

Readington Township School District Budget Presentation



BUDGET PRESENTATION TO THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., Superintendent
Jason Bohm, Business Administrator

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Budget Goals



- ❖ Present a budget at the 2% state-imposed cap on tax levy with allowable adjustments without negatively impacting students' academic experiences
- ❖ Prepare for enrollment increases from new housing developments
- ❖ Balance class size guidelines with scheduling efficiencies
- ❖ Enrich students' academic experiences
- ❖ Continue to implement the district's Strategic Plan
 - ❖ Inquisitive learning
 - ❖ Social awareness
 - ❖ Partnerships

Enrollment Forecast for 2024-25

Anticipated 2024-25 K through 8 enrollment = 1359

Anticipated 2024-25 PreK enrollment = 215

Total 2024-25 enrollment = 1574

Anticipates 7 out-of-district students

Presumes 134 kindergarten students in district

Current 2023-24 K through 8 enrollment = 1410

Current 2023-24 PreK enrollment = 102

Total 2023-24 enrollment = 1512

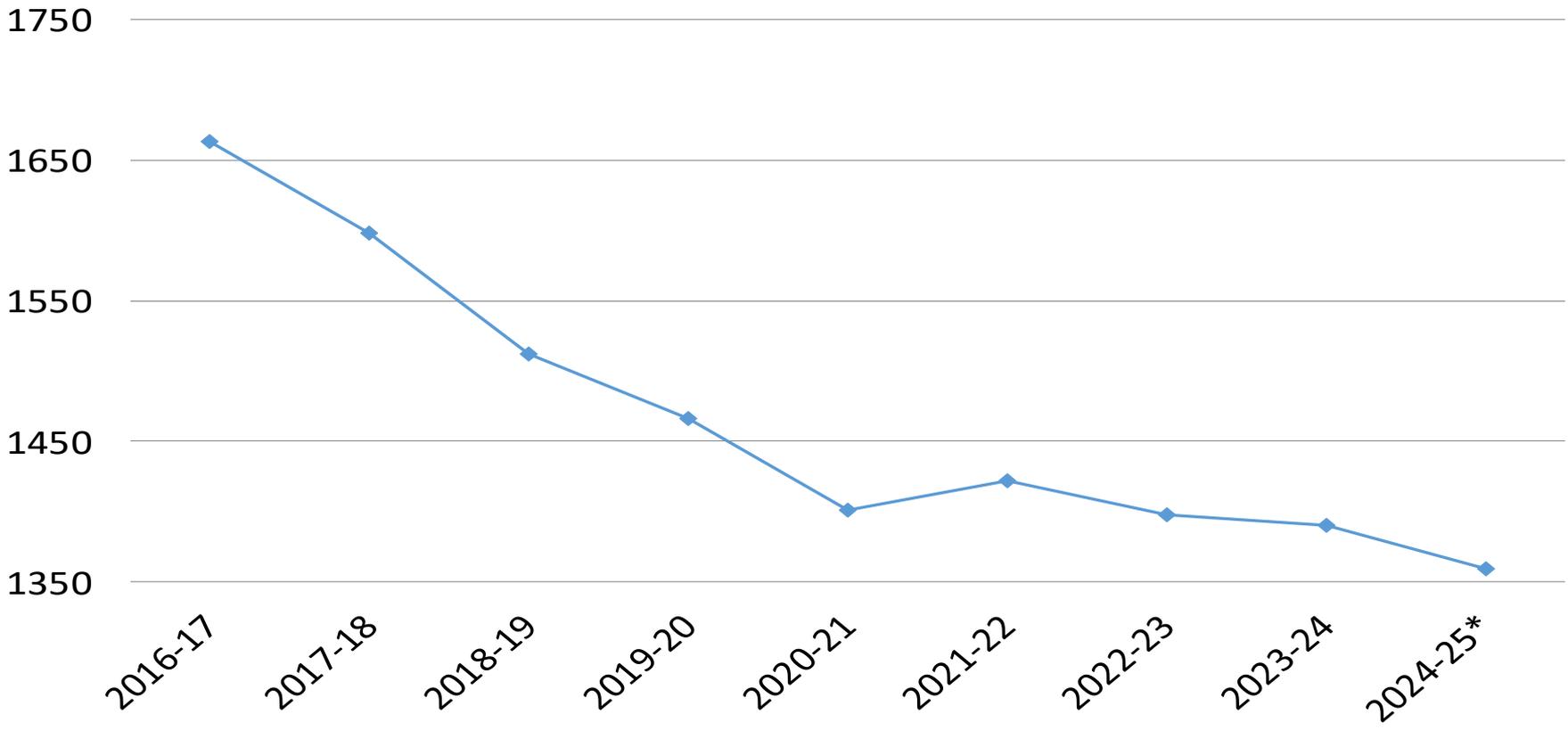
Includes 7 current out-of-district students

