



# PEARL RIVER

## SCHOOL DISTRICT - BUDGET REPORT

135 West Crooked Hill Road  
Pearl River, New York 10965  
(845) 620-3900  
[www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org)

## Message from the Superintendent

**MARCO POCHINTESTA**

This year, the community will have two propositions to consider. Both have long reaching impacts to the future of the District. The two propositions that are subject to voter approval are the annual school budget, and a bond proposition that has been under development for nearly a year.

The school budget continues to support and advance the academic program of the schools in a manner that is consistent with the District's values of fiscal responsibility and sustainable growth. The proposed budget remains below the tax cap and maintains all current services and programs without any reductions.

Within the proposed budget, community members will see the following new or expanded items: 2 special education teachers, 3 teaching assistants (FA Maker Space, HS computer lab, elementary special education class), a .4FTE increase to the elementary library media specialist position making that position full time, a .2FTE teacher position to allow for an accelerated 6th grade math program. Additional expenditures will allow for additional clubs at the high school including robotics and debate club, two new athletic teams, girls golf and JV cheerleading, and \$30,000 for additional technology at the middle school.

The second proposition on the ballot is the approval of a Capital Improvements Bond. We have seen the changes in learning standards over the years and the art and science of teaching has had to change to keep pace. Our educators have innovated and adapted, doing their best to prepare students for a rapidly changing world. The bond proposition brings innovation and adaption consistent with 21st Century skills, the 4C's, to key learning environments such as the PRHS library media center, science and technology wing, fine and performing arts wing, and the PRMS music wing and expanded gymnasium. Safety and security are the priority focus of the infrastructure projects. Upgrades to front entrances of elementary schools and the middle school to make them more secure, at all schools replacement of outdated HVAC equipment, roof repairs, and additional emergency lighting at the high school are part of the infrastructure portion of the bond proposition. The bond proposal also includes a new multipurpose synthetic turf field with lights, repaved track and tennis courts, handicapped accessibility to the main field, and restrooms.

For more information on the budget and detailed explanations of the proposed capital projects, please visit our website at [www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org) and click on the 2017-18 School Budget and Capital Improvement Bond Proposal link in the left column.

I urge all Pearl River residents to exercise their right to vote on May 16th at PRHS Pirate Cove. Polls are open from 7 AM to 9 PM. Any district resident who is eligible to vote but unable to get to the polls on that day can contact Mary Flanagan, District Clerk, at 620-3924 for an absentee ballot. Thank you for your support.

Congratulations to  
PRHS Class of 2017  
Valedictorian,  
Maria Bohan (l.) and  
PRHS Class of 2017  
Salutatorian,  
Katie Owens (r.)



### Proposition 2: Capital Improvements Bond

On Tuesday, May 16th, there will be a second proposition put before the voters of the Pearl River School District for capital improvement projects. The district is seeking voter approval to spend \$32,182,000 million on numerous projects throughout the Pearl River School District. The scope of work spans all school buildings and our athletic fields. These plans not only address the infrastructure needs of maintaining buildings that are over 50 years old in a safe and energy-efficient manner, but also meets the teaching and learning needs of our students and staff through improvements and upgrades to learning environments.

The total cost for what is being proposed is \$32,182,000. The district currently has \$3,182,000 in a capital improvements reserve line which would reduce the bond to \$29,000,000. The district would receive 39% of the total cost of approved projects via State Building Aid funds. We have estimated that over the next 23 years district taxpayers will see an increase of \$49.05 annually for a home assessed at \$200,000 for this comprehensive capital projects bond.

Under New York State law, voter approval is required for capital improvement expenditures and will appear as Proposition 2 on the ballot on May 16th.

See page 4 to read Proposition 2 as it will appear on the ballot.

