

THE OBSERVER

VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PUBLISHED BY THE VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Proposed 2014-15 Budget Within Tax Cap

Represents Lowest Tax Levy Increase in Decades

The Valley Stream Central High School District Board of Education has taken the view that despite tough fiscal decisions, the district's school budget must maintain excellent curriculum, programs and facilities.

Over the past several years, the district has reduced more than 70 staff positions, as well as classes, services and activities for students at all grade levels. Though enrollment has been stable, these reductions have increased class size and led to the elimination of elective courses. With this in mind, the Board of Education began budget discussions to focus on a long-term plan for quality education for students.

Earnest planning for the proposed 2014-15 budget began in January with the district's annual building tour and continued over the past several months. During the public dialogue periods, members of the community turned out with valuable, varying perspectives to ask questions, debate issues and share opinions.

After much consideration and reflection, the Board of Education is pleased to present a fiscally-responsible, tax cap-compliant budget that carries a .05 percent projected tax levy increase — the lowest increase in decades. The proposed spending plan not only maintains all

current programs and services, but also allows for the restoration of some courses and electives, as well as facilities improvements and technology enhancements. It also includes additional staffing, which would reduce class sizes.

"Over the past several years, the district has made many tough fiscal decisions," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bill Heidenreich. "This budget calls for additional courses and electives, as well as technology upgrades and new staff positions. Of particular importance is that this budget does so within a minimal budget-to-budget increase and the lowest tax levy increase in decades."

As the budget vote approaches, the district invites all Valley Stream residents to attend the budget hearings at their designated elementary schools. All voter registration information, as well as budget hearing information, is available on page 8 of this Observer. The budget hearing provides an opportunity for taxpayers to ask questions about the proposed budget for their district. Community residents can also find information on the budget on the district's website at www.vsched.org. The district encourages all community residents to vote at the polls on Tuesday, May 20.



**Remember
to Vote
Tuesday, May 20**

The proposed budget includes:

- A .05 percent projected tax levy increase — the lowest increase in the past three decades in the district.
- Preservation of the district's core curriculum program as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Additional high school courses and electives, including Junior Great Books, science research and SAT preparation courses, as well as electives in art, family and consumer sciences, business and technology.
- All staffing, while adding modest teaching positions to balance class size.
- Approximately \$1 million for capital projects for facilities upgrades, including the enhancement of existing security systems, e.g., new classroom door locks.
- Funding for the addition of more SMART boards in classrooms and funding toward technology initiatives.
- Resources to continue the implementation of the Common Core, new principal and teacher evaluation system, and Dignity for All Students Act.



Additional Budget Material Is Available on the District Website at www.vsched.org

A TRADITION OF ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS

Join us in celebrating these outstanding accolades that our students have achieved, just this year alone:



- One winner in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Three finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Three Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- One winner in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.
- One finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.
- Six Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.
- A State Advanced Placement Scholar.
- 286 current and graduated students earned AP Scholar Awards for their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement exams.
- Three Rensselaer medalists for outstanding academic achievement in math and science.
- One scholar in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- One semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program.
- A number of students inducted into respective national honor societies.
- District is home to an exemplary culinary program, that preps students for acceptance into award-winning college culinary programs.
- District provides numerous opportunities for students to explore their future through career days and college workshops.
- District is home to an exceptional Performing Arts Program that involves students from various schools.
- Our teachers have been selected to present at state and national conferences.
- Middle school offers Junior Great Books.
- High school offers 23 Advanced Placement courses, a science research program and SAT preparation classes.
- Four students selected to NYSSMA All-State.
- Two students selected as alternates to All-State.
- 88 students selected for Nassau Music Educators Association All-County Festival.
- One student selected for the Macy's Great American Marching Band.
- Eight students selected for the Long Island String Festival.
- 33 students selected for the Art Supervisors All-County art display.
- More than 25 Scholar-Athlete teams.
- Three county championship teams.
- Five All-State athletes.
- Four All-Long Island athletes.
- 74 All County Athletes.



SUCCESSFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCES

The district believes that students succeed when given the right tools to do so. With this in mind, we have made it a priority to provide students with the best tools our taxpayers can afford. These include:

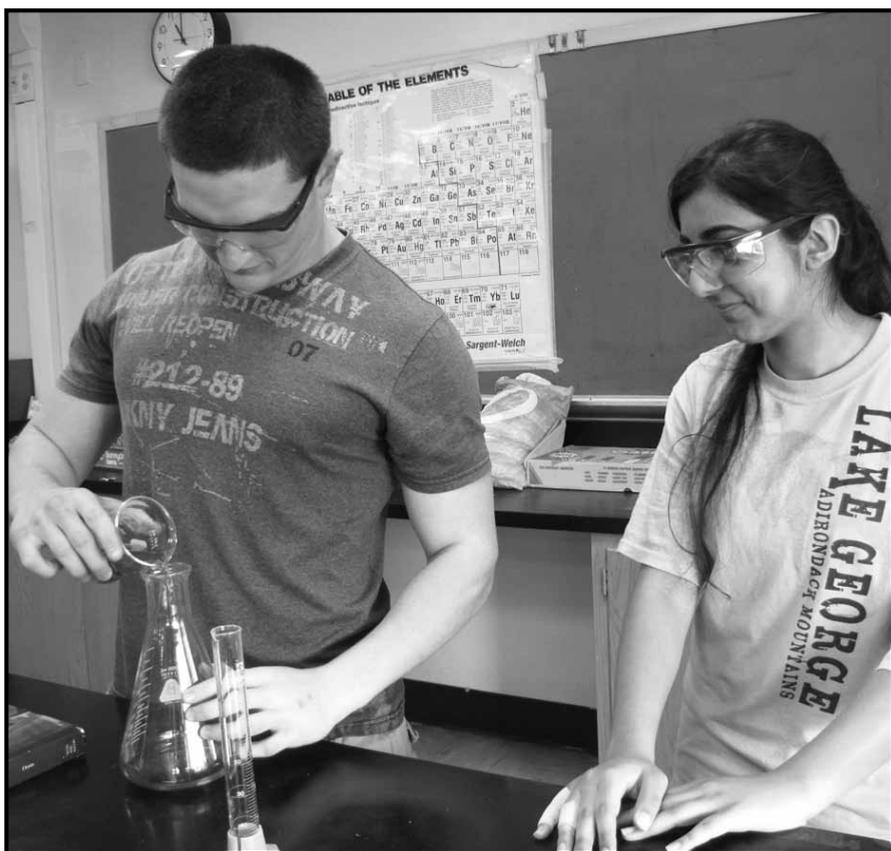
- Comprehensive professional development for probationary and tenured teachers.
- Keeping textbooks current with a scheduled replacement plan.
- Comprehensive academic support.
- State-of-the-art instructional technology.
- Ongoing facility maintenance for safety of all students and staff.



Our Graduates Excel

District graduation rate, including June and August 2013 graduates	100%
Percentage earning a Regents diploma	97%
Percentage earning an Advanced Regents diploma	60%
Percentage attending a two- or four-year college	97%

College acceptances for the Class of 2014 (to date) include: Harvard, MIT, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, NYU, Dartmouth, Brown, Cooper Union, University of Michigan, Boston University, Tufts, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Tulane, Emory, Rensselaer, Drexel, Temple, Adelphi Honors, Hofstra, St. John's, LIU Post, Pace, Molloy, Fordham, Florida Atlantic, CUNY Baruch, CUNY Hunter and many more SUNY and CUNY schools.



The Tax Cap: *An Explanation*

The commonly referred to "2% property tax cap" is not technically a 2% restriction. Rather, it is a calculated percentage that may fall below or rise above 2% and still be within a district's allowable "cap" guidelines. These calculations are determined by the state, and the formula has been finalized with school districts. This tax levy limit applies only to the school district's tax levy, NOT to the tax rate or the individual's tax bill.

