



**Dr. Juliette Pennyman**, Superintendent of Schools

**April 10, 2024**

Dear Hudson City School District Families, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

Welcome to the 10th edition of Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman's bi-weekly update for the community: Pennyman's Pen!

The Hudson City School District is dedicated to preparing our students to be life, college and career ready upon graduation. Each year, the preparation of the school district's budget is a methodical process that seeks to support the district's vision, mission and key initiatives to advance academic success, while balancing financial responsibility for our community.

The budget covering the 2024-2025 school year, which voters will consider on May 21, 2024, is now being formulated. The budget, as it now stands, is \$55,174,661, a 1.22% increase over the current 2023-2024 budget that ends June 30, 2024.

Revenue for the budget comes from sources that include New York State and our district taxpayers. This year, however, the New York State budget, which determines how much state aid school districts will receive, was not finalized by the customary deadline of April 1, 2024. State officials continue to work toward a final budget. However, preliminary indications call for the Hudson City School District to have a principal source of state aid, called foundation aid, reduced by \$2,928,220.

The Hudson Board of Education must, by law, vote to approve the budget by April 23, 2024, giving voters time to consider it before casting their ballots on May 21, 2024. As such, the district has formulated a tentative budget that calls for a tax levy increase of 3.42%. (The tax levy is the amount of money collected through property-tax payments.) The budget would maintain all student programs and services and provide continued investments in classroom instruction and student-support programs. The district had hoped to provide a budget with only a 2% tax-levy increase, but the potential state-aid reduction renders that impossible without eliminating staff or programs.

To help cover the \$2.9 million proposed state-aid reduction, Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman and Chief Financial Officer Tabatha Biggane have carefully dissected every line in the budget. Some costs are mandated by contracts, for instance. Some other expenses have been trimmed where possible without sacrificing educational support. The district also is weighing shifting \$2,322,728 from its fund balance and \$700,000 from its reserves to close the gap. The fund balance is money left over at the end of a financial year, either from money unspent or additional revenue.

The proposed 3.42% tax-levy increase would be reflected in tax bills to property owners from the communities – Claverack, Ghent, Greenport, Hudson, Livingston, Stockport and Taghkanic – that comprise the Hudson City School District. Based on a fully assessed property value of \$200,000, residents would pay an additional \$71 to \$128 for the year.



The school district remains on standby for the official adoption of the New York State budget, and notification of the school district's final state aid amount. If the aid amount increases, the budget will be reviewed, and the tax levy may be reduced. The community will be updated on any change, and the Board of Education will vote to approve the budget on April 23, 2024.

You are urged to vote between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2024 on the budget and candidates for the Board of Education (candidacies will be finalized on May 1, 2024). For information on registering to vote, voting locations and absentee ballots, click [here](#).

Further updates will be provided. Thank you for taking time to understand the complex budget process, and for caring about our students' futures.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juliette Pennyman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Hudson City School District  
#HudsonTogetherWeCan

