



2019-20 School Budget Forum
April 10, 2019

Tonight's Agenda

- ❖ **Welcome & explanation of tonight's meeting**
Patrick Ziegler, Board Vice President and Finance Chair
- ❖ **Budget Development**
Superintendent Patrick McGrath & Assistant Superintendent Maryellen Symer
 - *Budget Goals*
 - *Overview of Budget Development*
 - *What's included in the budget*
- ❖ **2019-20 Nearly Complete Budget Figures**
Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Christopher Abdoo
 - *Outline of budget figures*
 - *Expenses & Revenues*
- ❖ **Board Elections & Vote Date**
Board of Education student representative Noah Van Osterlitz
- ❖ **Question & Answer Session**



Meeting Process

- ❖ **We are live streaming the forum so people can participate remotely.**
- ❖ **Goals tonight are to share information and answer budget-related questions.** To pose a question you can:
 - Raise your hand for the microphone.
 - Type questions in the comment box if you are an online viewer.

(As is customary with privilege of the floor at board meetings, we kindly request that residents state their full name before asking questions.)

Budget Development

❖ 2019-20 Budget Goals

- Preserve and improve upon our existing programs.
- Be sensitive to what our community can support.

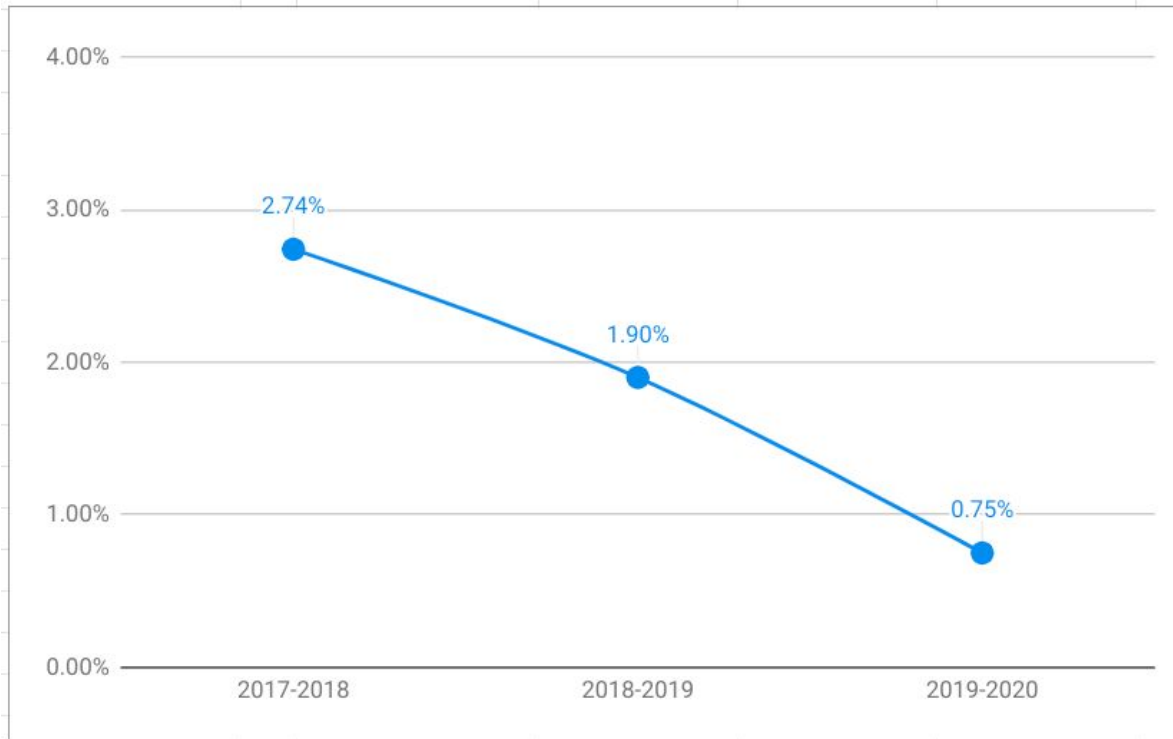
❖ Budget Context

- Below tax cap for 7th consecutive year.
- State aid much lower than hoped for, with only a \$101,000 increase in Foundation Aid. ***BH-BL's increase of 0.75% is the state minimum increase.***