The allowable cap for the district in the 2014-15 school budget is .05 percent. Since we are not planning to exceed the cap, our proposed budget will require the standard majority vote of 50% + 1 for approval. If the proposed budget carried a tax levy increase greater than .05 percent, it would require a supermajority of 60% voter approval. Just because we are within the cap does not mean the proposed budget is automatically adopted! Voter approval is still required. It is also important to note another benefit from this tax cap-compliant proposed budget. As some may be aware, Governor Andrew Cuomo has proposed a two-year property tax freeze. For the first year, if a school district's budget stays at or below the property tax cap and homeowners are eligible for the STAR exemption, those homeowners can receive a rebate check during the fall season.

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the district has the option of putting up the same or a revised budget for a revote. Unlike in past years, should voters defeat a proposed budget in a second vote, the new law requires districts to adopt a budget that carries a hard 0% tax levy increase.

In previous years, under this scenario, districts could adopt a contingency budget that would often carry a smaller tax increase. Similar to a contingency budget, a failed budget carrying a 0% tax levy increase would prohibit spending in specific areas, including community use of buildings, certain salary increases, and new equipment purchases. However, due to fixed costs in the budget, additional cuts would have to be made which could severely impact the programs and services we provide students.



2014-15 Proposed Budget

ACADEMIC PROGRAM BUDGET FOR STUDENTS

The largest part of the budget is the Academic Program Budget. It includes all expenses for instruction, such as student textbooks and classroom supplies; regular and special education; career and technical education; summer school; adult education; libraries; computer hardware and software; attendance; guidance; health, psychological and social work services; co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics; transportation; community services; and teacher salaries and benefits.

	2012-13 ACTUAL EXPENSES	2013-14 CURRENT BUDGET	2014-15 PROPOSED
2110. Teaching – Regular Day School	\$32,506,872	\$33,447,246	\$34,885,737
Concerned with instructing pupils in a teaching-learning environment where the teacher is regularly in the presence of the pupil taught, or in regular communication with pupils in a systemic program, designed to assist pupils in acquiring new or improved knowledge, skills and understanding. Included here are salaries of teachers, teaching assistants, substitutes, school monitors, instructional equipment, tuition, textbooks and other contractual expenditures. Funds also included to lease high-speed digital copier systems for 60 months, including maintenance.			
2250. Special Education	\$13,693,134	\$14,208,603	\$15,117,551
Provides for teachers, teaching assistants and teacher aides; for students in-district with special needs and tuition for students attending specialized out-of-district schools; expenses for Committee on Special Education; and CSE chairperson and office staff. Increase reflects higher tuition and service costs for special education students in BOCES and private schools.			
2280. Career & Technical Education	\$617,905	\$653,174	\$669,095
Provides for teachers and equipment for three in-district career prep programs (computer business operations, cosmetology, culinary arts) and tuition for students attending BOCES vocational programs.			
2320. Summer School	\$689,204	\$755,893	\$783,000
Provides for remedial, enrichment and music programs for district students. Cost partly offset by tuition. Partnership with BOCES, started in summer 2003, provides additional state aid.			
2330. Adult Education & Alternative Program	\$55,351	\$370,000	\$370,000
Provides for fall and spring Adult Education, with approximately 100 courses and more than 1,500 enrollments. Cost partially offset by tuition. Also includes BOCES GED (General Education Development), and alternative and summer arts programs for school-aged students.			
2610. School Libraries	\$1,130,961	\$1,199,456	\$1,231,018
Provides for staffing and supplies for the four school library media centers; library books; print and electronic reference materials; and BOCES library automation services.			
2630. Computer-Assisted Instruction	\$1,470,327	\$1,214,964	\$1,397,316
Includes instructional hardware, software, training and computer repair; BOCES services; four computer teaching assistants and four BOCES technicians in the four schools; and two contract personnel. Provides for additional software and hardware for each school.			
2805. Attendance	\$451,558	\$496,696	\$515,118
Provides for staffing of the four school attendance offices and residency investigative services and hearings.			
2810. Guidance	\$2,626,754	\$2,908,923	\$2,978,809
Includes staffing and supplies in the four school guidance offices for course, career and college counseling services for students. Also included under this code is the Director of Guidance & Chief Information Officer, and one secretarial position.			
2815. Health Services	\$627,149	\$719,888	\$748,350
Provides for a registered nurse in each school and for the services of two physicians. Also included is the cost for clinic supplies, equipment and repairs, and health services provided to resident students attending private and parochial schools, as well as utilization of the BOCES Health and Safety service.			
2820. Psychological Services	\$543,184	\$563,025	\$508,940
Includes salaries of 6.5 school psychologists and psychological testing.			
2825. Social Work Services	\$534,500	\$559,763	\$575,818
Includes salaries of 4.8 school social workers and social services rendered as part of the pupil personnel program.			
2850. Co-Curricular Activities	\$764,787	\$754,520	\$780,050
Provides student co-curricular activities such as academic clubs, musical and dramatic performing arts, school newspapers, literary magazines, yearbooks and BOCES cultural arts program.			

