

Readington Township School District Budget Presentation



BUDGET PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

MARCH 14, 2023

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 2023-24

Anticipated 2023-24 PreK through 8 enrollment = 1506

Anticipates 5 out-of-district students and 42 preschool students

Presumes 134 kindergarten students in district

As of March 10, there were 60 registered for TBS and 65 registered for WHS

*Anticipates 111 new potential students enrolled and 10 already enrolled students
from The Ridge at Readington*

Current 2022-23 PreK through 8 enrollment = 1420

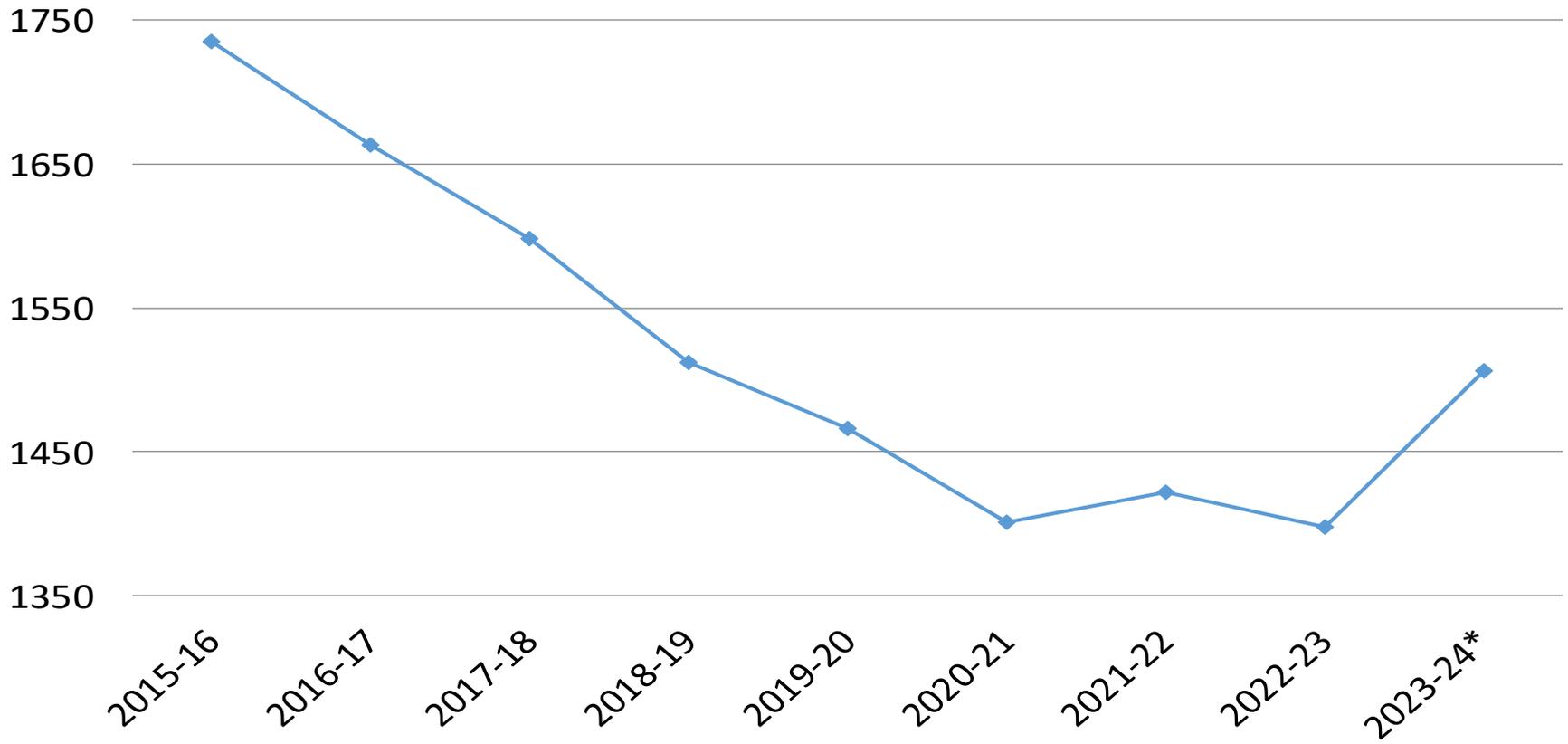
Includes 7 current out-of-district students



