

SCHOOL BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2017-18



PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Class sizes will continue to be favorable and support an active learning environment
- Innovation Grants for teachers to develop units of study that embody the KL Learning Commitment
- Pilot programs for integrating science, technology, research, engineering, art/architecture and math (STREAM)
- A staff development position dedicated to innovative implementation of instructional technology
- Ongoing implementation of new math curriculum and Teachers College writing units.



KLSD COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Dear Community Member,

On **May 16, 2017**, we hope you will join us to vote on the 2017-2018 Katonah-Lewisboro School District budget and the election of two Board of Education trustees.

This newsletter provides you with valuable information about the proposed budget, how it will support the education of our students, and how it will impact you and our community. We are proposing a budget that we believe maintains our community's commitment to excellence in education and carefully weighs the need for fiscal responsibility.

With this proposed budget, we are maintaining the priorities that define excellence in our schools and students will benefit from a renewed focus on innovation in our classrooms. Spending will increase by less than 1% over the current year. Despite an almost \$1.3 million increase in health insurance costs next year, we are once again presenting a budget that is below the New York State tax cap. We believe the proposed budget thoughtfully supports today's students and positions our schools and community well for the future.

Thank you for entrusting us to act on your behalf as the Board of Education and for taking time to vote on May 16, 2017.

Respectfully,

Marjorie Schiff, *President*

Jeff Holbrook, *Vice President*

Julia Hadlock

Scott Posner

William Rifkin

Richard Stone

Stephanie Tobin

2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget	\$106,809,945
Proposed Budget-to-Budget Increase77%
Proposed 2017-18 Tax Levy Change	1.72%



Katonah-Lewisboro Proposed School Budget 2017-18 / **VOTE ON MAY 16, 2017**

PREPARING STUDENTS TO THINK CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY

Dear KLSD Community,

At the start of this school year, we adopted the Katonah-Lewisboro Learning Commitment to define the type of learning environment that will be most meaningful, supportive, and relevant to our students now and into the future. This Learning Commitment will motivate and shape our work for the years to come.

“We will strive to create learning experiences for all students that are **engaging, relevant**, and take place in an **active learning environment**.”

The Commitment begins with that statement and goes on to ask questions that push us to think more deeply about the meaning of each highlighted word or phrase. The Learning Commitment in full can be found on our website.

To be sure that our Learning Commitment translates into action in our classrooms, we must have an ongoing commitment to professional learning. As new research emerges on learning, on brain development, and on assessment practices, we want our teachers and administrators to have the access and support necessary to keep moving forward.

Accordingly, the budget presented on these pages supports the addition of a new staff development

position dedicated to instructional technology. This staff developer will help our teachers integrate our technological resources innovatively and creatively to forward the Learning Commitment.



This budget also supports the creation of Innovation Grants. These grants will allow our teachers to work with a cohort of colleagues to design innovative units of study that embody all the ideals of the Learning Commitment.

Finally, this budget supports important ongoing work on writing instruction with Teachers College, Columbia University; the ongoing implementation of new math curriculum; and upcoming pilots of units of study in a field known as STREAM (integrated Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art/Architecture, and Math). In all, this budget keeps us moving forward toward the innovative classrooms of tomorrow.

As always, we thank you for your support.



Andrew Selesnick
Superintendent of Schools

VOTER INFORMATION

The complete budget is available at klschools.org. Print copies of the budget can be reviewed at the district office and all five of the district's schools between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on regular school/business days and at the Katonah Public Library and Lewisboro Library.



Katonah-Lewisboro School District • 60 North Salem Road, Cross River, NY 10518

Board of Education

Marjorie Schiff, <i>President</i>	William Rifkin
Jeff Holbrook, <i>Vice President</i>	Richard Stone
Julia Hadlock	Stephanie Tobin
Scott Posner	Charles Boden <i>Student Representative</i>

Administration

Andrew Selesnick <i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	Alice Cronin <i>Assistant Superintendent for Instruction</i>
Mike Jumper <i>Assistant Superintendent for Business</i>	Debra Legato <i>Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources</i>

Schools

John Jay High School
John Jay Middle School
Increase Miller Elementary School
Katonah Elementary School
Meadow Pond Elementary School

POINTS OF PRIDE

Highlights from the 2016-17 School Year

- Nearly all elementary school students gained mindfulness techniques to raise focus and lower stress.
- Elementary school students learned that computer science is fun by participating in the International Hour of Code.
- Students from all three elementary schools and the middle school explored an area of interest for their annual science fairs.