2014-15 Proposed Budget

	2012-13 ACTUAL EXPENSES	2013-14 CURRENT BUDGET	2014-15 PROPOSED
2855. Interscholastic Activities	\$1,655,112	\$1,818,699	\$1,755,033
Provides for school athletic directors, coaches, supervisors and referees for more than 140 interscholastic teams; also athletic uniforms and equipment and student accident and athletic insurance.			
5500. Transportation	\$3,308,741	\$3,853,582	\$4,168,953
Provides for contracted costs of transporting students to in-district career prep programs and to out-of-district nonpublic schools, BOCES programs, special education schools and athletic/co-curricular activities. Also includes 20% of salary for Assistant Superintendent for Finance and 50% of a clerk's salary.			
7140. Community Services	\$13,806	\$18,153	\$18,150
Provides for summer concerts and community use of buildings, in addition to expenses for providing custodial services for these programs.			
9000. Employee Benefits in This Section	\$16,042,202	\$19,887,687	\$21,387,701
Reflects state-mandated increases in retirement system contributions and health insurance costs.			
9901. Transfer to Other Funds	\$147,565	\$189,167	\$189,167
This transfer covers a percentage of costs of a mandated summer program for students with disabilities.			
TOTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM BUDGET FOR STUDENTS:	\$76,879,112	\$83,619,440	\$88,079,806

ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM SUPPORT BUDGET

This section of the budget includes salaries and benefits for district and school administrators and central office staff; expenses of the curriculum, business, personnel and pupil personnel offices; Board of Education expenses; legal services; public information; Instructional Services; insurance and BOCES administrative costs.

