



# Jericho Budget Bulletin

May 2020

## *Budget is Below Tax Levy Limit; Voting To Take Place by Absentee Ballot*

The budget process for the 2020-2021 budget has been very different from previous years, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. After four budget workshops, Jericho's Board of Education unanimously adopted the originally proposed budget on March 26.

Realizing all of the changes that were happening in the world, and the constant changes in New York State, the Board asked Jericho's administration to revisit the budget. Victor Manuel, Jericho's Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, reduced the proposed budget by \$1,365,675 without negatively impacting any instructional programming. The current \$125,365,991 budget represents a 0.82% budget increase and a tax levy increase of 0.95%, which is significantly below the New York State Tax Cap. Over the last seven years, Jericho has had five years with no increase.

Since January, the school district hosted a series of public workshops, both in person and virtually, to review the financial status of the school district and create a budget for the coming year. The Board of Education and district administration requested input from members of the school community.

### **How Do I vote?**

This year, the annual budget vote and school board election has been scheduled for June 9, 2020. It will be held by absentee

ballot only.

Qualified voters who are already registered voters through the Nassau County Board of Elections, or qualified voters who have voted on the Jericho School District Budget in the past, will automatically be sent an absentee ballot, together with a postage-paid return envelope, and instructions for completing both. To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

A qualified voter is a person who is a citizen of the United States; at least eighteen years of age; a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election; and who is not otherwise ineligible to vote under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law (e.g. a person who has been adjudged to be mentally incompetent by a court).

Qualified voters who are not registered or have not voted on a Jericho School Budget before, as indicated above, may request an absentee ballot by contacting the District Clerk by email at [DistrictClerk@jerichoschools.org](mailto:DistrictClerk@jerichoschools.org) or by calling the District Clerk at 516-203-3600 ext. 3214, as soon as possible.

### **Budget Strategies**

While preparing the budget, many strategies were considered, including keeping the current financial climate and pandemic

at the forefront of decisions. Also, keeping a multi-year, long-term perspective on the district's financial plans was important. All instructional programs will continue for next year, and there will also be enhancements to some of these programs.

### **Board of Education Seats**

There are two open seats on the Board of Education this year. Two candidates are running unopposed for the two, three-year terms. Incumbent Jill Citron and Divya Balachandar are running for the two seats.

### **Additional Information**

Copies of the presentations that were given during the budget workshops are available at [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org).

### **Maintaining Continuation of Learning & Connections**

Jericho School District teachers made a remarkable transition from in-person to remote learning in a short period of time. Teachers and administrators utilized a district Superintendent's Conference Day to become familiar with the general outlines of remote instruction on March 16. Following that short introduction, the teachers began to move toward live group instruction, small group meetings and one-to-one sessions that continue to today. Our technology department provided Chromebooks for teachers and students who required a device, and made a bevy of changes to both access

and procedures to ensure that instruction could continue. Additionally, they provided technical help to any households that required assistance to get online.

Jericho's guidance counselors have scheduled meetings with small group or individual students to monitor engagement in lessons; get feedback on student success and issues regarding current classes; and discuss college admissions and applications. Along with school psychologists and social workers, they have provided counselling services. The district has also promoted wellness activities, including mindfulness activities; personal phone calls to families to determine how students are doing; small group sessions with student leaders; Honk and Wave Parades to reach out and connect with students; and publication of student work on the district website as well as other social media platforms. All related service teachers are logging interactions via all platforms related to the student's IEP's. As the weeks have progressed, live instruction has increased and the creativity demonstrated by our teachers and students continues to impress all.

Even with so much uncertainty, Jericho is prepared for whatever September looks like and will continue to provide our students with a Jericho education as well as provide support that the students, staff and families need.

Important Document - Please Translate

중요하니 번역요망  
重要文件請翻譯

Documento importante - Traduce Por Favor

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**

**Ballots Due by**

**June 9**

**at 5 PM**

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

### Security

- Implemented district-wide user cybersecurity testing and training using the KnowBe4 platform
- Upgraded to Microsoft's A5 licenses, which provide robust internal and external security measures
- Utilizing Garnet River's Ed Law 2-d -Part 121 FasTrackAssessment to ensure Ed Law 2-d compliance
- Tape backups taken weekly, not monthly

### Network

- Added a third Internet Service Provider to increase network speed and stability
- Upgrading both of the district's wireless controllers and 45 wireless access points

### Instruction

- Providing push-in professional development to assist teachers in using Canvas and PowerSchool together
- Replaced or are replacing 496 desktop computers, 330 Chromebooks, and 170 iPads
- Launched Genius Bar initiative to help students interested in IT gain hands-on skills
- New 77" interactive touchscreens at the elementary schools and high school libraries

### Software

- Created user accounts and configured Optigatesoftware and the district's first-time clock scanner
- Added instructional programs, including EdPuzzle
- Migrated to a cloud-based asset management solution to allow for remote access



## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2020-2021

- "X" Period/Restorative Practices Initiative
- Broad array of Advanced Placement opportunities
- Science/Social Science/ Pre-Calculus Research: Four-year program that enables students to perform research with experts for the betterment of our world.
- BOLT (Building Outstanding Leaders for Tomorrow): Leadership class that challenges students to make a difference in the school and the world.
- Project Lead the Way: International pre-engineering program that offers up to 20 college engineering credits.
- Business: accounting, entrepreneurship, law, retail management and virtual enterprise classes
- Extensive World Language Program: trips to Italy, Spain, China, and France (as possible)
- Co-Teaching Program
- New Media Communications: Journalism program that enables students to explore communications in the digital age.
- Wide range of elective and extracurricular opportunities
- Alternative High School

### Numerous competitions including:

- National History Day, Ethics Bowl, Mock Trial, Model UN, Debate
- NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Writing Awards, Poetry Out Loud, Teen Ink, Walt Whitman Poetry, Hofstra Journalism, Canon Writing Program
- National Spanish/Italian/French/Latin Exams, Italian Poetry, Language Essay Competitions
- Regeneron, Dupont, Toshiba, Explora Vision, National Science Bowl, MIT Think, Brain Bee, LI Science & Engineering Fair, VEX Robotics, Science Olympiad, Eco Challenge





## JERICHO ACCOLADES

**100% GRADUATION RATE - CLASS OF 2019**

\*\*\*\*\*

**98.5%**

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE  
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2019)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**89%**

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE  
WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION  
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2019)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**96%**

**4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE  
(JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2019)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL WAS RANKED THE SECOND  
BEST HIGH SCHOOL WITH OPEN-ENROLLMENT IN  
NEW YORK STATE IN THE US NEWS & WORLDS  
REPORT RANKING IN 2020**

\*\*\*\*\*

**40 JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
HONORED IN NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN 2019**

\*\*\*\*\*

**3 STUDENTS WERE NAMED  
REGENERON SCHOLARS IN 2020**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NAMED BEST COMMUNITY IN AMERICA FOR  
MUSIC EDUCATION FOR 21ST YEAR IN A ROW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NYS SCHOLAR ATHLETE SCHOOL OF  
DISTINCTION FOR 15 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2020-2021 BUDGET STRATEGIES:

- Remain committed to being a premier school district and continue to deliver a high-quality, 21st Century education
- Remain committed to our district mission and goals
- Keep a multi-year perspective on the budget
- Develop long-range plans for our educational programs and goals
- Continue to upgrade and renovate our facilities
- Continue technology replacement plans & expand technological initiatives
- Continue to pursue efficiencies in all areas of the school district
- Plan the best way we can for New York State budget uncertainties
- Keep the current financial climate and pandemic at the forefront of decisions



## Continuing to Help Those In Need

The Jericho School District continues to feed students who are enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. Breakfast and lunch is provided for the students Monday through Friday. Also, supplemental food is given to families in need. The district coordinated a food drive and families were very generous. Two food drives were held, and our supply room was stocked. Also, childcare is offered free of charge to parents who are working as essential employees.

## Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of June 9, 2020 shall be permitted to vote in the election.

A qualified voter is defined as:

\*A citizen of the United States

\*At least eighteen years of age

\*A resident in the Jericho Union Free School District for thirty days or more preceding the budget vote at which he/she offers to vote.

*Persons disqualified from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law are not eligible to vote in school district elections.*

## ELEMENTARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Science Labs staffed by full-time Science Specialists (Science, Engineering, Robotics)
- Columbia Teachers College Literacy program
- Math in Focus (Singapore Math)
- Band & Orchestra for Grades 4 & 5
- Expanded Library/Media program staffed with full-time Media Research Specialist
- Student Leaders/Safety Patrol
- Instructional Technology – Chrome Books, iPads, SmartBoards
- World Languages
- Extensive Co-Teaching Program
- SEL/Mindfulness Programs, including Responsive Classroom initiative
- Weekly After-School Enrichment Programs
- Arts in Education/Outdoor Education Field Experiences
- Exploratory Opportunities: STEAM Day, Genius Hour, etc.

## Public Hearing on Budget to be Held Virtually

The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be held remotely on June 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Information on how to access the hearing will be posted on the District website at [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org).

## Capital Improvements

Included in the proposed budget, funds are allocated (\$1,275,000) to provide a new gas main to the HS/MS complex, and asphalt and concrete replacement at Jackson Elementary School and the Williams School.