*Enrollment figures include current students,
but exclude any new students from the Ridge at Readington*

K-8 Enrollment History & Projection

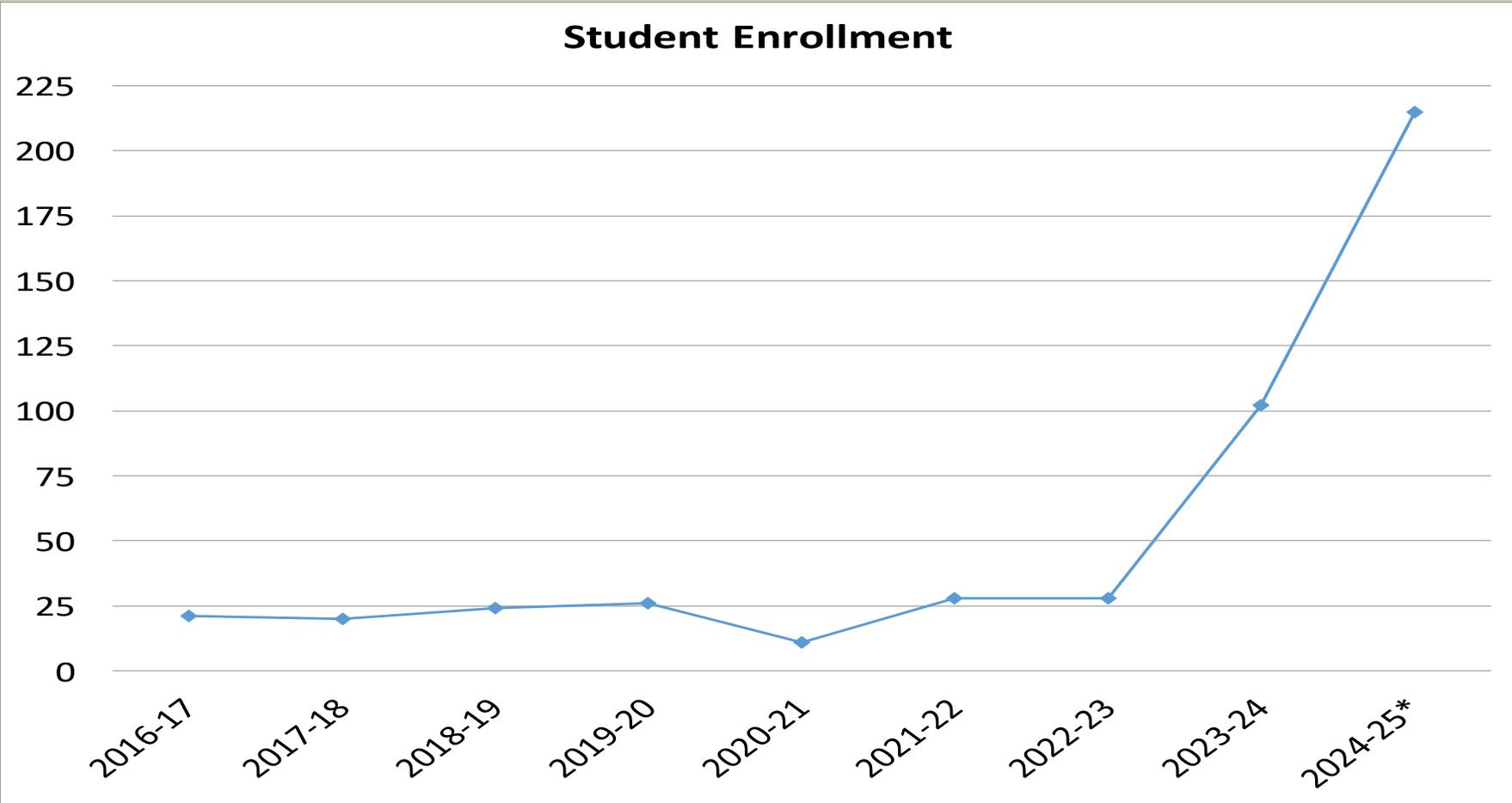


Student Enrollment



**projected*

PreK Enrollment History & Projection



**projected*

Anticipated Elementary Class Size



Grade K*	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
16 at TBS 18 at WHS	16 at TBS 14 at WHS	15 at TBS 15 at WHS	17 at TBS 16 at WHS	22 per class	21 per class

Preschool class size is 15 per class or less

*District Class Size Guidelines:
Maximum of 21 in Grades K-3
Maximum of 22 in Grades 4-5*

**Estimate assuming 134 kindergarten students*

Personnel Highlights



- Additional behavioral health counselor, previously paid through ESSER
- Reconfiguration of 2 teaching staff positions through attrition
- Increased wages for police officers through shared services
- Increased wages for staff to better align with market conditions
- Recruitment and retention services and stipends
- Flexibility in athletics for design and creation of sports / clubs
- New schedule at the middle school and revised schedules at the elementary schools in conformity with the RTEA contract
- To adhere to new RTEA contractual obligations, stipends and extra-pay rates have been increased such as a \$1,000 stipend for paraprofessionals and increase in professional development and curriculum writing rates

Preschool Expansion*



- Free curriculum-based preschool for 3- and 4-year old children residing in Readington Township
- Addition of 2 full-time preschool teacher positions in-district
- Addition of 2 full-time paraprofessional positions in-district
- Reallocation of 1 full-time preschool teacher and 1 paraprofessional
- Creation of 2 full-time preschool community parent involvement specialist / relief teacher shared positions
- Creation of 1 full-time preschool instruction coach / intervention and referral specialist position
- Nurse stipends and extra-pays
- 11 certificated full-time teaching staff and 11 paraprofessionals at private providers through preschool expansion in partnership with Berry Patch, Global Pioneer / REN, Stanton Learning, Whitehouse Prep

** Funded by the State of New Jersey, not local tax levy*

Curriculum/Pupil Services Highlights



- Continuation of self-contained special education classes and preschool disabilities program sections
 - ✦ Net savings for district compared to students being placed out-of-district
- Continuation of expanded Extended School Year programming
- Revised English language arts and math curricula to align with new state standards, purchase of new textbooks and materials for English language arts, math, science and world language
- Mental health services
 - ✦ Creation of new school counselor suites at Readington Middle School
 - ✦ Behavioral Health Counselor
 - ✦ Employee Assistance Program*
- English language learners support through SEI*
- Half day breakfast and lunch district-wide with low-income supports
- Continued implementation of the district's strategic plan