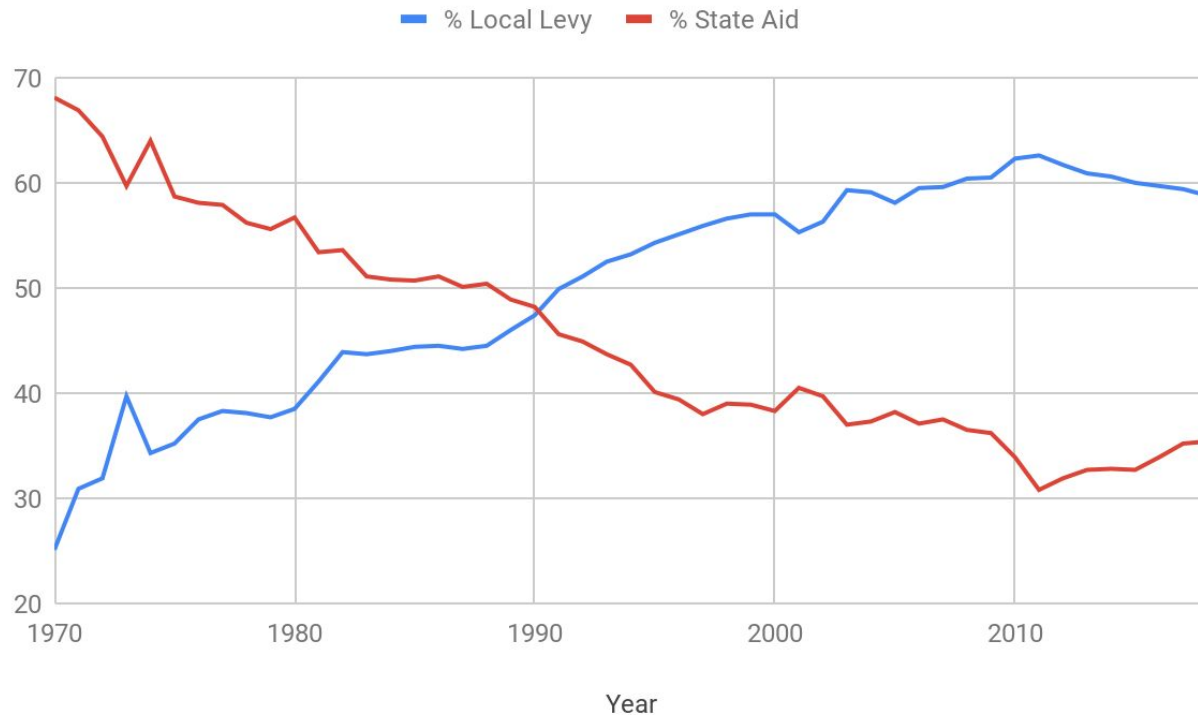
Budget Development

◆ Foundation Aid Increases Past Three Years



Budget Development

❖ Local Levy and State Aid Since 1970



Budget Development

❖ 5-Year Financial Plan

- Board of Education continues to use a 5-year financial plan.
- Models impact of current budgetary decisions based on a series of assumptions.
- These assumptions account for over 95% of our revenue and expenditure items. The assumptions are regularly monitored and adjusted.



Budget Development

Balancing School Budgets

Each year, **school boards must develop a balanced school budget proposal** for the following school year **and put it to a public vote** on the third Tuesday in May.

