the flexibility necessary to shift with the changing needs of a complete reopening plan.

Q How does this budget proposal take into account the many unknowns, financial and otherwise, that the pandemic has presented?

A The Board of Education and administrators are acutely aware of the enormous toll the pandemic has taken on families, and the uncertainty the future holds. This budget represents the district's thoughtful consideration of various opening scenarios for Fall 2021, the community's economic needs, and the shared goal of providing every student with a robust, rewarding Edgemont education.

Q How does the bond vote differ from the budget vote?

A While both votes will occur on the same day, they are authorizing two different things. The Budget Vote is the annual vote on the proposed operational budget for the 2021-22 school year. The Bond Vote is a two-part vote on a large-scale capital projects plan, designed to address the larger capital needs of the district, and set to begin in 2023. For more about the Bond Vote, please see the included flyer and visit the Edgemont Bond website (www.edgemont.org/bond).

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 63,677,081	\$ 65,251,389	\$ 64,306,307
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 1,574,308	\$ 629,226
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.47 %	0.99 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 54,978,292	\$ 55,984,120	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 54,978,292	\$ 55,984,120	\$ 54,978,292
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,109,967	\$ 2,170,546	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 53,407,674	\$ 53,813,574	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 52,868,325	\$ 53,813,574	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 539,349	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 6,738,859	\$ 7,103,038	\$ 6,805,449
Program Component	\$ 47,504,354	\$ 48,415,080	\$ 47,767,580
Capital Component	\$ 8,783,868	\$ 8,983,271	\$ 8,983,271
* Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the district would be required to cut \$1,005,828 from the proposed budget. The Board of Education would be forced to eliminate some combination of administrative positions, teaching positions, teacher aides, support staff, interscholastic athletics, and student activities. In addition, community use of buildings and grounds, all contingency equipment and furniture, conference and travel expenses, and memberships in professional organizations would need to be eliminated.			

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 1,646

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Edgemont Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, in the Jim San Marco Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

EDGEMONT BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDGEMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 White Oak Lane
Scarsdale, NY 10583
www.edgemont.org

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Nilesh Jain
Pamela Montgomery
Monica Sganga

Victoria S. Kniewel, SUPERINTENDENT
Bryan A. Paul, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT
Rosemary DeVito, DISTRICT CLERK

VOTE MAY 18 EHS GYM 6 am - 9 pm

BUDGET DETAILS INSIDE

VOTER INFORMATION

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

DAILY, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

District Office (Edgemont High School Campus)

Absentee Ballots are available in the District Office (Edgemont High School campus), from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, beginning April 21. If a voter would like an absentee ballot mailed directly to him/her, the application for the absentee ballot must be received in the District Office no earlier than April 19, 2021, and no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. If an absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter, it must be picked up from the District Office no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, May 17, 2021. All executed absentee ballots must be received in the District Office no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

VOTER REGISTRATION

To be a qualified voter, you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old by May 18, 2021, and a School District resident for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election. If you are not registered, or if you have not voted in the School District election or general election in the past four calendar years, you must register to vote with the County Board of Elections.

To accommodate Edgemont residents who meet the aforementioned state-mandated eligibility requirements, the district will hold voter registration on May 10, 2021, between 3:00-7:00 pm at the District Office (EHS Campus). Proof of residency and proof of date of birth are required for in-person registration. Residents of Edgemont who wish to register at other dates/times must do so by going to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street in White Plains, or call 914-995-5700.