The high school Sustainability Club is a finalist for Bedford 2020's Greenlight Award.

- The middle school's Geography Bee winner qualified to compete at the New York State National Geographic Bee.
- The high school's top two Poetry Out Loud contestants competed in the regional competition at Purchase College.
- The middle school's MATHCOUNTS club participated in the Westchester/Putnam MATHCOUNTS competition at Pace University and the MoMathlon at Manhattanville College.
- Four middle school students finished in the top ten of the Lower Hudson Valley's Science Olympiad.
- The Jazz Trio, Vocal Jazz, and individual students received awards at the High School Jazz Festival hosted by Berklee College of Music in Boston.
- The high school's robotics team placed first in the FIRST Tech Challenge qualifying tournament and proceeded to regionals at Pace University.
- The high school's Science Olympiad team brought home three medals from New York State's competition.
- JJforVets, a high school club, created the district's first Field of Honor, which raised \$1,111 for our local VA Hospital.



The district now composts at all five schools; diverting tens of thousands of pounds from the waste stream on a regular basis.

- The high school girls' cross-country team won league and Section 1 championships, and finished second in the Class B state competition.
- The high school wrestlers are league and section champions.
- Eighteen high school students participated in the Westchester County Science and Engineering Fair; nine won awards including two finalists—one of whom will compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, and the other at the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering and Environment Projects Fair in Houston.

ANTICIPATING—AND SHAPING—THE FUTURE

Next year, the district will offer formal support for educational innovation.

The Hedgehog Project in kindergarten allows children to form a question, design a model and create a habitat. The seventh grade's Malala Project integrates social studies, art, and personal empowerment. These rich and meaningful learning experiences were designed by teachers collaborating with others on their team or grade level during the school day.

"What's missing is a way for teachers to collaborate across grades as well as disciplines," said Andrea Kantor, Staff Developer. "Innovation Grants fill that gap."

"Innovation Grants will give teachers time and collegial resources to think deeply about new ideas and new ways of doing things in their classrooms," said Andrew Selesnick, Superintendent of KLS. "These grants will offer teachers the opportunity to design new units of study that fully embody the ideals of our Learning Commitment."

Teachers will submit Innovation Grant proposals this spring. Those accepted will begin meeting with colleagues and staff developers in the summer for collaboration and support. New lessons and units of study will be designed in 2017-18 for implementation and sharing across the district in 2018-19.