1099. Board of Education	\$38,214	\$45,405	\$45,625
Includes Board expenses, travel to workshops and salary of part-time district clerk.			
1299. Central Administration	\$335,253	\$342,181	\$351,785
Provides for salary and supplies of office of Superintendent of Schools and two office staffers.			
1399. Business Administration	\$1,109,193	\$1,137,046	\$1,177,120
Provides for staffing, equipment, supplies and district postage for office of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and 10.5 members of business office staff handling payroll, purchasing, accounting, health insurance, school lunches, etc; also includes services of independent auditor, internal auditor, claims auditor, part-time district treasurer and bank charges. Funds are also included to lease high-speed digital copier systems and postage meter machines, including maintenance.			
1420. Legal Services	\$355,919	\$361,541	\$445,200
Includes services of school district counsel, bonding attorney and labor negotiators.			
1430. Personnel & Administration	\$331,639	\$392,502	\$398,848
Provides for recruitment of educational and civil service personnel, salary of Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration, 2.5 staff members and BOCES personnel services.			
1480. Public Information	\$55,281	\$106,100	\$108,600
Includes public information costs associated with production, printing and postage for district publications.			
1670. Instructional Services	\$278,491	\$278,700	\$199,700
Provides equipment, repairs and printing supplies for District Instructional Services, which includes district printing, records management and textbooks for nonpublic school students. Funds are also included to lease one high-speed digital copier system, including maintenance.			
1680. Administrative Technology	\$686,511	\$791,565	\$630,000
Provides for updated equipment, training for administrative technology services, and BOCES charges for student scheduling, grade reporting and student data warehousing.			
1900. Insurance, Memberships & BOCES Administration	\$1,147,183	\$1,426,680	\$1,463,556
Includes insurance premiums, school board dues and the district's share of BOCES administrative and rental costs.			
2010. Curriculum Development & Supervision	\$491,236	\$529,653	\$535,137
Includes salary of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Instructional Services, 1.0 member of curriculum office staff, and funds for districtwide staff development and curriculum development.			

2014-15 Proposed Budget

	2012-13 ACTUAL EXPENSES	2013-14 CURRENT BUDGET	2014-15 PROPOSED
2020. Supervision – Regular Day School Provides for staffing and supplies for offices of the four building principals, their assistant principals, deans and 15.5 members of the school building office staffs.	\$3,009,489	\$3,222,088	\$3,295,762
2040. Program Supervision Provides for salary, equipment and supplies of District Director of Special Education and 50% of an office staffer.	\$378,363	\$160,884	\$160,897
2060. Administrative Services Provides for student testing materials, supplies and BOCES research services.	\$1,917	\$23,250	\$23,250
9000. Employee Benefits in This Section Reflects increases in mandated retirement system contributions and health insurance payments.	\$1,775,749	\$2,154,804	\$2,330,367

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM SUPPORT:	\$9,994,438	\$10,972,399	\$11,165,847
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CAPITAL BUDGET

This section of the budget includes expenditures for custodial, maintenance and security salaries and benefits; the operation of the physical plant; capital projects; tax anticipation notes; and debt services.

1620. Facilities – Operations Provides for 34 custodial staff in the four schools and a Director of Facilities; also, fuel oil, electricity, gas, water and telephone; contracted services; and equipment and cleaning supplies.	\$3,881,768	\$4,267,324	\$3,911,538
1621. Facilities – Maintenance Provides for 13.5 maintenance workers and an office staffer; contracted services; equipment/supplies for indoor and outdoor maintenance and repair of physical plant; and specific maintenance projects.	\$1,664,786	\$1,516,099	\$1,582,465
1622. Facilities – Security Provides for 16 security personnel in the four schools during day, evening and weekend events. Also accounts for security systems.	\$760,728	\$804,397	\$796,524
9000. Employee Benefits in This Section Reflects premiums in mandated retirement system contributions and health insurance payments.	\$1,473,873	\$1,741,010	\$1,644,663
9550. Contracts for Capital Projects Provides for major facility repairs and upgrades to our buildings to maintain their educational and structural integrity. This budget provides for such projects as: ceiling replacement, installation of fencing, miscellaneous concrete and blacktop repairs, and various other safety-related improvements.	\$283,150	\$1,486,650	\$795,000
9760. Tax Anticipation Notes Includes costs of borrowing funds, pending receipt of local revenues.	\$13,078	\$50,000	\$0
9711. Bond Interest & Principal	\$3,101,600	\$3,108,000	\$0

TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET:	\$11,178,983	\$12,973,480	\$8,730,190
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Summary of Proposed Expenditures

Academic Program Budget for Students	\$76,879,112	\$83,619,440	\$88,079,806
Administration & Program Support Budget	\$9,994,438	\$10,972,399	\$11,165,847
Capital Budget	\$11,178,983	\$12,973,480	\$8,780,190
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET:	\$98,052,533	\$107,565,319	\$108,025,843

