

From the Superintendent

Dear Pearl River School Community,

The annual process of preparing a budget for the next school year, even in the best of times presents challenges. Increased levels of state aid and economic prosperity can create opportunities for limited growth and perhaps an exciting new program to offer. In those years, the challenging question is which program, or resource will we pursue? This year's budget development has presented a very different kind of challenge. Given the prospect of reductions in state aid and the general economic outlook, we have taken a very conservative approach in our budget development process and have made provisions for the preservation of our existing programs, and valuable initiatives, even if the potential reductions in aid come to pass. Taking this approach, we can look forward to a future that allows us to continue our forward progress from a foundation that remains solid.

The school district budget we have prepared for the 2020-2021 school year aligns with the District's Mission, that all students can and will learn, as well as the District's core values: fiscal responsibility, improving student achievement, and improving the public's perception. The budget meets all state mandates, maintains the district's valuable student programs, and it makes possible critical professional development for our staff so that we remain current with changes in curriculum and new learning standards. This budget supports the continuation of technology that, as we now know more than ever before, is critical to the continuation of learning and teaching.

Proposition 2 will allow the district to complete the Capital Projects as envisioned in 2017 during the next phase that will transform the interiors of Pearl River High School and Middle School. Once realized, the designs for the library media center, science labs, music and art wings, will offer remarkable 21st Century learning environments for our students, and future classes of Pearl River High School. Pearl River Middle School will see a new secure vestibule entrance, full-scale expansion of music classrooms, a redesigned health office and guidance counseling suite, as well as the expansion of the gymnasium with handicapped accessibility.

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

I urge all Pearl River residents to exercise your right to vote and submit your ballot by 5 PM, June 9, 2020. Please visit our website or contact Jennifer Braunagel, District Clerk, at 620-3924 for more information. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Marco Pochintesta



Congratulations to
PRHS Class of 2020
Valedictorian,
Rachel Ding
and
PRHS Class of 2020
Salutatorian,
James McAllister!



Pearl River School District
Budget and Bond Vote, Board of Education Election
Pearl River Library Budget Vote, and Library Trustee Election
All voting via absentee ballot
Ballots due by 5 PM, Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Budget Highlights

2020-21 Proposed School Budget: \$70,992,208

2020-21 Proposed School Budget to Budget increase: 2.53%

2020-21 School Tax Levy Increase: 2.82%

The Proposed Tax Levy increase of 2.82% is Equal to the NYS Property Tax Cap Allowed.

Estimated School Tax Rate Increase for Homeowners: approximately 2.77%

Estimated School Tax Rate Increase for Non-Homestead: approximately 2.24%

Important Note: Tax rates are estimates only and may change due to adjustments in total assessments and base proportion allocations between homestead and non-homestead properties which are not finalized until August.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 69,240,850	\$ 70,992,208	\$ 69,404,503
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ 1,751,358	\$ 163,653
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.53 %	0.23%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 56,215,715	\$ 57,803,420	
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)	\$ 56,215,715	\$ 57,803,420	\$ 56,215,715
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 642,022	\$ 808,739	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 55,573,693	\$ 56,994,681	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 55,573,693	\$ 56,994,681	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,355,847	\$ 5,604,329	\$ 5,428,878
Program Component	\$ 55,195,865	\$ 57,011,319	\$ 56,091,681
Capital Component	\$ 8,689,137	\$ 8,376,560	\$ 7,883,944
* Provide a statement of assumption made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
The contingency budget requires that the 2020-21 tax levy be no greater than the previous year’s levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling \$1,587,705 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.			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
		Description	Amount
		Proposition #2 – Supplemental Capital Bond	\$ 7,000,000
			Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings (authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law)			\$ 1,095

For more info, please visit: https://www.pearlriver.org/school_budget_vote_202021.

Proposition 2– Supplemental Bond

This year on the PRSD School Budget and BOE Election ballot, voters will be asked to vote on a Supplemental Bond not to exceed \$7 million dollars in order to complete the District's Capital Improvement Projects. The original bond was overwhelmingly approved by voters in May 2017.

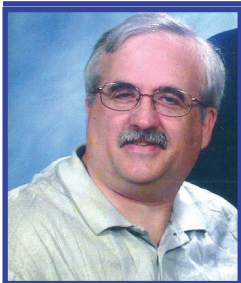
The High School and Middle School Capital Projects are scheduled for the Summer of 2020 thru Summer 2021, however both projects cannot be completed as planned with the current amount of funding. The reasons are straightforward as to why this shortfall occurred, despite already having cost escalations built into the budget that was approved in 2017. The highly competitive regional construction market has resulted in much higher bids. A growing number of school districts are being confronted by the same economic forces across our region. We are acting on this now to avoid the prospect of further price escalation.

The decision to place before the community a proposition for an additional \$7 million bond was not an easy one. Other options were considered, including not completing all of the planned projects, and putting the remaining projects out for bid again. This would have delayed the start of any of the projects being completed this summer and may have resulted in higher costs. The District and Board decided to move ahead with a proposition on the ballot for the full amount to complete all of the projects based upon the feedback they received.

Projects scheduled to be completed: MS– Secure vestibule entrance, music and gymnasium additions with ADA compliance, renovation of 5 classrooms. HS: science wing renovation, renovation of library media research center, music wing renovation, new math classrooms, art room addition and renovation of technology room, boiler room upgrades, locker room roof replacement, and a new staircase to ease congestion.