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## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 64,584,721	\$65,880,252	\$65,700,789
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$1,295,531	\$1,116,168
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.01 %	1.73%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$52,910,660	\$53,917,311	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$52,910,660	\$53,917,311	1,006,651
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$	\$	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$	\$	
Administrative Component	\$7,297,612	\$7,351,730	\$7,297,612
Program Component	\$49,049,313	\$50,145,381	\$50,145,381
Capital Component	\$8,237,796	\$8,383,141	\$8,257,796

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$1,205.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Pearl River school district, Rockland County, New York, will be held at Pearl River High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 am prevailing time OR between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the High School, 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.

## Voting Day

### Tuesday • May 16th • 7AM to 9PM • PRHS Pirate Cove

#### Who May Vote:

To vote in a PRSD Budget Vote and Board Election, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote,
- A citizen of the United States,
- A resident of the Pearl River School District for at least 30 days prior to the day of the vote,
- Registered to vote.
- Anyone who has voted in a general or school election since 2013 and who meets the above criteria is automatically eligible.

#### Where To Vote:

**All voters now vote in ONE POLLING PLACE:**  
**Pearl River High School - Pirate Cove**  
**275 East Central Avenue**

Take first entrance onto campus and follow drive all the way around building to gym/cafeteria entrance. See sign for Pirate Cove on right side of building.

#### Absentee Ballots:

Absentee ballots may be obtained at the office of the district clerk, located in the PRSD Administrative Offices, 135 West Crooked Hill Road, Pearl River. Requests for ballots to be mailed to the voter must be received at least seven days prior to the election. Ballots being picked up personally must be picked up by the day before the election. Absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5PM on May 16, 2017 in order to be included in the vote count.

#### Questions?

Contact Mary Flanagan, the district clerk, at 620-3924 or flanaganm@pearlriver.org

# Budget Highlights

## Total Proposed Budget: \$65,880,252

## Projected Tax Rate Increase for Homeowners of 1.75%

*Final tax rates could change based upon total assessments in August*

### Expands/Maintains Academic Programs:

- Adds 2 special education teachers at the elementary level
- Increases part-time elementary library media specialist to full time
- Adds .2 FTE support for a 6th grade accelerated math class
- Adds 3 teaching assistants to support FA Maker Space, HS computer lab, and elementary special education class
- Continues to protect class sizes at the elementary level and protects core courses at PRMS and PRHS
- Adds new electives to HS- Women in History and the Philosophy of Ethics
- Maintains continuum of special education services

### Class of 2016

**96% Regents diploma**

**76% Advanced Regents diploma**

### Revenue Highlights:

Includes a small increase in state aid based on prescribed Foundation Aid calculations. District will also allocate \$245,000 of reserves to cover the spending plan.

### Expands/Maintains Other Student and Community Programs:

- Adds JV Cheerleading and Girls golf
- Maintains 69 athletic teams (varsity, JV, modified, and intramurals)
- Additional funding for clubs at the HS such as robotics and debate
- Additional funding for technology at the middle school
- Maintains 30 extra-curricular clubs at PRHS and 16 at PRMS
- Adult education program including programs for senior citizens

### Expense Management:

Overall spending increase of 2.01%, a total of \$1,295,491. Included in this total is an increase of \$200,000 in planned capital work related to the Building Conditions Survey.

### What Will it All Cost?

For a home assessed at \$200,000 (Orangetown is on partial assessment), the projected tax increase is 1.75% per year. *Final tax rates could change based upon total assessments in August.*

Complete details are available at [www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org).

## 2017 School Board Election

There is one seat up for election, that is currently held by Thomas DePrisco. Mr. DePrisco is seeking re-election and is running unopposed. The term of office is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.



### Thomas DePrisco

**Residence and Family:** 13 year district resident, currently on Quake Lane with his wife, Lorraine and his nephew, Nicholas, age 20, who is a student at the University at Buffalo.

**Education:** BA in political science and elementary education from Hunter College; MS in special education from Hunter College.

**Career:** Former tenured NYC public school teacher; Retired Captain from the New York Police Department where he served for 20 years including as commanding officer of several commands; Former Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the NYC Office of Emergency Management where he was responsible for the coordination of multi-agency resources at all major incidents/emergencies occurring within NYC; Substitute teacher, primarily within special education programs, at various Rockland County school districts.