## Athletics Highlights

- The Jericho Athletic Program currently consists of 29 varsity teams, 17 junior varsity teams, and 31 Middle School teams
- Participation:
  - 345 High School students participated on our 17 fall teams
  - 293 High School students participated on our 13 winter teams
  - 239 Middle School students participated on our 10 fall teams
  - 192 Middle School students participated on our 7 Winter I teams
- A New York State Scholar Athlete High School of Distinction for 15 consecutive years. The most by any school district in New York State.
- Girls Badminton, Boys Badminton, Boys Soccer & Girls Volleyball won Conference Championships in 2019.
- Girls Golf finished as Nassau County Runner-ups.
- Boys and Girls Badminton, Boys Soccer won the Nassau County Championships.
- Boys Soccer won their 5th New York State Championship this fall. Finished as the #10 ranked team in the Nation.
- In the past 13 years, the Jericho Athletic Program has won:
  - 21 Nassau County Championships
  - 33 Conference Championships
  - 2 individual athletes earned State Championship honors in their respective sports
  - 19 individual athletes received All-State honors
  - 1 individual named as an All American in boys soccer

## With an Eye and Ear Toward the Arts: Art & Music Highlights

- NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award
- 13 All-State student-musicians & alternates
- 2 All-National student-musicians
- 21 Art Supervisors Association All-County student-artists
- National, state, & local art contest winners
- Annual school concerts, chamber music, & art displays
- 650+ NYS School Music Association adjudication entries
- 153 All-County & P.E.A.K. musicians & 41 LISFA musicians
- Herricks Jazz Festival & Music In the Parks
- Lincoln Center Chamber Music Competition
- Named One of the Best Communities in America for Music Education (20+ consecutive years)
- Pep Rallies – Personal Best Days – Tri-M Music Honor Society “Rock-CAN-Roll” fundraiser
- Jericho hosts NYSSMA Piano Festival (25th year) & NMEA All-County Music Festival Div. I East
- National Art Honor Society & Tri-M National Music Honor Society
- Cookies & Canvas Night of Painting Fundraiser with SEPTA for Jericho Families



# SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

## (PROPOSITION #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2019-2020	%	2020-2021	%
INSTRUCTION	\$75,312,704	60.57%	\$76,372,654	60.92%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$3,603,563	2.90%	\$3,665,714	2.92%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$2,140,130	1.72%	\$1,275,000	1.02%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	\$8,012,801	6.44%	\$8,290,649	6.61%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$6,255,141	5.03%	\$6,133,743	4.89%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$83,000	0.07%	\$10,000	0.01%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$28,034,413	22.55%	\$28,768,231	22.95%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>\$900,000</u>	<u>0.72%</u>	<u>\$850,000</u>	<u>0.68%</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$124,341,752</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$125,365,991</b>	<b>100%</b>

## VOTING TO BE DONE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

The annual budget vote and school board election has been scheduled for June 9, 2020, and will be held by absentee ballot only.

Qualified voters who are already registered voters through the Nassau County Board of Elections, or qualified voters who have voted in a Jericho School District Budget in the past, will automatically be sent an absentee ballot together with a postage-paid return envelope and instructions for completing the same.

**To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING IN 2020-2021

- “X” Period/Restorative Practices Initiative
- Classroom Technology Applications: EdPuzzle, Nearpod, Peardeck, Flipgrid, Desmos
- Restorative Discipline approaches
- National History Day Projects Grades 7 & 8
- Middle School Teaming/Student Team Advisors
- OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program
- BRAVE (Bully Reduction Anti Violence Education) Program/BRAVE Ambassadors
- Balanced Literacy PD (extension of Elementary PD)
- “Kidz Who Code” Partnership with Publishers Clearing House
- Schools to Watch Re-Designation
- JMS Lead Program
- Kidz Who Code Club
- Parent Brunch and Learns
- Diversity Day
- Mobile Maker Space
- Family Booktalk
- Mathletes/Math Olympiad/American Math Competition
- Mathcounts Long Island Champions
- V.A.L.U.E. (Volunteer Activities Leave Us Enriched) Credit Program-Community Service
- Mentoring Program with Nassau County Bar Association
- Personal Best Initiative
- Instructional Support Team /Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Student-Driven EdCamp
- Incoming 6th Grade Buddy Program
- Redesigned Classroom Spaces



*Jericho Middle School was re-designated a National School to Watch, one of only 300 middle schools in the nation to earn this designation!*

# Budget Bulletin

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HICKSVILLE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 238

## Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753  
(516) 203-3600

### Board of Education

William Ferro, *President*  
Jill Citron, *Vice President*  
Barbara Krieger  
Daborah Lee  
Pam Wasserman-Heath

### Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

### Newsletter Editor

Denise Nash

## ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



## HOW DO YOU VOTE THIS YEAR?

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.26, the annual budget vote and school board election has been scheduled for June 9, 2020, and will be held by absentee ballot only.

The public hearing on this year's proposed budget will be held remotely on June 2, 2020 at 6:30PM. Information on how to access the hearing will be posted on the District website at [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org).

Qualified voters who are already registered voters through the Nassau County Board of Elections, or qualified voters who have voted in a Jericho School District Budget in the past, will automatically be sent an absentee ballot together with a postage-paid return envelope and instructions for completing the same. To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

A qualified voter is a person who is a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election, and who is not otherwise ineligible to vote under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law (e.g. a person who has been adjudged to be mentally incompetent by a court).

Qualified voters who are not registered or have not voted on a Jericho School Budget before, as indicated above, may request an absentee ballot by contacting the District Clerk by email at [DistrictClerk@jerichoschools.org](mailto:DistrictClerk@jerichoschools.org) or by calling the District Clerk at 516-203-3600 ext. 3214 as soon as possible.

**To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.**