Enrollment History & Projection



Student Enrollment



**projected*

Anticipated Elementary Class Size



Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
15 at TBS 15 at WHS	15 at TBS 17 at WHS	16 at TBS 19 at WHS	20 per class	19 per class

*Kindergarten enrollment as of March 10:
60 at Three Bridges School and 65 at Whitehouse School*

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

Excludes 111 new potential students enrolled from The Ridge at Readington

Personnel Highlights



- Expansion to four police officers through shared service, 1 per building
- Additional elementary art teacher and grade-level teacher at HBS due to increased enrollment from new housing developments
- New behavioral disabilities program teacher and preschool disabilities program teacher
- Expansion of part-time English language learner teacher to full-time
- Creation of a part-time curriculum office secretary position
- Reallocation of one teaching staff position
- Increased wages for substitute teachers due to state minimum wage
- Increased wages for school bus drivers to better align with market
- Recruitment and retention services and stipends

Curriculum/Pupil Services Highlights



- Behavioral disabilities and preschool disabilities program sections which started in 2022-23 school year
 - ✦ Net savings for district compared to students being placed out-of-district
- Continuation of expanded Extended School Year programming
- Enhanced afterschool student intervention services for learning loss*
- Additional mental health services*
 - ✦ Hunterdon Behavioral Health*
 - ✦ Employee Assistance Program*
- Student curriculum enrichment for sustainability programs, social and emotional learning, inquiry, field trips and partnerships
- Continued implementation of the district's strategic plan