** Funded by federal grant programs, not local tax levy*

Capital Projects

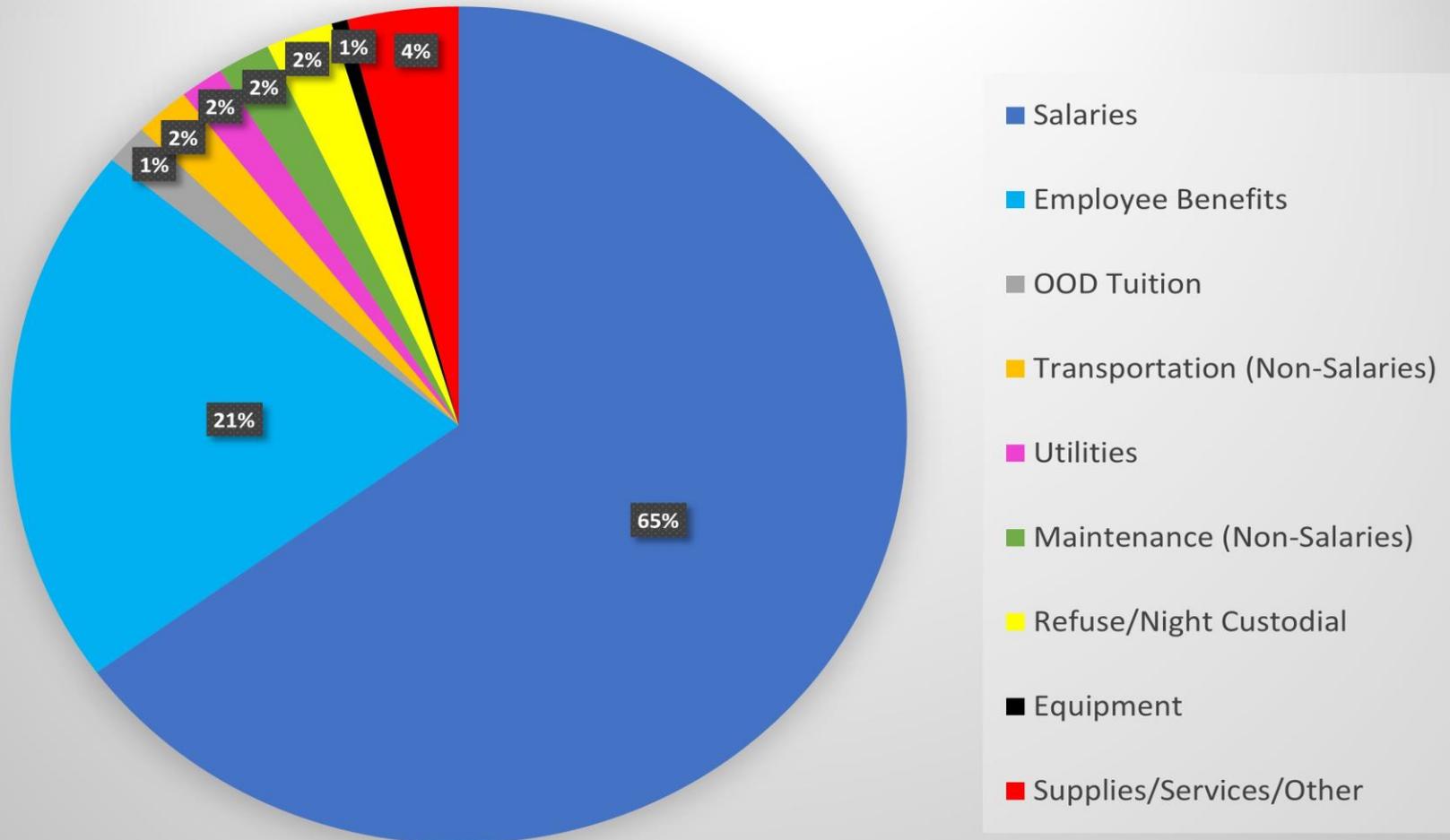


- Readington Middle School main office renovations to include: asbestos abatement, HVAC, roofing, and enhanced school counselor suites and nurse offices
- Refreshed preschool classrooms, bathrooms and curriculum supplies*
- District-wide solar expansion* and LED classroom lighting at Readington Middle School
- Core switches and access points replacement*
- District-wide security upgrades in partnership with the Township of Readington/Police Department*
- New art and computer room at Whitehouse School
- Playground enhancements at Whitehouse & Three Bridges School
- Softball and baseball field updates, fencing and signage