2014-15 Proposed Budget

Estimated Revenues for the 2014-15 Proposed Budget

	2012-13 ACTUAL EXPENSES	2013-14 CURRENT BUDGET	2014-15 PROPOSED
Local Revenues			
Continuing Education	\$62,348	\$80,000	\$60,000
Tuition – Other Districts	\$18,777	\$25,000	\$25,000
Summer School	\$108,064	\$100,000	\$100,000
Investment Earnings & Rental	\$107,930	\$125,000	\$110,000
Refund of Prior Years	\$527,025	\$125,000	\$125,000
Services from Other Districts & Gov'ts	\$72,808	\$65,000	\$65,000
Insurance Recoveries	\$165,846	\$10,000	\$10,000
Interfund Transfers	\$2,130,000	\$2,175,000	\$2,140,000
Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement	\$103,776	\$225,000	\$325,000
Miscellaneous	\$137,685	\$100,000	\$100,000
Applied Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$6,434,259	\$6,030,000	\$6,060,000

State Aid			
Foundation Aid	\$8,786,294	\$8,690,829	\$9,824,103
Transportation	\$1,469,719	\$1,475,850	\$1,650,667
Excess Cost Aid	\$1,691,005	\$1,777,623	\$1,957,741
Tax Limitation/High Tax Aid	\$475,099	\$237,549	\$475,099
Building Aid	\$1,902,465	\$2,169,481	\$2,190,132
BOCES Aid	\$2,194,675	\$2,053,936	\$2,039,052
Textbook, Library, Software Aid	\$445,560	\$462,609	\$456,683
TOTAL	\$16,964,817	\$16,867,877	\$18,593,477

Summary of Estimated Revenues			
Local Revenues	\$6,434,259	\$6,030,000	\$6,060,000
State Aid	\$16,964,817	\$16,867,877	\$18,593,477
Local Tax Levy	\$81,068,375	\$83,333,490	\$83,372,366
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET:	\$104,467,451	\$106,231,367	\$108,025,843

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE: 1.69%
ESTIMATED INCREASE IN TAX LEVY: 0.05%



Central High School District: Budget At-A-Glance

Proposed Budget: \$108,025,843
Budget-to-Budget Increase: 1.69%
Estimated Increase in Tax Levy: .05%

Estimated Tax Impact of CHSD on Average Home*:

District	Estimated Tax Rate	Estimated Avg. Assessment	Estimated Increase
#13	\$435.21	778*	\$-91.97
#24	\$386.51	737*	\$-21.56
#30	\$429.73	735*	\$+19.03

*Note: All figures are approximations based on the latest information received from the Nassau County Assessor's Office. Final calculations will vary.

Itemized copies of the budget are available in the Valley Stream elementary or secondary schools and in the public libraries.

Here is how the proposed budget will appear on the ballot:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of Valley Stream Central High School District, Nassau County, New York for the year 2014-2015 be approved in the amount of \$108,025,843 and that the sum be raised through a levy upon the taxable property in the Valley Stream High School District, after first deducting the monies from state aid and other sources, as provided by law.



Remember
to Vote
Tuesday, May 20



SAVE THE DATE BUDGET HEARINGS FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Wednesday, May 7

James A. Dever School (District #13) @ 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

William L. Buck School (District #24) @ 8:15 p.m.

Monday, May 12

Shaw Avenue School (District #30) @ 7:00 p.m.

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

For a mail-in voter registration form, call the Nassau County Board of Elections at 516-571-2411, pick one up at your local library, or download one from the New York State website at www.elections.ny.gov. Elementary school districts 13, 24 and 30 have continuous voter registration throughout the year at their local elementary schools and district clerks' offices. The last day for voter registration is Tuesday, May 13.

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PUBLISHED BY THE VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

To contact the Board of Education, please call or email District Clerk Mary Colgan at colganm@vschsd.org or 516-872-5628.