Board of Education Elections

There is one seat up for election, currently held by Thomas DePrisco. Mr. DePrisco is not seeking re-election. The term of office is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.



Eric Foote
Residence and Family: Over 30-year district resident, currently on Oldert Drive

with wife, Lynn. Children Justin, Evan and Corinne are all graduates of Pearl River High School.

Education: Bachelor of Engineering, SUNY Maritime College.

Career: Senior Facilities Consultant at CFS Facilities Management; Senior Plant Engineer at Pfizer; Operations & Maintenance Manager at Wyeth.

Community Involvement: Cub Scout Pack Leader; Assistant Scout Master; Lay Leader and Eucharistic Minister at St. Stephen's Church; Member of Admiral's Scholarship Dinner Committee at SUNY Maritime College.

Mission: "I believe that my experience as an engineer, manager and consultant can be a positive value for the Pearl River School District. I have also had training and experience dealing with personnel, contractors and government agencies."



Daniel Hooker
Residence and Family: 12-year district resident, currently on Montgomery Road with wife, Tara, and two children. Daniel is a 9th grader and

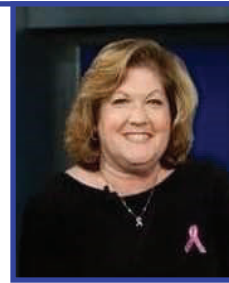
Erin is an 8th grader at PRHS.

Education: BS, Communications from Cornell University; MBA/Graduate Certification in Not for Profit Management from the College of Saint Rose; MA in Religious Education from Fordham University; Ed.D. ABD in Education Leadership, Management, and Policy from Seton Hall University.

Career: Marine Corps Officer; Insurance Executive; New York State Assemblyman 2003-2006; Executive Director of a charity; Knights of Columbus Agent; North Rockland High School teacher of NJROTC/Naval Science 2014-present.

Community Involvement: Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Margaret's Church; American Legion; Ancient Order of Hibernians; Marine Corps League; Vice Chair of the Rockland District of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mission: "I would like to use my experience as a State Assemblyman, a business person, and as a public school teacher to benefit the district. My three graduate degrees and my classroom experience make me well-qualified to serve my neighbors on the board."



Kathleen Ann Kelley
Residence and Family: 20-year district resident, currently on Van Buren Street with husband, Michael having raised four children. Michael is a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas College;

Shaun is a graduate of SUNY Cortland, with a Masters from SUNY Utica; Brian is a graduate of Rider University; Meaghan is in 10th grade at PRHS.

Education: BE from Steven's Institute of Technology; Diploma RN from Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing; BSN Bridge, MSN, and Doctor of Nursing from Loyola University.

Career: Consultant at Anderson Consulting; Registered Nurse at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center; Professor of Nursing and Director of Undergraduate Nursing Education at Caldwell University.

Community Involvement: Stop Annelotech movement; Class Parent at Lincoln Avenue; Career Day presenter to PRMS; Honor's Science Guest Lecturer at PRHS; Moderator - PR Parents at Play Facebook page.

Mission: "I am excited to share my experience and knowledge with the Pearl River School District, both as a parent and an educator. I am a passionate advocate for children and their right to an education. I also advocate for the rights of an educator. I have experience in curriculum design and evaluation."

2020-21 Budget Vote Information

**The Pearl River School District 2020 Annual Meeting
for School Budget Vote, School Board Election,
Public Library Budget Vote and Library Trustee**
All registered voters will receive an absentee ballot in the mail.
All ballots must be received by 5 PM, Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Pearl River School District

Proposition 1: Total Budget: \$70,992,208

**Proposition 2: Supplemental Capital Bond
not to exceed \$7,000,000**

School Board Election (vote for one):

Eric Foote Daniel Hooker Kathleen Ann Kelley

Complete Detail School Budget Information can be found
on the website at:

https://www.pearlriver.org/school_budget_vote_202021



Proposed Budget Preserves & Advances Instructional Programs

- Continued implementation of next generation standards in all subjects;
- Continued Implementation of the Science 21 Program in grades K-5;
- Continued support of 1:1 Chromebook initiative;
- Commencement of K-7 Reading Workshop model;
- Maintains continuum of special education services;
- Maintains 72 athletic teams (varsity, JV, modified, and intramurals);
- Maintains extra-curricular clubs at all schools; and
- Maintains adult enrichment program for community and senior citizens.

Highlights of the PRHS Class of 2019:

- PRHS ranked highest in Rockland County according to US News and World Report
- 99% earned a Regents Diploma
- 65% earned an Advanced Regents diploma
- 95% of special education students earned a Regents/Advanced Regents diploma
- 97% continued on to college, university, or technical school
- 6 students earned a Seal of Biliteracy
- 307 advanced placement (AP) exams were taken by Class of 2019 with 83% scoring a "3" or higher; 34 AP Scholars
- Four seniors were named Journal News Scholar Athletes of the Week
- 23 out of 27 varsity teams were named NYS Scholar Athlete Teams

Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, NY 10965
845-620-3900
www.pearlriver.org

Superintendent
Dr. Marco Pochintesta

2019-20 Board of Education
Thomas DePrisco, President
Robert Davis, Vice President
Bruce Bond
Jackie Dubil Craig
Christine Reddy

Editor
Diana Musich



POSTAL PATRON

Non-Profit
US Postage
Permit No. 6203
Monsey, NY
10952

Follow us on