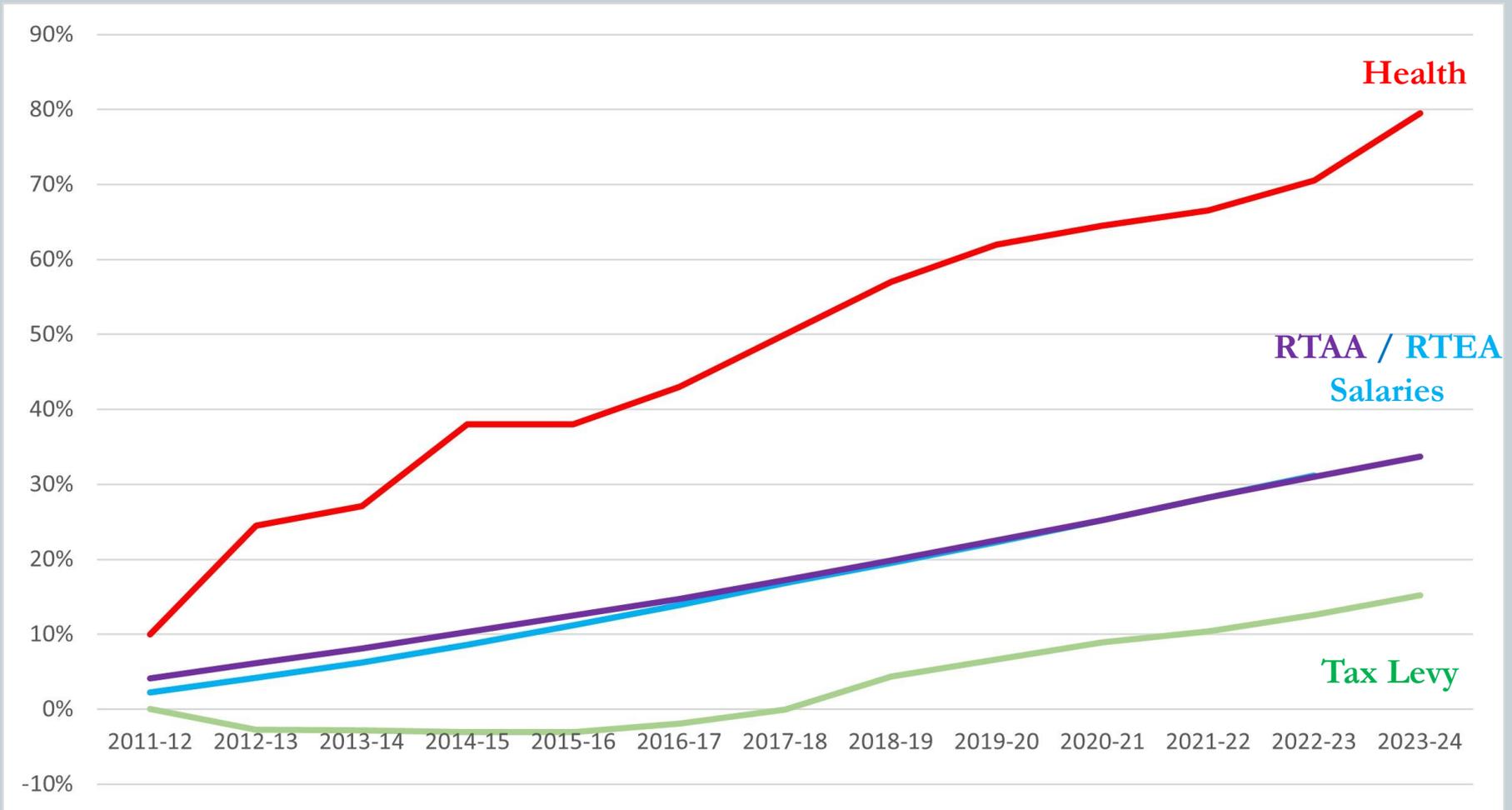
Projects are funded by existing reserves, not the local tax levy

**Partially funded by state or federal grants, between 20-40% on average, or at no-cost (solar)*

Composition of General Fund Budget



Accumulated Historical Cost Increase



State Aid and Tax Levy – General Fund



Budget Year	State Aid	Tax Levy	Preschool
2014-15	\$1,402,420	\$26,582,012	\$0
2015-16	\$1,402,420	\$26,643,599	\$0
2016-17	\$1,424,790	\$26,906,853	\$0
2017-18	\$1,424,790	\$27,444,990	\$0
2018-19	\$1,614,266	\$28,788,825	\$0
2019-20	\$1,709,224	\$29,566,452	\$0
2020-21	\$1,757,020	\$30,237,361	\$0
2021-22	\$1,947,033	\$30,842,108	\$0
2022-23	\$2,140,186	\$31,433,950	\$0
2023-24	\$2,409,287*	\$32,316,089	\$1,522,410
2024-25	\$2,764,562*	\$33,219,691	\$3,387,960

