



**HUDSON**  
**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Claverack · Ghent · Greenport · Hudson · Livingston · Stockport · Tighkanic

Dr. Juliette Pennyman, Superintendent of Schools

## **Budget Update from Dr. Pennyman to the Board of Education**

*Dec. 10, 2024*

There have been some recent questions about the status of our school district's finances, particularly regarding the Business Office and Transportation. I'd like to provide an update.

As you know, the district is undergoing a transition in our financial management due to the recent departure of our chief financial officer. I appreciate that the Board of Education worked with me to quickly appoint an Interim Business Official, Sue Huetter, and an Interim Transportation Coordinator, Bill Muirhead. I am working very closely with these officials to protect and most efficiently use our local, state and federal tax dollars.

Ms. Huetter is working on closing the books for the 2023-2024 school year, as well as completing reports required by New York State. She also is handling day-to-day financial responsibilities, and we are reviewing options to provide additional assistance to Ms. Huetter to handle these substantial tasks.

We also are working as quickly as possible to provide the Board of Education with a thorough, clear update on last school year's budget, as well as this school year's finances.

Closing the books on the last school year is a vital step in securing accurate budget information. Having those final numbers provides important information regarding where this year's finances stand. The tasks now being handled include completing treasurer reports from last spring to the present, and working with auditors on closing entries. Our auditors are performing thorough due diligence by reviewing every account. Ms. Huetter is scheduled to receive an update on the auditors' work, and when it will be completed, during a call tomorrow morning.

Transportation is one of the areas being closely reviewed. As part of this process, Mr. Muirhead is analyzing every contract to gauge where the district stands on transportation finances. This is an elaborate process, and again, our primary goal is to determine accurate information. We will provide an update as soon as it's available.

Our school district budgets are carefully crafted to provide strategic investments in our students' academic, social and emotional learning needs, while balancing financial responsibility for our community. We always appreciate the important input we received from the community while annual budgets are being developed, and I'm offering tonight's update in that spirit of cooperation. We will continue to provide updates moving forward. Thank you.