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

Capital Projects

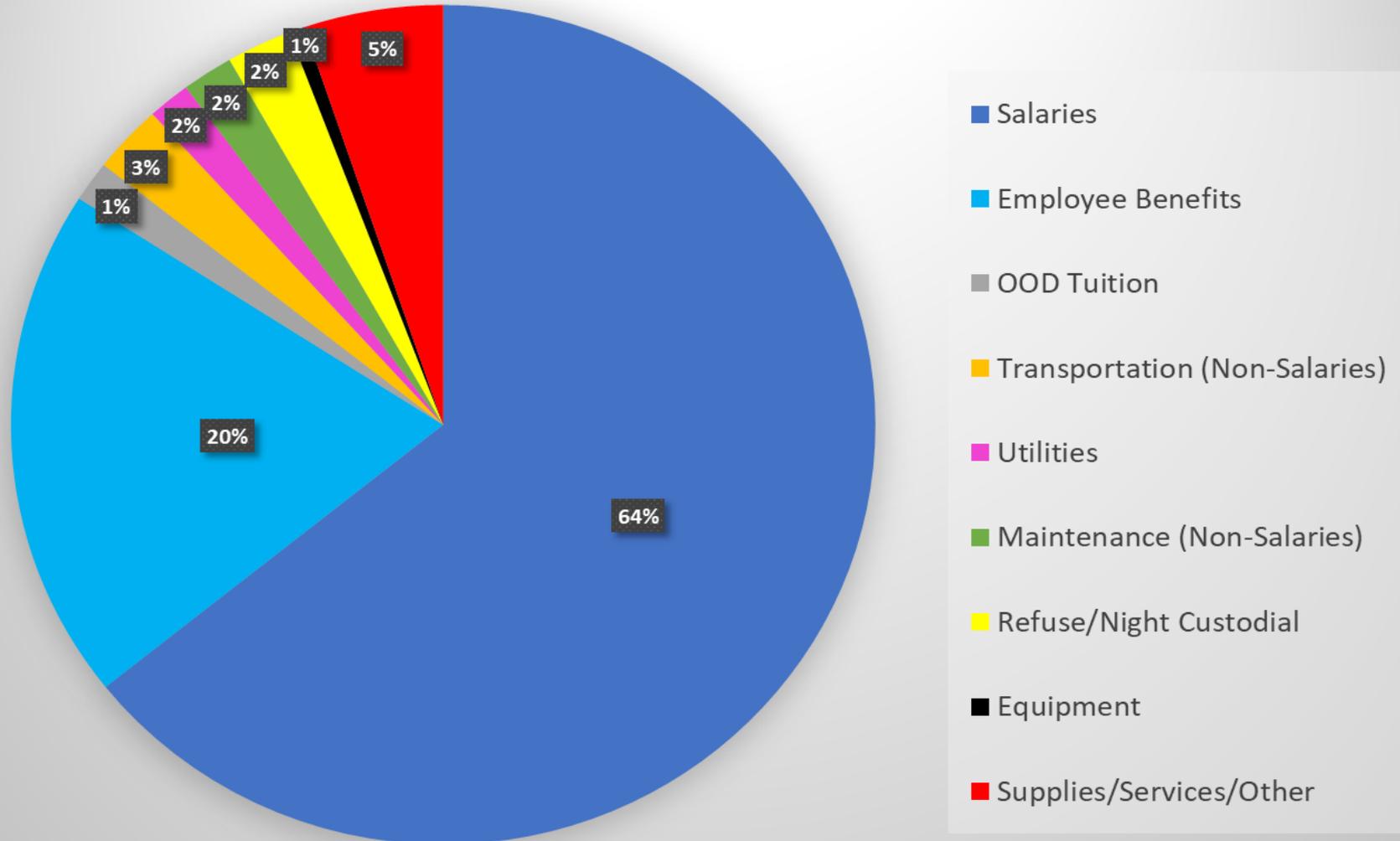


- Replacement of roofing sections and HVAC at Readington Middle School*
- Bathroom additions at all elementary schools*
- Solar expansion and LED lighting replacement
- Phone and security camera upgrades
- Core switches replacement*
- Staff lounge enhancement at all four (4) school buildings
- Boiler and exterior door repairs
- Outdoor gardens upgrade at Whitehouse School
- Concrete repairs in multiple locations
- Cold, water bottle filling stations at Readington Middle School
- Various security enhancements

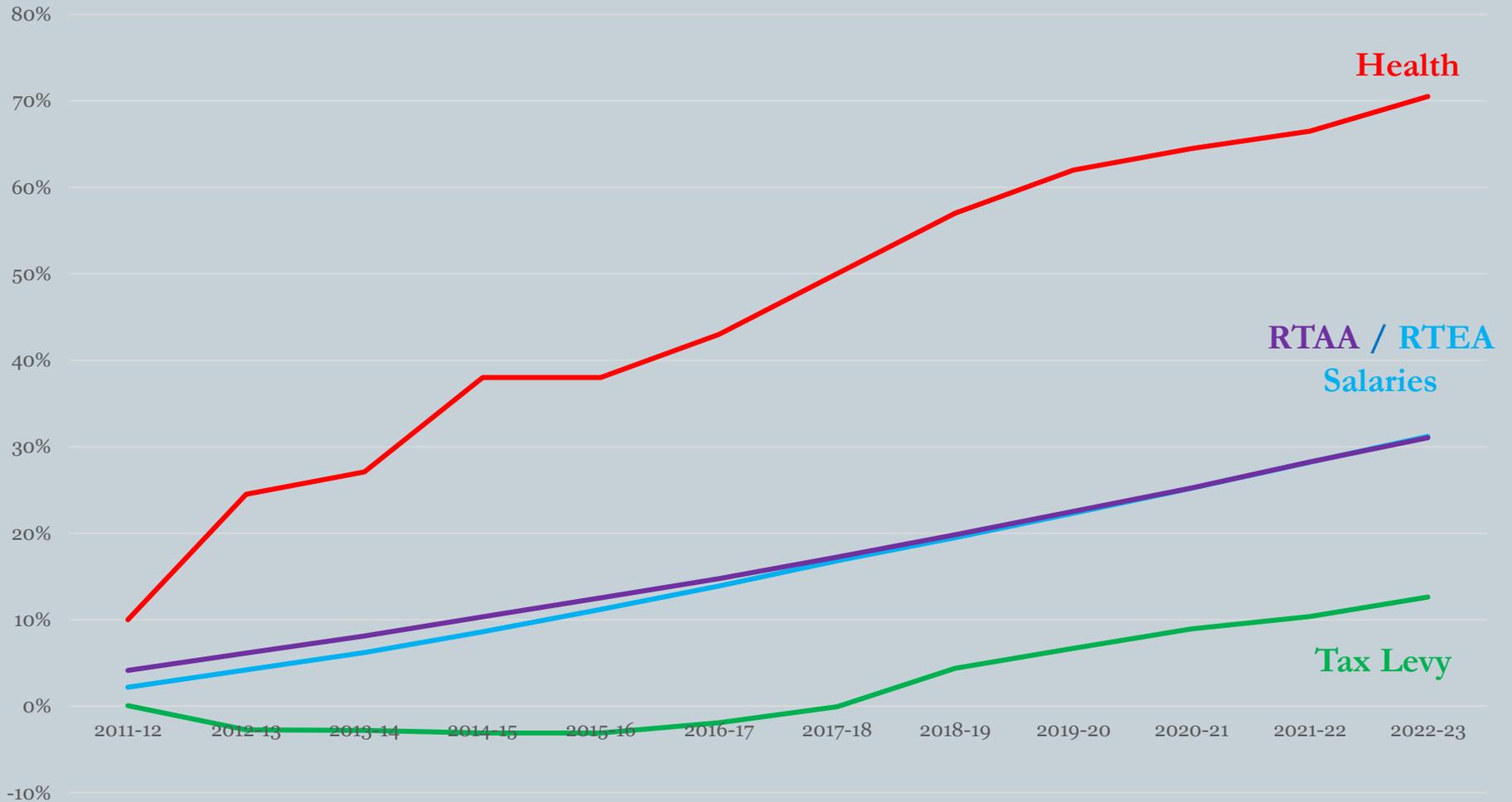
Projects are funded by existing reserves, not the local tax levy