* Excludes preschool expansion aid, \$3,387,960

Tax Levy - Debt Service



Budget Year	Total Taxes	Difference \$	Difference %
2014-15	\$2,098,623	- \$83,785	-3.839%
2015-16	\$2,037,036	- \$61,587	-2.935%
2016-17	\$2,109,696	+ \$72,660	3.567%
2017-18	\$2,112,227	+ \$2,531	0.120%
2018-19	\$2,072,481	- \$39,746	-1.882%
2019-20	\$2,000,870	- \$71,611	-3.455%
2020-21	\$2,041,923	+ \$41,053	2.052%
2021-22	\$1,905,521	- \$136,402	-6.680%
2022-23	\$2,045,140	+ \$139,619	7.327%
2023-24	\$2,047,658	+ \$2,519	0.123%
2024-25	\$2,055,742	+ \$8,084	0.395%

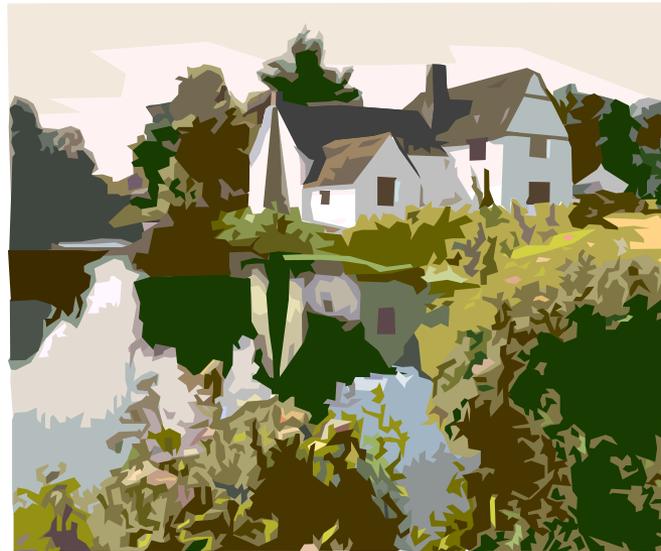
Total Taxes including Debt Service



Budget Year	Total Taxes	Difference \$	Difference %
2014-15	\$28,680,635	- \$83,785	-0.291%
2015-16	\$28,680,635	0	0.000%
2016-17	\$29,016,549	+ \$335,914	1.171%
2017-18	\$29,557,217	+ \$540,668	1.863%
2018-19	\$30,861,306	+ \$1,304,089	4.441%
2019-20	\$31,567,322	+ \$706,016	2.288%
2020-21	\$32,279,284	+ \$711,962	2.255%
2021-22	\$32,747,629	+ \$468,345	1.451%
2022-23	\$33,479,090	+ \$731,461	2.234%
2023-24	\$34,363,747	+ \$884,657	2.642%
2024-25	\$35,275,432	+ \$911,685	2.653%

2024-25 School Budget Tax Impact

On the average home assessed at: \$450,648



Equates to approximately \$124.00 increase over the year

Proposed Tax Rate



YEAR	TAX RATE	AVERAGE TAX
2015-16	\$1.1012	\$3,974 on average assessed home of \$360,900
2016-17	\$1.112	\$4,010 on average assessed home of \$360,800
2017-18	\$1.122	\$4,151 on average assessed home of \$370,000
2018-19	\$1.160	\$4,206 on average assessed home of \$362,700
2019-20	\$1.193	\$4,293 on average assessed home of \$360,003
2020-21	\$1.216	\$4,388 on average assessed home of \$360,725
2021-22	\$0.985*	\$4,432 on average assessed home of \$449,811*
2022-23	\$0.999	\$4,494 on average assessed home of \$449,990
2023-24	\$1.032	\$4,796 on average assessed home of \$464,872
2024-25	\$1.059	\$4,773 on average assessed home of \$450,648

**major shift in tax rate and average assessed home due to town-wide reevaluation*

Questions?