In New York, this requirement for a balanced, voter-approved annual budget is unique to public schools. **The school budget is the only government spending plan that residents can impact directly by voting.**

EXPENSES = REVENUE

MONEY GOING OUT

- Salaries/Benefits
- Curriculum/Staff Development
- Facilities Maintenance & Operation
- Transportation
- Debt Service

MONEY COMING IN

- State Funds
- Federal Funds
- Property Taxes
- Miscellaneous Income
- Appropriated Fund Balance*



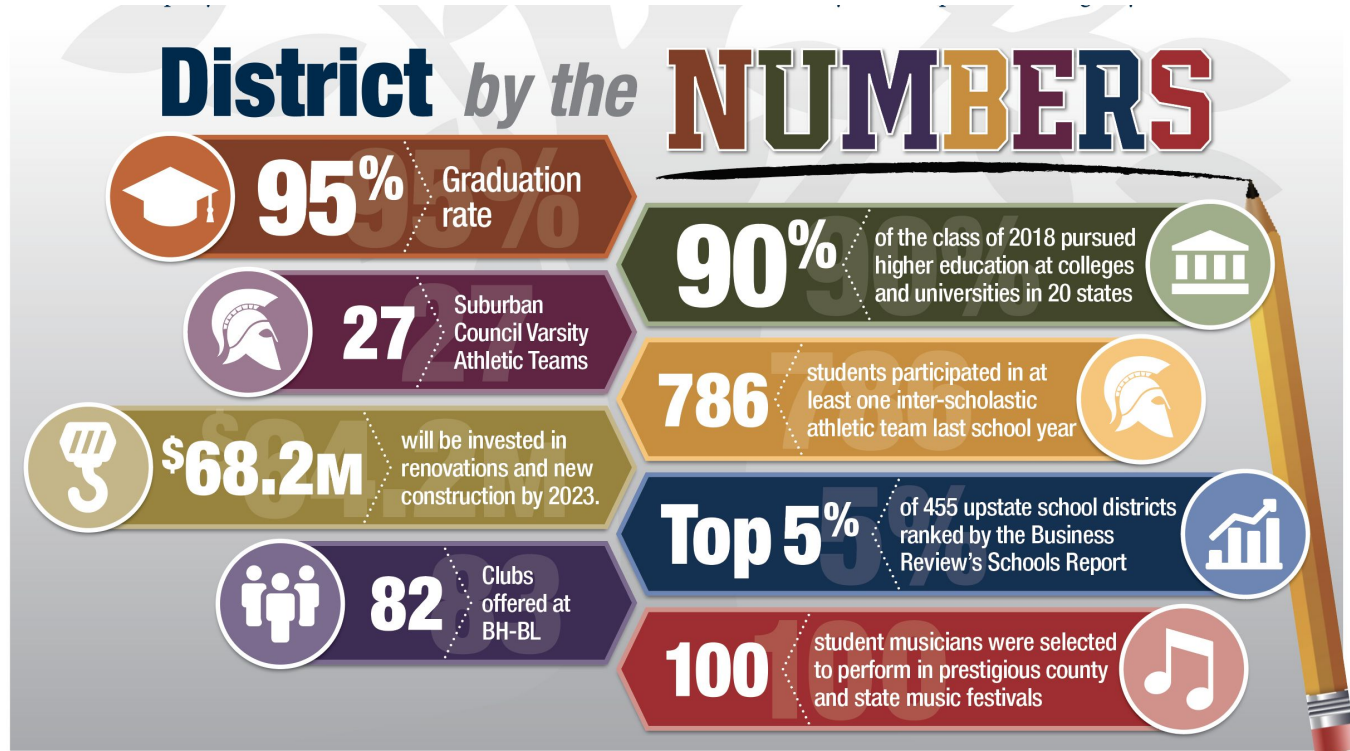
2019-20 Budget At A Glance

- ❖ Nearly Complete Budget: **\$69,548,408**
- ❖ Budget-to-Budget increase: **2.15%**
- ❖ Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit: **3.76%**
- ❖ Proposed Tax Levy Increase: **2.90%**
- ❖ Estimated Tax Rate Increase: **1.95%**



Investing in Education

Results By the Numbers



Budget Development

Major Factors Affecting Budget

❖ **Health Insurance Increase**

➤ Health Insurance *increase* of \$257,975 or 3.06%

■ In 2018, the district addressed rising costs by negotiating with employees for increased employee contributions to traditional indemnity plan. This change is assisting in keeping rates lower than is typical.