**Partially funded by state or federal grants, approximately 40% on average*

Composition of General Fund Budget



Accumulated Historical Cost Increase



State Aid and Tax Levy – General Fund



Budget Year	State Aid	Tax Levy
2013-14	\$1,369,600	\$26,582,012
2014-15	\$1,402,420	\$26,582,012
2015-16	\$1,402,420	\$26,643,599
2016-17	\$1,424,790	\$26,906,853
2017-18	\$1,424,790	\$27,444,990
2018-19	\$1,614,266	\$28,788,825
2019-20	\$1,709,224	\$29,566,452
2020-21	\$1,757,020	\$30,237,361
2021-22	\$1,947,033	\$30,842,108
2022-23	\$2,140,186	\$31,433,950
2023-24	\$2,409,287	\$32,316,089

Tax Levy - Debt Service



Budget Year	Total Taxes	Difference \$	Difference %
2013-14	\$2,182,408	- \$11,830	-0.539%
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%

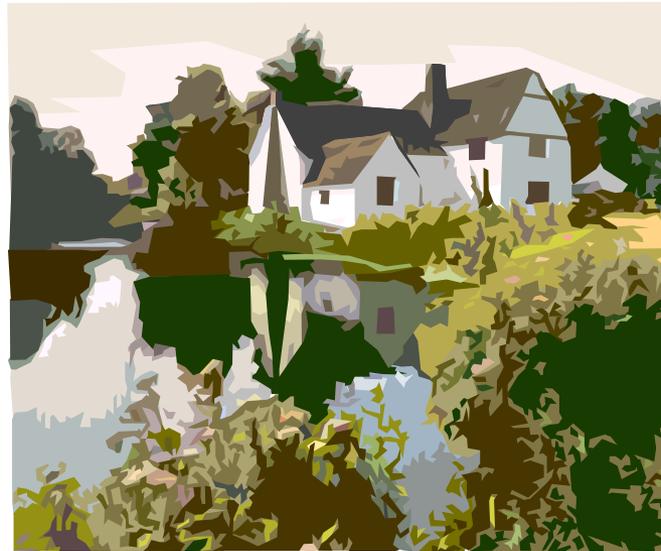
Total Taxes including Debt Service



Budget Year	Total Taxes	Difference \$	Difference %
2013-14	\$28,764,420	- \$16,519	-0.057%
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%

2023-24 School Budget Tax Impact

On the average home assessed at: \$464,872



Equates to approximately \$154.00 increase over the year

Proposed Tax Rate



YEAR	TAX RATE	AVERAGE TAX
2014-15	\$1.0773	\$3,877 on average assessed home of \$359,900
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

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

Questions?