**Community Involvement:** PRSD board member since July 2008; Vice-President of the PRSD Board of Education since 2013; Rockland County BOCES board member representing PRSD from 2009-2012 and 2015 to present; Rockland County School Boards Association (RCSBA) executive board member since July 2013; Vice-President of RCSBA since 2015; St. Aedan's Parish lector and CCD teacher; Member of the PRHS PTSA; Chairperson of the Archdiocese of New York "Making All Things New" strategic planning initiative for Cluster #58, encompassing six Orangetown parishes including St. Aedan's and St. Margaret's; Mr. DePrisco ran for NYS Senate in 2016.

**Mission:** "I have successfully served our community as a member of the Pearl River Board of Education for the past nine years. I am dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of the educational programs available to our students while remaining vigilant and fiscally prudent on behalf of all taxpayers. I will continue to remain accessible and supportive to parents and all community members regarding their concerns. I wish to ensure that the Pearl River School District community remains affordable for all our citizens now and in the future."



*Pearl River School District*

135 West Crooked Hill Road  
 Pearl River, NY 10965  
[www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org)

2016-17 Board of Education  
 Jackie Curtiss, President  
 Thomas DePrisco, Vice President  
 Bruce Bond  
 Robert Davis  
 Christine Reddy

Superintendent  
 Marco Pochintesta

Editor  
 Diana Musich, Assistant Superintendent for  
 Human Resources and Community Services

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

*Postal Customer Local***2017-2018 Budget Vote Facts-at-a-Glance**

**Proposition 1: Total Budget: \$ 65,880,252**

**Projected Tax Rate:** 1.75% Increase for Homeowners

**Proposition 2: Capital Improvements Bond Proposal**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Pearl River Union Free School District, in the County of Rockland, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to all school buildings and/or sites, (the "Project"), and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$32,182,000; (b) that the amount of not to exceed \$3,182,000 from the District's "District-Wide Renovations, Reconstruction and Construction Reserve Fund" established by the voters on May 19, 2009, is hereby authorized to be expended to pay for a portion of the Project, and such expenditure is hereby approved; and (c) that a tax in the amount of not to exceed \$29,000,000 is hereby authorized to pay the balance of the cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education, and that in anticipation of such tax, bonds of the District may be issued, and a tax is also hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

**Projected Cost: \$49.05** estimated annual additional cost for home assessed at \$200,000.

**Budget Vote Date:** Tuesday • May 16th, 2017

**Polling Hours:** 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Polling Place:** Pearl River High School Pirate Cove

**For Additional Information:**

Call 620-3900 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the full budget is available for review in the district administrative offices located at 135 West Crooked Hill Road, in each of the school offices during regular school hours, and at [www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org).

**Capital Improvement Bond Highlights**

Our schools are over 50 years old. This bond will allow the district to maintain the infrastructure needs of our schools in a safe and energy-efficient manner while providing our students with 21st century learning environments.

**At the High School**

- Newly designed science classrooms, music wing and art room
- Library media center with Research Innovation and Collaboration lab
- New 3 story stairwell to ease congestion during change of classes
- Renovation of physical education locker rooms
- Renovation of Guidance and Administrative offices

**At the Middle School**

- New music wing
- Expanded gymnasium with ADA compliant access
- Renovation of current music space to add classrooms and small group instruction space

**At the Elementary Schools**

- Secure entry vestibules connected to Main Offices
- Boilers (FA & LA)
- Heating and ventilation units (EP & LA)
- Roof repairs (FA)

**Athletic Fields**

- Synthetic field with lights
- New ADA paths and parking
- Restrooms by the concession stand
- Repaved tennis courts and track

Estimated additional annual cost to taxpayer with a \$200,000 assessed home is \$49.05

Due to a lack of participation in previous years, PRSD is seeking an exemption from the Federal Breakfast Program. Please call 845-620-3833 with any questions or concerns.