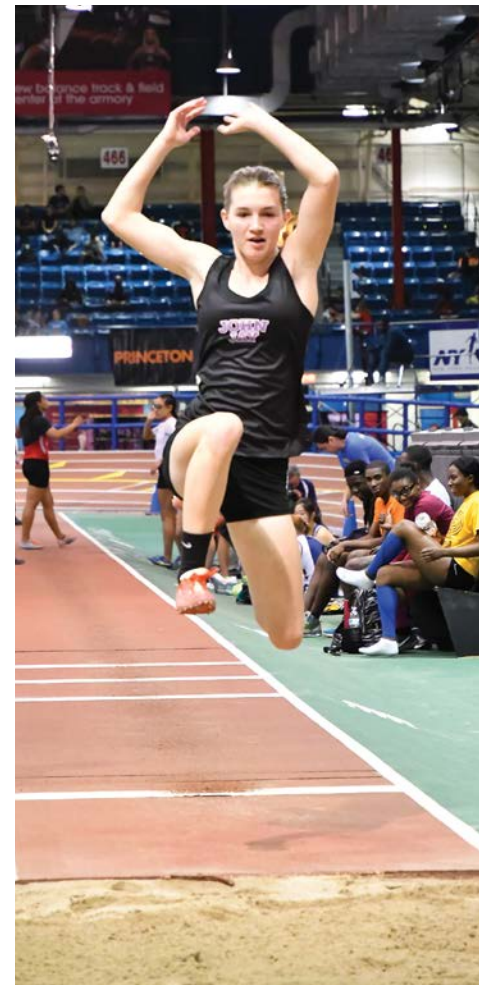
2017-18 EXPENDITURE CHART

ITEM	BUDGET 2016-17	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-18	DOLLAR DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
Board of Education	\$64,929	\$62,494	\$(2,435)	-3.75%	0.06%
District Clerk and Voting	\$121,118	\$122,673	\$1,555	1.28%	0.11%
Central Administration	\$423,661	\$426,881	\$3,220	0.76%	0.40%
Finance	\$1,050,393	\$1,034,282	\$(16,111)	-1.53%	0.97%
Personnel Services	\$407,814	\$413,067	\$5,253	1.29%	0.39%
Legal Services/Attorney Fees for General Counsel, Labor Counsel and CSE Litigation	\$540,101	\$466,513	\$(73,588)	-13.62%	.44%
Public Information	\$105,750	\$77,320	\$(28,430)	-26.88%	0.07%
Operations and Maintenance/Buildings and Grounds	\$6,368,528	\$6,334,052	\$(34,476)	-0.54%	5.93%
Printing, Mailing, Data Processing, Records Management, Warehouse	\$790,533	\$734,223	\$(56,310)	-7.12%	0.69%
Insurance	\$152,868	\$160,995	\$8,127	5.32%	.15%
Tax Certioraris/Judgements and Claims	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.00%	0.05%
Special Items: BOCES Administration/Capital/Unclassified	\$648,004	\$665,870	\$17,866	2.76%	0.62%
Total	\$10,723,699	\$10,548,370	\$(175,329)	-1.63%	9.88%
Curriculum Development	\$638,969	\$726,145	\$87,176	13.64%	0.68%
Building and Department Supervision	\$4,635,389	\$4,635,180	\$(209)	0.00%	4.34%
Innovation Grants and Staff Development	\$198,577	\$460,298	\$261,721	131.80%	0.43%
Teaching Regular School	\$30,650,472	\$30,017,562	\$(632,910)	-2.06%	28.10%
Special Education Program	\$12,018,183	\$12,342,074	\$323,891	2.70%	11.56%
Adult Ed/ Drivers Ed	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
School Library/Audio-Visual/Ed. Television	\$1,021,513	\$825,304	\$(196,209)	-19.21%	0.77%
Instructional Computer Software/Hardware	\$2,527,189	\$2,557,788	\$30,599	1.21%	2.39%
Co-Curricular Activities	\$406,500	\$420,000	\$13,500	3.32%	0.39%
Inter-Scholastic Sports	\$918,910	\$931,596	\$12,686	1.38%	0.87%
Other Pupil Services	\$4,298,614	\$4,199,258	\$(99,356)	-2.31%	3.93%
Total	\$57,319,316	\$57,120,205	\$(199,111)	-0.35%	53.48%
Pupil Transportation/Recreation	\$4,920,862	\$4,692,133	\$(228,729)	-4.65%	4.39%
Total	\$4,920,862	\$4,692,133	\$(228,729)	-4.65%	4.39%
Employee Benefits	\$29,706,455	\$31,149,949	\$1,443,494	4.86%	29.16%
Debt Service	\$2,779,604	\$2,739,288	\$(40,316)	-1.45%	2.56%
Interfund Transfer	\$545,000	\$560,000	\$15,000	2.75%	0.52%
Total	\$33,031,059	\$34,449,237	\$1,418,178	4.29%	32.25%
Grand Total All Budget Categories	\$105,994,936	\$106,809,945	\$815,009	0.77%	100.00%



2017-18 REVENUES

ITEM	BUDGET 2016-17	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-18	DOLLAR DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
State Aid	\$8,469,699	\$7,860,960	\$(608,739)		
Subtotal	\$8,469,699	\$7,860,960	\$(608,739)	-7.19%	7.36%
Health Services/Sales Tax/BOCES					
Refunds from BOCES	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$10,000		
Health Services	\$215,000	\$215,500	\$500		
Westchester County Sales Tax	\$940,000	\$950,000	\$10,000		
Subtotal	\$1,245,000	\$1,265,500	\$20,500	1.65%	1.18%
Miscellaneous					
Earnings on Investments	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$(10,000)		
Insurance Refunds	\$12,000	\$12,025	\$25		
Other	\$152,500	\$218,000	\$65,500		
Subtotal	\$254,500	\$310,025	\$55,525	21.82%	0.30%
Appropriated/Committed Reserves					
Reserves Applied to Tax Reduction	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$-		
Appropriated and Use of Fund Balance	\$1,950,000	\$1,700,000	\$(250,000)		
Subtotal	\$3,200,000	\$2,950,000	\$(250,000)	-7.81%	2.76%
Total Revenue Other Than Real Property Tax	\$13,169,199	\$12,386,485	\$(782,714)	-5.94%	11.60%
Tax Levy	\$92,825,737	\$94,423,460	\$1,597,723	1.72%	88.40%
Grand Total	\$105,994,936	\$106,809,945	\$815,009	0.77%	100.00%