Budget Development

Major Factors Affecting Budget

❖ **Debt Service Decrease**

➤ \$387,594 *decrease* in debt service due to expiration of older bonds. This decrease was planned and was influential in determining the total bond authorizations for the 2013 and 2018 referendums.

- Debt Service payments are proceeding according to long-range planning models.



Budget Development

Major Factors Affecting Budget

- ❖ Increase to Foundation Aid *less than inflation*.
- ❖ Inflationary increases in costs of salaries, student services, instructional supplies.
- ❖ Fluctuations in electric and gas costs.
- ❖ Pension cost adjustments.



Budget Development

Major Factors Affecting Budget

❖ **Changes to Staff Assignments & Positions**

- Enrollment-driven addition of an elementary teacher, which is largely offset by staffing changes at the high school due to class enrollment decline (+\$20,000).
- Retirements and reallocation of staffing (-\$413,000).
- Reorganization of Special Education Leadership Structure (+12,000)



Budget Development

Major Factors Affecting Budget

❖ **Distance Learning Initiatives**

- Continue to increase participation in BOCES Distance Learning Network.
 - Percentage of distance learning teachers' salaries reimbursed through BOCES Distance Learning Network via state aid. Estimated revenue of \$120,000 in 2019-20.
 - Opportunity to drive state aid toward BH-BL in the future.
 - More opportunities for diverse course offerings.

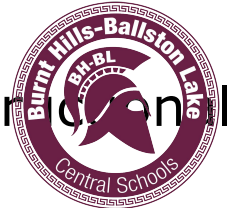


Investing in Education

What's included in the budget

- ❖ Proposal supports commitment to **continually improving** upon the educational program in order to maintain the high-quality schools our community expects and values.
 - Increase Distance Learning footprint, offering more than a dozen online classes.
 - Continue to support 21st-century classroom updates and integration of 1:1 devices in grades 3-12.
 - 45 classrooms to be upgraded with new technology.

instruction



Investing in Education

What's included in the budget

- ❖ *Add elementary math intervention for grades K-2.*
- ❖ *Add keyboarding instruction for elementary students.*
- ❖ *Add Mandarin Chinese as a language option in grade 7.*
- ❖ *Improvements to safety & security measures:*
 - *Additional surveillance cameras.*
 - *Support evening security districtwide.*



Investing in Education

What's included in the budget

- ❖ Budget **maintains low K-6 class sizes** based upon enrollment projections.

Grade Level	Average Class Size
Kindergarten	20 to 22
Grade 1	20 to 23
Grade 2	21 to 23
Grade 3	21 to 25
Grade 4	21 to 25
Grade 5	21 to 25
Grade 6	21 to 25



Investing in Education

What's included in the budget

- ❖ *Add* a Level 2 Technology position to install new 21st-century classroom technology and provide instructional support, districtwide.
- ❖ *Add* part-time seasonal groundskeepers
 - Cost offset by increased facilities use fees
 - Scheduled August 15- November 15 & March 15 through June 15



Investing in Education

What's included in the budget, con't

- ❖ *Add Spartan Cafe & Catering*
 - Cost offset by catering/cafe revenue
- ❖ *Consolidation of courier for mail and food service department.*

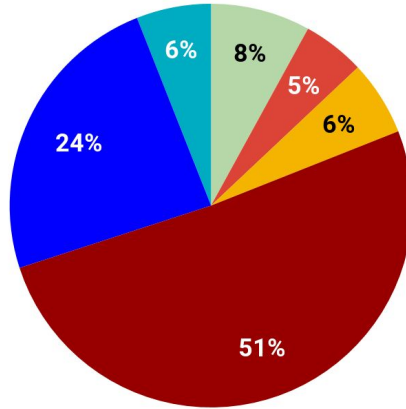


Budget Development

BH-BL's Balanced Budget

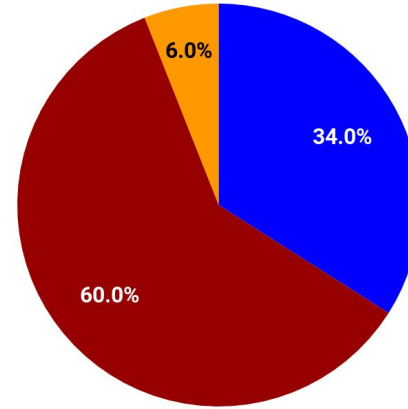
Expenditures

- Debt Service
- Transportation
- Operations and Maintenance
- Curriculum,
- Payroll Taxes and
- Pupil Services