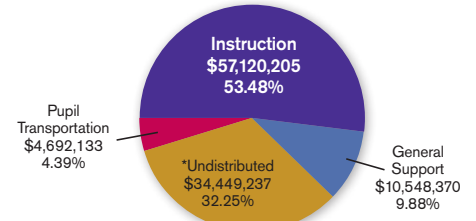


TAX RATE PROJECTION SUMMARY

	Budget 2016-2017	Proposed Budget 2017-2018	Dollar Difference	% Change from Previous Year
Total Expenditures	\$105,994,936	\$106,809,945	\$815,009	0.77%
Total Revenue Other Than Property Taxes	\$13,169,199	\$12,386,485	\$(782,714)	-5.94%
Amount to Be Raised by Taxes	\$92,825,737	\$94,423,460	\$1,597,723	1.72%

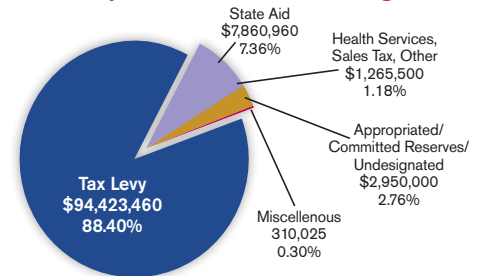
Estimated Tax Rates	2016-17 Rate/\$1,000 of Assessed Value	2017-18 Rate/\$1,000 of Assessed Value	% Change from Previous Year
Bedford	\$185.3861	\$185.0516	-0.18%
Lewisboro	\$191.4299	\$197.6537	3.25%
North Salem	\$166.4360	\$174.8778	5.07%
Pound Ridge	\$106.8285	\$106.9441	0.11%

Proposed Expenditure Budget



*The term "Undistributed" is used in General Municipal Law to categorize expenses that are not distributed to specific educational programs. Expenses in this area include: Debt Service, Inter-fund Transfers and Benefits

Proposed Revenue Budget



KATONAH-LEWISBORO 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	\$ 105,994,936	\$106,809,945	\$105,212,222
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$815,009	(\$782,714)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.77 %	-0.74%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$92,825,737	\$94,423,460	
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)	\$92,825,737	\$94,423,460	\$92,825,737
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,607,440	\$1,881,692	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$91,438,898	\$92,762,428	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$91,218,297	\$92,541,768	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$220,601	\$220,660	
Administrative Component	\$13,095,717	\$13,428,842	\$13,060,884
Program Component	\$81,070,571	\$81,533,095	\$80,854,933
Capital Component	\$11,828,648	\$11,848,008	\$11,296,405
<p>* Assuming revenues other than tax levy remain as presented in the original budget, a contingent budget would require \$1,597,723 of reductions to the general fund budget. This would necessitate elimination of the following: \$19,700 - community use of facilities, \$299,460 - instructional, operations and maintenance, and transportation equipment purchases, and \$1,278,563 of other reductions (program expenses, capital expenses, and administrative expenses). If necessary, the actual cuts to the proposed budget in the amount of \$1,597,723 would be made by the Administration and the Board of Education pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law.</p>			
<p>** 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)</p>			
Description		Amount	
Bus Replacement - Proposition #2 (to be funded through use of surplus) - replacement of 9 vans (18 passenger)		\$454,500	

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$1,741

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Katonah Lewisboro Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Katonah Elementary School, Increase Miller Elementary School and Meadow Pond Elementary School in said District on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, 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.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What does the proposed budget include?

A. The proposed budget supports the continued implementation of the new language labs at the middle and high schools, the new math programs at the elementary and middle school level, and elementary teachers' continued professional development with Teachers College, Columbia University.

It also includes several purposeful initiatives designed to teach students the skills they need to excel in the 21st century: Innovation Grants to nurture new instructional approaches, a new staff person to expand the integration of technology in the classroom, and the continued evolution of our special education programs to maintain more students in-district and meet the emerging needs of a greater number of students.

Q. Why is there an increase in the budget this year?

A. It is true that the district was able to reduce its budget for three

consecutive years; a feat that few, if any, school districts in our region were able to accomplish. After three years of considerable reductions, this year's budget does increase by 0.77%. This increase is due in large part to a nearly \$1.3 million increase in health insurance costs. While the district found cost-saving measures to partially offset this large increase, it was not possible to offset entirely.

Despite the increase next year, when looking at the four-year period beginning in 2012-13 and ending with next year's budget, the district is still averaging an annual budget-to-budget decrease of -0.62%.

Q. What is the tax levy and what is the tax levy cap?

A. A property tax levy is the amount of property tax dollars a school district requests to operate the district for the subsequent fiscal year. The tax cap is a formula established by New York State that limits the amount that the tax levy can increase in any given year to the consumer price index or 2%, whichever is less. The projected tax

levy associated with KLSD's proposed 2017-18 budget is \$94,423,460, which is approximately \$220,000 less than the 2017-18 tax cap. **Because our proposed tax levy is less than the tax cap, eligible taxpayers of KLSD will continue to receive a property tax rebate from New York State.**

Q. What happens if the budget is not approved by voters on May 16?

A. If the budget is defeated, the district may present the budget to the voters for reconsideration in June in the same or amended form. If the Board of Education decides to place the budget before the community a second time and it is defeated again, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget which would require significant reductions.

Q. Are there any Board seats up for election?

A. Yes, there are two seats up for election this year: those of Board members Scott Posner and William Rifkin. The candidates are Scott Posner, William Rifkin, and Ruth White.

PROPOSITION NO. 2: BUS REPLACEMENT

In addition to the general fund budget proposal, you will have an opportunity to weigh in on a proposition to transfer funds from the 2016-17 general fund to the capital fund to replace nine 18-passenger vans. If approved, **there would be no impact on taxes and no additional debt would be incurred.**

The nine vehicles that these vans will be replacing have an average of 206,000 miles on their odometers and are anywhere from eleven to fifteen years old. The cost of each new vehicle is \$50,500.

The replacement of buses and vans on a rotational basis is very important to maintaining safe, dependable transportation. Each of the district's vehicles is inspected by the NYS Department of Transportation twice a year. Our decision to replace nine passenger vans is based on the inspectors' insights.



KLSD Transportation Department washes all school buses regularly to keep road salt from causing rust. The dirty water is captured on a mat and suctioned into a holding tank to prevent groundwater contamination and protect the wetland area.



VOTER INFORMATION

All voters registered with Westchester County are automatically registered to vote in their school district's budget and school board election. If you are not registered to vote, you may register at any of the schools in the district or at the district office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on regular school / business days, as well as at the District Office on Saturday, May 6, 2017 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Registration is open through Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Voter Qualifications

An individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older
- Have been a resident of the school district for 30 days preceding the day of the vote

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are permitted in all school board elections and/or referenda. Absentee ballots may be cast by a qualified voter who is:

- A patient in a hospital or who is unable to vote because of illness or physical disability
- Out of the county of residence on election day because of business, vacation, or other duty

Requesting Absentee Ballots

Any person seeking an absentee ballot must complete an application obtained from the District Clerk, Kimberly Monzon, or each school's secretary, or downloaded from the district's website, www.klschools.org and returned to the district clerk by mail or in person.

If the application is returned by mail, it must be received by the District Clerk by Tuesday, May 9, 2017. If the application is delivered personally, it must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2017.

Once the district clerk receives the application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to the address specified on the application. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Kimberly Monzon, District Clerk 763-7020 / kmonzon@klschools.org District Office, 60 North Salem Road Cross River, New York 10518



P.O. Box 387
Katonah, NY 10536

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 3650
White Plains, NY
10610

POSTAL CUSTOMER



VOTE

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Increase Miller Elementary School

Katonah Elementary School

Meadow Pond Elementary School

✓ School district budget

✓ Election of two school board members to fill vacancies created by the expiration of the terms of Scott Posner and William Rifkin.