Revenue

- State Aid
- Tax Levy
- Other



Budget

Revenues

Category	2019-2020 Budget	\$ Change from 2018-2019	% Change from 2018-2019
State Aid (excluding foundation aid)	\$10,223,806	\$-368,676	-3.48%
Foundation Aid	\$13,573,648	\$101,045	0.75%
Tax Levy	\$41,169,850	\$1,160,278	2.90%
Other Revenue	\$1,970,000	\$-27,000	-1.35%
Applied Fund Balance	\$2,611,104	\$600,244	29.60%
Total	\$69,548,408	\$1,465,891	2.15%

Revenues

State Aid

- ❖ Overall increase in Foundation Aid to BH-BL is \$101,045. This represents an increase of about 0.75%--which is the state *minimum* and the *lowest* in the state.
- ❖ Reduction in Building Aid of \$977,518 which corresponds with the expiration of a bond.
- ❖ Estimated increases in BOCES Aid (\$230,147), Transportation Aid (\$255,505) and Special Education Aid (\$119,906) based on projected expenses in 2018-2019.



Expenditures

*Budget-to-Budget change: **\$1,465,890 or 2.15%***

	2018-2019 Budget	2019-2020 Budget	\$ Increase
Debt Service	\$6,087,751	\$5,700,157	-\$387,594
Salaries	\$35,021,581	\$36,144,663	\$1,123,082
BOCES items	\$2,990,540	\$3,357,548	\$367,008
Employee Benefits	\$16,020,141	\$16,365,839	\$345,698
Other expenditure items	\$7,962,505	\$7,980,201	\$17,696

Tax Impact History

Year	Tax Levy Increase	Weighted Average Tax Rate Increase
2014-2015	1.94%	1.16%
2015-2016	2.68%	1.95%
2016-2017	1.32%	0.15%
2017-2018	1.96%	1.46%
2018-2019	2.90%	1.80%
2019-2020	2.90%	1.95%*

**Estimate only.*



Tax Impact

New real estate development

- ❖ New construction, residential or commercial, results in tax base growth.
 - Number of new homes.
 - New businesses (i.e., Rt. 50 Stewart's and CVS).
- ❖ Continued tax base growth allows BH-BL's overall tax rate increase to be less than the tax levy increase.



Estimated Tax Impact

Town	Median Assessed Value per Town	2019-20 Estimated Tax Increase
Ballston	\$204,950 (Market Value \$223,989)	\$90.04
Charlton	\$157,100 (Market Value \$234,478)	\$94.26
Clifton Park	\$104,400 (Market Value \$186,429)	\$74.94
Glenville	\$172,000 (Market Value \$193,258)	\$77.69

These are the best estimates we can make given the existing data. Calculations will change when NYS Department of Taxation & Finance announces new equalization rates in August.

Property Tax Relief Credit (set by the state) may be available.

More information at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property-tax-relief.htm>



What else is on the ballot?

Proposition #2

In addition to voting on the 2019-20 school budget, residents are asked consider reauthorizing an *ex officio* student member position on the BH-BL Board of Education.

- First proposed and approved in May 2015.
- By law, residents must approve this proposition every two years.
- Student member attends board meetings, sits at board table, and contributes to public discussions.
- An *ex officio* student member does not vote and does not attend executive sessions.

Board of Education Election

Two open seats

Residents are asked to participate in the Board of Education election.

- ❖ Learn more at Meet-the-Candidates Night, **Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m.** in the Board Room at the high school.
- ❖ More information about board candidates will be published in the 2019-20 budget newsletter and on the district's website, www.bhbl.org.



What Happens Next?

Tuesday, May 7: Budget Hearing, 7 p.m., HS Board Room

Wednesday, May 15: Meet-the-Candidates Night

School Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the HS Gym

